

## INTERVIEW I

DATE: February 19, 1986

INTERVIEWEE: ANNETTE LUDEMAN

INTERVIEWER: Ted Gittinger

PLACE: Mrs. Ludeman's residence, Cotulla, Texas

### Tape 1 of 1, Side 1

G: You said you had a story that some seniors in the high school told.

L: Yes. They said that every so often they would have an assembly program, and they would all be in the auditorium, and they would have whatever the little program was and then there would be time left over. So the superintendent would say, "Well, what would you like to do now?" And they would all start chanting, "We want Lyndon! We want Lyndon! We want Lyndon!" And then he would send someone over to the Welhausen School and bring Lyndon Johnson, and he would go up on the stage and he would make a speech to them.

G: What on? Anything?

L: Just anything. Just anything. He apparently in college did a lot of extemporaneous-type speeches, and he just had all these things that he made speeches on. So they talked all about how they adored him.

G: Well, I know he was a big debater in college and I heard that he organized a debate team here at the Welhausen School.

L: Oh, sure enough?

Ludeman -- I -- 2

G: Yes. I've heard that.

When did you first come into contact with LBJ?

L: I don't really know whether he came to our house when he was teaching here, but I know that I knew about him. We didn't live in Cotulla. We lived in Falcon, which is about thirty miles from here, and because my uncle was courting his cousin--

G: Was this his cousin Margaret [Johnson]?

L: Yes. She taught school in Los Angeles, and I've also been told that he would hitch a ride and go to Los Angeles to see his cousin. Then they frequently would drive out to the Kimball Ranch, who she later married, my uncle [Henry Kimball], and our ranch was on the other side of the river. So I don't remember seeing him. I was only seven or eight years old, and if I did see him, I didn't pay any attention to him. He was just an adult.

G: Yes.

L: The first time that I met him, actually met him, I think, perhaps--well, it was when my cousin married in 1960.

G: Would this have been before the election, do you think?

L: He had been elected vice president, but he had not been sworn in. This is in this transitional-type period.

G: November or December, somewhere in there?

L: Yes.

G: I see. He came to town for that. Now, which cousin was this?

L: Margaret Ann Kimball, who was the daughter of Lyndon's first cousin, Margaret Johnson Kimball.

Ludeman -- I -- 3

G: So it would have been his second cousin.

L: Right, his second cousin. But both of her parents were deceased and she was an only child.

She told us that she had asked Lyndon if and when she married--and she didn't marry until she was like thirty years old--she would like for him to give her away. So she wrote him and asked him, but she didn't hear from him, and she said, "Well, he's just so busy, I know, making this transition," so we didn't really expect him to come. And the wedding was here.

G: In this house?

L: In this house.

G: And you're getting a picture?

L: And here's a picture of it.

G: Of the wedding party?

L: Of the wedding party.

G: Oh, my! Well, there he is.

L: Right.

G: And is that Mrs. Johnson on the left here?

L: Yes. This is my mother and my father, Mrs. Johnson, and then this is Eddie Zimmerman, who married the cousin, Margaret Ann Kimball.

G: I see. And there's LBJ.

L: Yes, and these are Eddie's sister, Eddie Zimmerman's sister, and Mrs. Zimmerman, his mother.

G: I see. Okay. And this was in the winter of 1960?

Ludeman -- I -- 4

L: 1960. That's really the first time--well, no, I take that back. I told you, when I was in high school he used to come, and he did. When he was running--well, the very first office he ran for, he came down here and he visited my father. He was here for a Fourth of July.

G: Now, your father was Judge [J.W.] Martin?

L: Right. Right. And I remember they sat on the porch, and they talked and talked very serious. My father had been elected a county judge of McMullen County, where he grew up when he was twenty-two years old and had served one term and then was defeated. And he eventually moved into La Salle County, and just someone in his precinct wrote his name. They didn't have anyone that would run for commissioner for that precinct, and someone just wrote his name in on the ballot, and he didn't even know it, and he was elected commissioner. Then he served as commissioner of precinct four for twenty-four years, and then there was two years in between before he ran for county judge, and then he was county judge nineteen years. He died in office.

