

INTERVIEW I

DATE: October 4, 1979
INTERVIEWEE: NELL COLGIN MILLER
INTERVIEWER: Michael L. Gillette
PLACE: Mrs. Miller's residence, Waco, Texas

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G: Let's start with your background, Mrs. Miller. You're from--?

M: Waco.

G: Waco.

M: Waco born.

G: And your maiden name is Nell Colgin?

M: Nell Colgin.

G: You grew up here in Waco? Did you go to high school here?

M: Yes.

G: And then to the University of Texas?

M: No, I went to Sweet Briar [College].

G: I see.

M: Sweet Briar, one year, then to the University.

G: Was 1930 your first year or had you been there a year before?

M: No, I had been there, Littlefield [Dormitory], in 1929.

G: I see.

M: Sweet Briar in 1928.

G: So this was in essence your third year in college in 1930?

M: Oh, yes, third year.

G: I see. Well, how did you happen to meet Mrs. Johnson?

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M: Well, I was supposed to room at SRD [Scottish Rite Dormitory] with a friend of mine, one of my best friends, who decided to go to Baylor [University] at the last minute, so it was really just one of the nicest things that ever happened to me in the world that I was--it was awfully hard to find a place at the last minute, but this little room at Mrs. Matthews', upstairs, a little upstairs room was there. But she didn't serve meals, she just served breakfast. She would patter in with her hair rolled up, with her bathrobe on, and bring us our breakfast. [Lady] Bird was so funny. Sometimes we didn't care for the breakfast, and Bird would mix everything together, the orange juice over the cereal and milk and everything. We didn't care for her meals. She just didn't serve meals, and we would go to Wukasch's or the drugstore for our meals. So we ate all of our meals out. That was the funniest thing though.

G: Do you recall the first time you met Mrs. Johnson?

M: Right there in that nice little room. It was right there.

G: Was she already there?

M: Yes, she was there.

G: I see.

M: That was one of the nicest things that ever happened. There were just six girls. She just had three upstairs rooms.

G: And just you two shared a room? Is that right?

M: Yes, we had the prettiest room. A great big room with a great big bay window, just lovely.

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G: Can you tell me about the room? Can you describe it, the furniture and everything?

M: Very simple. Very simple. Just about one rug, or two tiny little rugs, two little dressers, one for each of us, that great big bay window, one great big bed.

G: Did you generally study there? Did she study there?

M: Yes, we studied there. She certainly was a wonderful student. Gracious, she really was a wonderful student.

G: Where did she study?

M: We studied right there or at the library.

G: Were there desks in the room?

M: Yes, one desk.

G: So you would have to share--

M: (Laughter) We'd share a desk. I didn't talk as much then as I do now. We were both quiet. We observed each other's privacy. Had one closet. It was real togetherness, real togetherness.

G: Do you recall now any of the other girls who lived there?

M: Well, I can see their faces. I just can't remember their names. I could look up their pictures. But I know Bird has just kept up with all of them. Her life was so much different from mine, you know. She was in a capacity, being in Austin--she stayed in Austin several years.

G: What were your first impressions of her?

M: Oh, I just adored her.

G: What was she like?

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M: She was so friendly, and she was outspoken. I mean, she said what she thought. I'm that way, too, now. I thought it was a good way to be. I don't see any point in not being frank and, you know, kindly. She was never unkind, always kindly. Never said anything unkind, but she was so cute. She was just herself, one of the most natural girls I had ever met in my life. Just natural. There was just something you love because she was natural. Just like a little bird. (Laughter)

G: Was she shy?

M: No, real friendly and, you know, outgoing. Well, she'd been independent. When I visited her in Marshall--or Karnack, really--I realized that she was so independent because she kind of helped run the home. You see, I never had had that opportunity. We were not allowed to do very much at our home. Mother didn't like the way I made the bed. She wouldn't even let me make my bed, she made it. She didn't like my bed-making. But Bird did run this home, sort of halfway she ran it. I really thought it was wonderful that she was so independent and had so many capabilities of running a home, of being at home. It was large, it was kind of a country estate. I admired her for that, terribly.