G: Would you call him rancher or politician?

L: I think he was both, really.

G: Well, so was LBJ.

L: Yes. Maybe that's why they hit it off. They talked on the phone, and I have numerous--

G: I guess you have a number of letters.

L: --letters and things that he wrote to my father, but Lyndon would call my dad every once in a while just to see what was going on down here and what the conditions were with the ranchers and what were the needs of this area, and this type thing.

G: He did this while he was in the White House or in the Senate?

Ludeman -- I -- 5

L: Now, I don't know--yes, probably while he was in Congress. That's probably when [he wrote], and this is what some of the letters are about.

G: Well, now, in 1937, which is when I think he first ran they had a special election because Congressman [James] Buchanan had died.

L: Yes.

G: Was this part of his district, or do you recall?

L: I really don't know. I don't know. I really don't know.

G: I can look that up. [La Salle County never was in the Tenth district but was in the Fifteenth].

L: I know during that time, when he was here that Fourth of July, as I told you on the phone I paid really no attention to him.

G: It must have been, or he wouldn't have been here himself. That would have been the height of the campaign.

L: Right.

G: Right.

L: Of course, my father was widely known all over South Texas, and this might have had something to do with it. I don't know. Because he and my mother really worked for him any time that he ran for anything. I guess even if he'd have run for dogcatcher, maybe. (Laughter) They just thought the world of him.

G: They really liked him?

L: Oh, yes. I never heard them say anything unkind.

G: Did he have any enemies in this part of the country that you know of?

Ludeman -- I -- 6

L: I have really never heard of anybody locally. It's mainly the people that I suppose I have heard talk, or the teachers that were associated with him and like the students. He took a real active interest in the high school football team, and some of these men told me stories about him coming and working with them and trying to get them to be better.

G: I've got to get some of those names from you after a while.

L: Okay. And then his little Mexican students that he taught, the children he taught, those people have never forgotten him, ever. And there's two of them--there may be three here in Cotulla.

G: Well, now, I've talked to Danny Garcia.

L: Oh, did you talk [to him]?

G: He was the very first person in Cotulla that I talked to. Let me ask you to get back to the 1960 wedding because you--

L: Okay. Okay.

G: --you said that--

L: That we weren't expecting him. I was over here helping my mother just make the last--just to check and see if anything needed to be done. And the telephone rang, and I answered the phone for her, and they said, "Will somebody please send a car for Vice President and Mrs. Johnson? They're at the local airport." So I got on the phone. I don't even think we had a car here actually. And I couldn't locate my father or my brothers, and so then I called--my husband owned Ben's Western Wear. We were in that business, and so I called him at the store, I'd always catch him, and he said he would look for Joe Martin, my dad, and Roy, and they would go the airport. And they picked them up and brought them to the house.

Ludeman -- I -- 7

G: No security? No Secret Service?

L: Nothing. Nothing. There was just a pilot. This shows you the difference. Later when he came as president, it was entirely different.

G: Yes.

L: And that evening after the wedding, and my brother and husband were taking them back to the airport, Lyndon decided that he wanted to drive around. And he began to ask questions about like Dan Garcia and Miss Sarah that he'd lived with, and my brother or Ben would answer his questions. So he said, "Well, can't we drop by Dan's store?" They did, and it was, of course, night-time, but Dan was there working on books. So he gets out of the car and goes and knocks on the door. And Dan Garcia goes to the door.

(Interruption)

Not 1920, this is a 1925 house.

G: This is?

L: This was a little screen porch that I just made into my workroom.

G: This is the porch where LBJ sat that you referred to before?

L: No, no, that was another house that my folks lived in. They just rented for years and years and years because my father wanted to build on the ranch, and then when we all grew up and left home, my mother just said, "I do not want to live on the ranch. I like to go out there, but I don't want to live out there all the time." You know, "I want to do this, and I want to do that. The children are gone."

G: Sure.

Ludeman -- I -- 8

L: So they had an opportunity to buy this house, which the family that had built it--they were the only people who had lived in it, and their children were pretty much grown when they'd built the house, so it was just like a brand-new house. They could have bought the other half of the block and this house for \$10,000. (Laughter) That was in 1922.

G: Well, \$10,000 was--

L: My father didn't want the land. He just said, "All right. I'll buy you the house." And the house was \$8,000. It has hardwood floors, center-cut white hardwood floors; it has about ten of these glass doors like this. All the doorknobs are these cut crystal except these that weren't--see, this was an outside door, but, you know, with air conditioning, you don't sit on a screen porch and we built a patio in the back, so--but, anyway--

G: Let me ask you to finish up on the 1960 visit that LBJ made down here. Now, after the wedding, you say he wanted to drive out in the countryside?

L: No, he just wanted to drive around town.

G: I see.

L: Well, I mean, no, he started asking about the people he had known when he was here, people who had really meant a lot to him. And he asked about Miss Sarah that he'd lived with, and my brother or Ben said, "Oh, well, she's just fine," you know. Lyndon said, "Well, I'd like to go see her. I'd just like to stop by and say hello to her. Does she live very far from here?" And they said, "Well, no, she's just up the street." So they went, and he got out of the car and knocked on the door, and I think it was her niece that was living there with her. Whichever it was, they came to the door in their robe and gown, you know. It was like nine-thirty or something like that. Two ladies living alone--well, you know, you



Ludeman -- I -- 9

don't expect a man at that time of the night. Of course, Miss Sarah was so excited to see Lyndon, and then he did the same thing to Dan.

G: Dan Garcia.

L: Dan Garcia. I can't remember; I don't believe there was anyone else that he went to see that evening.

G: Did he spend the night, or did they fly back that night?

L: They flew back. Now, whether they flew to Austin or whether they flew to Washington, I don't know that. I really don't. But it was such a surprise, and as I told you, too, nobody thought to tell this preacher that was performing the wedding that the vice president was here.

(Laughter)

G: How did he react?

L: Well, his mouth just sort of fell open, and he just acted sort of different.

G: Did he get through the ceremony okay?

L: Yes. Right. He did, but--

G: And LBJ gave away the bride.

L: Yes. Yes. Of course, it was just a little--I have a write-up of the wedding. And it mentions that the Johnsons were here and that he gave her away. It was just strictly a little family affair.

G: Right.

Ludeman -- I -- 10

L: Some of my cousins, Johnson City relatives, were here and then, of course, some of her husband's people live in Crystal City and they were here. And that was all, and, of course, Lyndon and Lady Bird.

G: What about the second visit? I guess it was in 1965, was it?

L: When he came as president?

G: When he came as president, yes.

L: Well, I'll tell you a funny story on me about that.

G: Okay.

L: The school board was supposed to meet him out at the airport and be in an escort with them or something, and my husband was on the school board; and then in high school, the presidents of the class were to sit on the stage with him, you know the four grades in high school. Well, my youngest daughter was president of her class, of the freshman class, so she was going to have to sit on the stage, and my son was photographer for the high school annual, and he was going to be taking pictures for the school annual, and my father was to sit on the stage as county judge, and Ben, big Ben, had gone out to the airport, see, to pick him up, so they all had passes to get in. And so I got out to help my father. He was kind of crippled up. It was just the year before he died, and the stage in that Welhausen School--I had taught over there shortly during the war--the steps are real steep, and so I felt like that I needed to help him up the stage. And the Secret Service would not let me go in. I did not have a pass. So, there's all my family involved, and Lyndon arrived. I'm standing out in front with the mob, and all my family are in the auditorium. And, of course, my brother and my husband are with the group that's with Lyndon, and after they had gone in the building a