G: She has the reputation for having been quite shy during her earlier years.

M: Well, we weren't shy. I mean in that small group. Maybe in a large group. Maybe in a large group. There was just the six of us. That's what I'm talking about mostly.

G: Well, can you describe the rest of the Matthews house?

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M: Well, the other rooms were real nice and big, but we had the nicest one, a big bay window. It was upstairs.

G: What was the downstairs like?

M: I never did see the downstairs.

G: You never saw it?

M: No, no.

G: Well, did you have a separate entrance, or how did you--?

M: Yes, we had a side entrance.

G: I see.

M: I think it's a part of the University now. I think it's on 21st Street? Isn't that a part of the University, 21st?

G: It sure is.

M: See, there was Mrs. Robinson's [?] and Mrs. Barbisch's [?] and then Mrs. Matthews'. And we were supposed to have our meals at Mrs. Barbisch's or at Mrs. Robinson's. There were three homes together, three boarding houses. But we decided we wanted to eat out, which we did, except for that funny little breakfast that came in, which was never very good.

G: Now, where would breakfast be served?

M: Right in our room on that little table. She would patter in, as I said, half asleep, bringing our little breakfast. Which we never did eat, we just wasted it. (Laughter)

G: What did Mr. Matthews do?

M: I do not remember to save my life. I know I saw her later. I attended a church conference at the Methodist church in Austin and ran into

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Mrs. Matthews. She was serving me my lunch and, oh, we just had more fun reminiscing. She adored Lady Bird; she really loved her. But I saw Mrs. Matthews again. That was so funny. Haven't seen her since.

G: How long ago was this?

M: This was after I moved to Waco in about 1945 or 1946 or 1950 maybe. Maybe it was the fifties. I was an officer in our church. That was the funniest thing, seeing her all over again. Brought everything back, particularly that breakfast. Of course, that was the only contact we had with her because we kept to our rooms, except for paying the rent.

G: How much was the rent? Do you remember?

M: Oh, I guess about thirty dollars a month. But it was a funny experience because I had been at Littlefield the year before and Littlefield was so beautiful. You know, just gorgeous and real elegant. a big, gorgeous Spanish dormitory. And this was real simple. But I loved it, we loved it.

G: You say that you would eat at Wukasch's?

M: Yes. We ate at Wukasch's, a drugstore.

G: Where else would you go? What other--?

M: I believe that's about all. We just ate around, you know, Guadalupe [Street].

G: Let's talk about Mrs. Johnson's studies. Do you recall which courses she liked and did well in?

M: I know she was just very smart in everything, but she introduced me to journalism and I'm sorry that I didn't take it as a freshman. Because

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I loved the journalism course and I wish I had majored in journalism rather than Spanish because I never have had an opportunity to go to Mexico and use my Spanish; [I've] forgotten it now. But we'd work in the journalism school together, B Hall, and I worked for the Austin American and also for the [Waco] News-Tribune later. I wrote a weekly column for the--"University Life in Waco"--News-Tribune. And we interviewed people. We'd rent a car and run out to the airport and meet all of the celebrities who came to Austin. It was fun. We loved it. I really enjoyed it. I wish I had taken lots of journalism and writing. Because now television writing is just wonderful.

G: Do you recall any particular professors that she seemed to like?

M: No, that's all I can remember is journalism, but she was good in everything. She really was.

G: How about DeWitt Reddick? Do you remember him at all?

M: Oh, I remember him. Marge Reddick, she was one of my roommates in Littlefield, and I saw her--she was a Presbyterian--at several church conferences. I remember I smoked at Littlefield, started smoking when I went to the University, and she should have told me to put that thing out. She shouldn't have put up with it, but she did. But she was awfully glad to see me at that church conference. I used to think before I smoked that anybody that smoked was just headed straight for Hades, and I'm sure she thought the same thing about me. But she was glad to know I had become a good church worker. But I stopped smoking a long time ago. I worked for the American Cancer Society. You know, we didn't realize--we thought it was sophisticated to smoke, and it

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was, it was very sophisticated, but terribly, terribly injurious to our health and well-being. But Mrs. Reddick and Mr. Reddick were good friends, Margie and DeWitt. After she married him, I kept up with her, too.