Ludeman -- I -- 11

little while--you see, that meant I couldn't even attend the service or anything. You could look through the window. (Laughter) And all of a sudden over the intercom this voice said, "Would Mrs. Ben Ludeman please come to the door of the auditorium?" That's what it was. And they put me on a front row seat. (Laughter)

G: Somebody had just--

L: Well, I don't know. I don't even know who because I don't think Ben and Roy, my brother and my husband, I don't think that, you know--maybe my father said something to Lyndon, probably, because he was sitting up there right next to him.

G: Well, he would feel perfectly free to say it.

L: Of course, he would have. (Laughter)

G: [Inaudible] relationship [inaudible].

L: Right.

G: That would make sense.

L: Yes. So I got a front-row seat.

G: But the security was a little different on the second trip.

L: Oh, goodness. They arrived here I don't know how many days before in those big black limousines, and, well, it was just kind of eerie. To all of us, it was.

G: What did they do?

L: I suppose they were--I don't know if they were rigging up some sort of an intercom between the airport and the school, do you suppose?

G: They did do that, I believe.

Ludeman -- I -- 12

L: Yes, I think they did, too. I guess just studying the whole layout of the motor--where the cars would go and what-- See, when he arrived he went in the front door and then he met with these students, the ones that were present, you know, that he had taught. He met in the little room with them that he had taught in.

G: Well, you can understand--

(Interruption)

L: You see, here's a write-up here.

G: Oh, Yes.

L: You all probably get that.

G: That's what--the *Laredo Times*. Okay.

L: Oh, is that the *Laredo Times*?

G: Well, I know I can get it--

L: Yes, is it. That's the *Laredo Times*.

G: --because the Barker Center next door has a very good newspaper collection, so they'll undoubtedly have this, but that's a good write-up. It has some good pictures there.

L: It really is. Now this is not. The cousin that he came to give away, this is her child, and they were sitting there on the front row, too.

G: Now, this picture, we have, of course. That one's been famous since then.

L: Well, now, he gave us one. I have one, too, with his name on it.

G: Sure, there it is. There it is. Let me--

L: When he was vice president, the day we went out and gave him a hat, a Stetson--

G: At the Ranch.

Ludeman -- I -- 13

L: Those are two interesting stories about the Ranch.

(Interruption)

L: Okay. Well, as I told you earlier, my husband had a men's western wear store here in Cotulla, and the Stetson Hat Company, he was a big customer of the Stetson Company and a good friend of the people. You know, men were beginning by that period of time not to wear hats, and they were trying to figure out, the Stetson Company was, how to get a hat on President Kennedy. So they finally decided that if they could make LBJ a hat, since he did wear hats and was out on the Ranch some, that maybe Kennedy would decide he needed a hat, so the Stetson salesman that called on our store contacted my husband because he knew that we knew the Johnsons, and he wondered if Ben could make such an arrangement. You know, find out what size hat Lyndon wore, what type of hat he liked, and then they would specially make this hat for him. So Ben was able to arrange this. And then we all went--by we, I mean my father, my brother, my husband, and myself and some of his ex-students. My brother got the idea, or my father did, it would be nice to ask these men if they would like to go, and so there were two or three cars of us and then of course the Stetson representative; he was in another car. We drove up to Stonewall to their house.

It brought back a lot of memories to me. I used to go to Johnson City with my aunt when I was a high school girl, and one time when we were there, the house that's known as "The Little White House" originally belonged to Clarence Martin, who was related to my aunt, Margaret Kimball. And we went there and stayed a couple of days, and I swam in the Pedernales out in front of what is "The Little White House" today and slept in the front corner bedroom. I was telling Lady Bird that when we was there, and so she was showing

Ludeman -- I -- 14

me some more of the house and the downstairs and telling me some of the things they had done to it, and I just thought it was such a coincidence then.

G: Well, when I found out you were related the way you were, I thought, "Well, this is really cutting a lot of trails here," [inaudible].

L: Right. It really is. It really is.

G: Anyway, you were taking the specially-made hat?

L: The specially-made hat. And when we got there, Lady Bird greeted us, and the President--there was some dignitary that was leaving in a plane and he had gone out to the plane with him, so it was a few minutes before he came in the room. He was really not excited about the hat. He was excited about those former students that were there. And one of them had brought the picture, the little school picture, that I have up there, and Lyndon immediately asked them if they could sit down and write all the names that they knew and so they did. They compiled the list of the names as to who's standing where, and this type of thing. His secretary took all this down, of course, and worked with them, and then his secretary--I'm sure it was a secretary that took charge probably--[or] Lyndon had a copy made for every one of his former students and put his signature on it. I think there was only one or two that they didn't know their addresses so they could mail it to them, and they sent us one, too, so this is how come I have the signed picture.

G: That's great. But he wasn't that excited about the hat?

L: Well, yes, I guess he was, but not like he was, you know. There's a difference--

G: Sure there is.

Ludeman -- I -- 15

L: --in people and clothes. (Laughter) But it was just a real nice visit. When he came in--I wanted to tell you that--from telling whoever had been there goodbye, my father thought he would be really smart, he'd just be seated at Lyndon's desk. So he was sitting there at his desk with his foot propped up on it. Had a great time with my dad. My father had a great sense of humor, and Johnson did, too. You know, they joked back and forth all the time.

G: Well, it sounds like they understood one another.

L: Well, they must have. They must have. Whatever he ever ran for, well, my mother and dad were out beating the bushes for votes.

G: Well, I'd heard that this cousin Margaret was his favorite cousin, but--

L: She was beautiful.

G: Was she?

L: Yes. Extremely beautiful. Just had a sad ending. But I think they were very, very close. Well, they didn't have very many cousins for one thing. So this has something to do with it, I think.

G: It wasn't a numerous family, I know that.

L: No, not like my children on their father's side. There are twenty grandchildren, so they have--

G: Did you know his cousin Ava [Cox]?

L: Oh, sure, sure, and Kittie Clyde [Leonard].

G: Yes, yes, I talked to--

L: Yes, I used to go, see, with my aunt and visit in Johnson City, and Kittie Clyde lived right next door to Mrs. Tom Johnson, Margaret Kimball's mother. She had a little boy, and then

Ludeman -- I -- 16

Ava had Corky, who's around the age of Margaret Ann. I was a young teen-ager, and so I rode herd on the three kids all the time, so . . . Yes, it was neat because I had never been to the Hill Country, and it was a long, long trip from Cotulla. You twisted around the mountain. I had never been on the mountains the first time I went with Margaret, and it was dirt roads, a great deal of it.

G: Yes. It was a real adventure to make that trip.

L: Yes, it really was.

G: It took all day, I guess.

L: Oh, yes. You would leave here early, and it would be all day, and my uncle always worried about her going off like that by herself, particularly after Margaret Ann came along and with a little, bitty kid, and so I would go to help in the car with--I'm ten years older than my cousin, so I was a good age to entertain her.

G: Right. Well, did you see him again after that 1965 visit?

L: No.

G: That was it?

L: That was it.

G: You didn't see him in retirement up at the Ranch?

L: No. No. I had this letter from him when he was retired and he sent a beautiful telegram when my dad died in 1969.

G: Let me pause here. I think what you are referring to is what I have referred to as "an older teacher," an older [inaudible]--

L: Well, that would be Miss Mamie Wildenthal.



Ludeman -- I -- 17

G: Miss Mamie Wildenthal?

L: Yes.

G: I see. And you think that she may have resented LBJ?