G: Anything else on Mrs. Johnson's courses, history courses or other courses that she took? Did she have trouble with any of them?

M: Oh, no, no, no, no.

G: Did she talk about the education that she had received at St. Mary's [in Dallas]?

M: She mentioned it, but for the life of me, I can't remember. She liked St. Mary's.

G: I wonder if she felt that that had--

M: She was a brilliant person. You can tell. Goodness gracious! She was really quite brilliant. I think I had the capacity to be a little more brilliant than I was, and I would like to do it all over again. But in those days, honest and truly, we didn't have incentive. All we did was get married and have children, have a home. That's all we really cared about. But if I'd do it all over again, I'd try to make something of myself also. The thing I'd do, I would write or something, not just all these hobbies. Just millions of hobbies and volunteer work. All I do is just volunteer and volunteer and volunteer, but I never have had a penny paid me for anything I've done. Just volunteer.

G: I gather that you would go to the Austin Woman's Club.

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M: Oh, yes, we just lived there. That was the most beautiful place I have ever seen. It was all old, old stone. It is still there, isn't it? I can't find it. Of course, as I said, I don't go there very often. But it was so beautiful. Down in the basement overlooking a garden--it seemed like a basement, but it really wasn't a basement; I think it had three stories--we'd have breakfast overlooking this beautiful garden. But it was all stone and kind of the feel of a basement. It really wasn't.

(Interruption)

G: We were going to talk about the Woman's Club.

M: Oh, well, we would go over and spend the weekends with Gene [Eugenia Boehringer Lasseter].

G: She lived there?

M: Yes, she lived there. She was a secretary for the Railroad Commissioner. I can't remember his name.

G: [C. V.] Terrell, I think, wasn't it?

M: Yes, Mr. Terrell. We would go over and spend the weekend with her and have this gorgeous breakfast. They did serve this lovely breakfast. That was the only meal we ever had [there]. It was so beautiful. I can just almost see it, it was so beautiful, overlooking this garden. It was a beautiful place. And I will never forget, Gene had a Victrola, we called it in those days, and we listened to Ruth Etting records. I will never forget that, Gene introduced us to Ruth Etting. Gene was just a wonderful person. I just adored her. Oh, she was just wonderful.

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G: Well, how so? Can you describe [her]?

M: I don't know. She was just lovely. I just adored her. I have lots of pictures. I should have got my pictures out.

G: She was older, wasn't she?

M: Yes, she was older, but she had sort of--I don't know. She was kind of like a mother figure to Bird. She wasn't that much older, but she was kind of a mother figure to both of us. She kind of took us in hand and she was really good to us. I just adored her. In fact, I don't think I ever did anything back for her. I was just thinking of all the precious things she did for us, and I don't think I ever had an opportunity to do anything for her. Of course, in the past years I've done other things for other people, but I guess that's the way it is in life, people do for you, and you do for somebody else. But she was just wonderful. We just were together all the time, just like triplets. I'll look up some pictures. I have a lot of pictures of her. Just loved her. Have you ever seen her, have you ever known her?

G: I never have. Of course, I've seen pictures of her.

M: Oh, I just loved her. She just made our life so beautiful. And we loved the Austin Woman's Club.

G: Well, I gather that Gene--Boehringer then--was also a very energetic person.

M: Oh, just a bundle of energy. And she had the sweetest voice. She had the most beautiful dimples and the sweetest, softest voice. She was just a wonderful person.

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G: Working for the [Texas] Railroad Commission, I wonder if she was interested in politics?

M: I just don't know.

G: Did she talk politics?

M: No, no, no.

G: You were talking about listening to records, can you recall any other music that Mrs. Johnson was fond of? Classical music?