L: Well, I have been told that she did. I taught twice briefly at Welhausen myself during the war, and she was the principal over there, and I never heard her say anything but something nice about Lyndon and, you know, always seemed proud of the fact that Lyndon Johnson had taught at the Welhausen School. So, you know, I really don't know anything about that except that I've heard rumors to the effect that either she was principal when he came, and then they made him principal--this is what somebody told me.

G: Right. She was older than he, I think.

L: Oh, much, much older. Much older.

G: And the other teachers were about his age, more or less?

L: Well, see, Elizabeth Johnson was one of the teachers. But, do you all have a picture of that faculty that he's on?

G: I haven't seen it.

L: Now, we have one in our museum down here, and we also have a picture of the house he lived in when he was here.

G: Oh, good.

L: It was falling down when we took the picture; I mean, it wasn't in great shape, but that's where Miss Sarah lived and, of course, her niece, as I told you, lived there, too.

G: Is she still in town?

Ludeman -- I -- 18

L: She's here in town. She has a broken hip, but she's doing great. She lives just one street over, down close to the red light, and Shirley just said though--you know, I said something to her about Lyndon--and she said, "Well, you know, I just never paid that much attention to him. I was involved in my high school activities and all." So, you know, I guess maybe she didn't.

G: I still would like to talk to her, and I'll see if I can get you to give me her address or something [inaudible]. I'd love to.

L: Okay. Okay.

G: But the picture of the faculty, I don't recall seeing one, no, but you say you have one in the museum?

L: Yes, we have one in the museum, and it has Elizabeth Johnson on it and Lyndon. There are several people on there. They have all the names. They have all the names on it.

G: Was the coach on there? There's a story, you know, that the coach was fired for smoking or something.

L: Well, that would have been the high school coach. They just didn't have a coach at Welhausen. See, it was only a grade school because I taught girls' P.E. when I taught in Welhausen, and I taught all the sixth grade, and then all the girls' P.E. for \$75 a month!

G: Well, it hadn't improved any since 1929, had it?

L: With a college degree!

G: There's some argument, too, about how much Lyndon Johnson was paid when he came. He remembered it as \$265 a month, and other people say, "Oh, it wasn't a third of that!"

L: No. I doubt that. If he made a \$100, he was lucky probably.

Ludeman -- I -- 19

G: Even as principal, I guess.

L: Yes. Because I imagine—well, I have some old records on that. The building that our store is in down on Front Street had been a drugstore for years and years and years when Ben acquired the building, and they wanted to be on the highway, so they relocated and had an opportunity to move there and buy the building. They left lots of stuff in the building, like down in the basement, which is a dirt floor, astute [?] basement. And this past year I sold the business to my nephew and his wife, and this past year, well, they have been trying to clean that basement out. And we've found everything from schoolbooks--not school textbooks but records of the school system, county tax ledgers--the people that owned the building held offices, you know, in those positions, and so I guess they just kept the books and left them there. I don't know.

G: You had the courthouse and didn't know it.

L: Right. And just boxes and boxes of old prescriptions. It was kind of neat. In fact, I sat in my garage because they were full of termites, some of the stuff--wouldn't dare bring it in the house. Well, I found a lot of letterheads of the early businesses, you know, where maybe they'd send a check to [Inaudible] Pharmacy to pay their bill or something, and it's kind of neat for the museum that now we can identify some of the--

G: Did you think they might have a record of what the payroll was for the teachers?

L: Yes. I might be able to look that up.

G: That would be interesting.

L: That was 19--?

G: --29, I believe.

Ludeman -- I -- 20

L: --29. Well, I'll look on that picture because I've got the date on the--well, it's probably up there on that picture. Well, anyway. Yes, I don't remember exactly what years that covered, but it did have their salaries, and it had the enrollments, the total enrollments of the various schools. They have closed Welhausen School, and it made me so mad. They moved all the kids over here and put them in army barracks buildings and closed down. Have you seen the Welhausen building?

G: Yes, yes.

L: It's a nice building.

G: It's a nice building.

L: Oh, it does need lot of work, but they let it get in bad shape. You know, if you don't keep things up--

G: It was a new building then, I think.

L: Yes.

G: Quite new.

L: Well, it was built in 1928 or 1924. No, wait a minute. I should remember that.

G: Okay, the Welhausen was built in 1926.

L: 1926, and Lyndon was here in 19--

G: --29.

L: 1928.

G: I think it was 1929.

L: 1929. That's right, we didn't--

G: We never did look at that--

Ludeman -- I -- 21

L: --picture. I didn't get up.

G: I'm not hooked up. I'll look.

L: Okay. I don't know if it has the date on it--yes, it does on that sign. That's Dan Garcia holding it.

G: It says 1929.

L: Okay. That's Dan Garcia holding that sign.

G: Oh, the famous Dan Garcia.

L: Right.

G: Of "What's My Secret," Dan Garcia.

L: Yes.

G: I wish you could have heard him tell that story when he came back from being on the program. Of course, the Garcias, and me, and lot of people were at the PTA. We all still had kids in school, and so he got up and shared his experience with us at the PTA meeting, and it was just so, so funny because he said, "Just think! Me! Dan Garcia talking to the President on the phone!" You know, I mean, that was exciting enough, but then when they sent for him and took him to the White House--

G: That's a big thrill for any ordinary citizen.

L: Oh, of course, of course. But he seemed to--I think when Lyndon taught him, they must have had a real good relation.

G: That's the impression I have--

L: Yes.

G: --that Garcia was a bright, active, energetic sort of person.

Ludeman -- I -- 22

- L: He is, he is. He has a nice family. In fact, all those Garcia men are. They're good business people; they've done well, and there's three of them in business over there.
- G: Are you ever tempted to think that Lyndon Johnson had some influence in that direction on Dan Garcia, or would he have made it anyhow?
- L: I just don't really, you know--I don't know that Dan--I don't believe he finished school. I mean after the years at Welhausen. I don't know exactly what age person he is, so I don't know if he'd have been into high school when I was or not.
- G: He's about seventy.
- L: Is he seventy? Really? Well, then, he would have already been out of school because I'm not that old. He was older than both of my brothers, too. I didn't realize he was that old.
- G: He said he was fourteen when he was in LBJ's class.
- L: Started to school late. He's small in the picture, though.
- G: What became of all the programs that LBJ started over at Welhausen when he left? Now, he started a debating class and he started a baseball team, or maybe it was a softball team, I'm not sure. And they had volleyball and they had all these things. Did these programs have enough momentum to keep going?
- L: Well, the only thing I can tell you about that is when I was teaching over there. I had just gotten out of college in 1941 and didn't intend to teach because I was getting married in December, and, you know, it isn't very fair to take a job and quit in the middle of the year, so I turned down--well, where I wanted to teach really before I decided to get married was in the Hill Country, up close to Johnson City. I had a degree in Homemaking, and I could have gotten a job in that--in Llano.

Ludeman -- I -- 23

G: Oh, sure.

L: And as it turned out, I sent my application there because they were looking for a Home Economics teacher. I didn't realize who the superintendent was, but he was my high school principal, so he called me back immediately, and by that time I had already accepted Ben's proposal, and we didn't know exactly--it depended on when he could get a leave. He was stationed in San Antonio, was a flight instructor. And I couldn't tell Mr. Young that because I wasn't going to tell anybody until we had everything arranged, so I just said, "Well, no," and he said, "Well, what are you going to do?" And I said, "I'm going to teach at Welhausen." He said, "Annette!" Just bawled me out on the telephone. You know, he'd taught me all through high school, and he said, "Why, there's no future there for you." And, you know, I just had to let him bawl me out and keep mum.

But when I taught then that fall at Welhausen, and taught PE, we had teams, you know, like baseball teams, but I don't remember us competing at all. Like when I was growing up and in grade school, we always had a girl's baseball team, and I loved to play baseball, and we played against the Mexican--the Welhausen girls. You know, we didn't leave town or anything. We'd go over there and play; they'd come over here and play. But all of the equipment--I never got anything but a taped bat, the volleyball always leaked; the basketball always leaked. So I'd have to have something to pump it up with and I would get real disgruntled. I didn't think they treated them--but I didn't at that point, I wouldn't have gone and told the superintendent that.

G: Well, I was just wondering if the programs that LBJ started had enough momentum to keep going after he left or whether [inaudible].

Ludeman -- I -- 24

L: I think that debating team--I mean the debate--I believe that was mainly in the high school that he worked with rather than the Mexican school because it seems like to me that George Cook--now, that's somebody that would be good for you to interview if he's physically able. He lives in Boerne. Nearly every Sunday Mrs. Cook, George's mother, would ask Lyndon home for Sunday dinner, and she'd just have big platters of fried chicken, and Lyndon used to talk about her fried chicken. He remembered Mrs. Cook. And so George knew him real well, too.

G: You say, "If he's physically able." Is he--?

L: He's in very poor health.

G: I see.

L: He's in very poor health, but yesterday, when I was visiting with Shirley Manley [?], they have an annual class reunion, and it comes up in March, and I asked her if they were going to do that again this year. They've done it for years. And she and George were in the same class. She said, "Oh, yes, sure. We're going to have it. We're going to have it here at my house." And she's in a walker because she's got a broken hip. But, anyway, I said, "Well, what about George Cook? What have you heard from him? How is he doing physically?" She said, "Well, he was real bad for a while, but I talked to him recently, and he was just doing real, real well." He had been in the hospital, but they had gotten him all straightened out, and he thought he was going to be able to come to the class reunion. But just because Lyndon used to go home with him, you know, and eat dinner on Sunday--and, of course, he was in high school when Lyndon would go over and speak to them, and so he can tell you that kind of thing about him.



Ludeman -- I -- 25

G: That would be interesting.

L: Yes, because I think Lyndon kind of reached out and worked with some of those high school boys, too.

G: He doesn't seem to have lacked for energy to take on extra things.

L: No. And I don't know--because the Cooks were real big Baptists. Maybe Lyndon went to the Baptist church because--that's the only thing I couldn't figure out about the Sunday thing. He must have gone to church, or I don't think Mrs. Cook would have asked him.

(Laughter) I really don't. She was my Sunday school teacher for years.

G: That's a good insight.

L: Or maybe she was wooing him to go to church and Sunday school or something.

G: That's possible, too.

L: And they might have lived over there close to Miss Sarah or something. I don't know.

G: Let me get you to give me some of those names.

L: Okay.

End of Tape 1 of 1 and Interview I

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON LIBRARY

Legal Agreement Pertaining to the Oral History Interview of

ANNETTE LUDEMAN

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, Ben Ludeman, of Everglades City, Florida, 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 with my mother, Annette Ludeman, on February 19, 1986, in Cotulla, Texas, and prepared for deposit in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

This assignment is subject to the following terms and conditions:

- (1) The transcript shall be available for use by researchers as soon as it has been deposited in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.
- (2) The tape recording shall be available to those researchers who have access to the transcript.
- (3) I hereby assign to the United States Government all copyright I may have in the interview transcript and tape.
- (4) Copies of the transcript and the tape recording may be provided by the Library to researchers upon request.
- (5) Copies of the transcript and tape recording may be deposited in or loaned to institutions other than the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

<u>Ben Ludeman</u>	<u>MAY 31, 2006</u>
Donor	Date
<u>Allen Weinstein</u>	<u>7/3/06</u>
Archivist of the United States	Date