M: "La Donna E Mobile" was her favorite song, she said. "La Donna E Mobile."

G: Would she go to concerts very often?

M: I can't remember. I honestly can't remember. I don't remember it. I know we went to the--I was in--light opera. I was in the light opera we put on, I was in the chorus. And we would go to those. We would go to the University light opera. I remember seeing Pirates of Penzance; I remember when I went back and visited her we saw that. We put on The Firefly, Rudolf Friml's The Firefly. I remember singing in that. She loved it. She loved classical music and she adored poetry. We read Edna St. Vincent Millay, and I have a little book of all the poetry that we read together, copied it out of the book. Yes, she introduced the beautiful things of life.

G: How about the theater? I gather she was quite interested in the theater.

M: Yes.

G: Do you recall any plays that you saw?

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M: No, no. I can't remember those. I really loved musicals more than just plain theater. That's my opinion. She might just adore theater. I did try out for the theater, the University theater. I'll never forget that. She might have tried out and made it, because I tried out and I was one of the finalists, but I didn't make it in the long run. I was more of a comedienne, and we just should have done the same one over, and we tried out for tragedy and I was not a tragedienne at all. (Laughter) I'll never forget that. It was lots of fun though. The Curtain Club, that was the Curtain Club.

G: I gather a lot of her friends were journalism students.

M: Yes, I believe so.

G: Was this because they would get together in class?

M: No, we just lived there. We lived in B Hall working. We worked there all afternoon. We had our journalism class and then we'd work at B Hall all afternoon, editing and writing and re-writing. It was a great life. I love newspaper work.

G: I saw a piece that she did on a Captain Aldridge. Did you ever meet him?

M: No.

G: The fellow that had all the animals? An old home?

M: I remember Ruth Cross [?]. I met her at the plane. She was a writer and I have her book. She autographed it for me.

G: Did Mrs. Johnson meet her?

M: I don't remember. I went out by myself. I had to rent a car to go to

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the airport and meet her. Real late at night, too. It was dark. I was pretty brave.

G: Well, did Mrs. Johnson have a car there at U. T. herself?

M: Yes. See, I was re-reading this little book. Aunt Effie Pattillo--I believe she lived in Alabama--but Bird went to live with her after her mother died, and Aunt Effie gave her this Buick, which we all just adored, of course, because--you know, now like I sent my two grandchildren down to the University each with a car, but in those days so few had cars. It was during the Depression; we were just lucky to be able to go to the University. And we certainly enjoyed that car. She was so sweet and generous with it.

G: She would lend it to other people?

M: Oh, heavens, yes! She was just the soul of generosity. She was a very generous person, just wonderful. And we would go to Barton Springs and spend the day and then went out to Mt. Bonnell. How is Mt. Bonnell?

G: Fine. It's still there.

M: I'll never forget those beautiful rocky places where we would have our picnics. We would go out, and we'd just pile the Buick full and go out and spend the day out there. I can hardly remember going to school. (Laughter) It was so wonderful, all the fun we had.

G: Would you do this usually on weekends or would you do it on weekdays?

M: Yes, Sunday. All Sunday afternoon.

G: How about Anderson's Mill?

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M: I can't remember that. I remember Dillingham's Pasture where it is all built up now. I'd like to see it in the daytime. We had picnics out there. I bet it's all built up, isn't it?

G: I guess so.

M: I bet it's all built up. It was so pretty, pretty nights.

G: Did you ever rent horses at Steiner's?

M: Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

G: This again was a Sunday activity?

M: Yes. I took horseback riding as one of my PE requirements, horseback riding. Wonderful.

G: Was Mrs. Johnson a good rider, do you know?

M: Yes, I think so. Yes. She probably grew up on a horse.

I visited her one summer in Karnack, and it was just marvelous the way they would all pile in the car and just go from city [to city]. They'd go to Jefferson, and they'd go to Shreveport for lunch. I just couldn't get over that. I just loved that part of it because we were so confined here in Waco, and I just never did drive, never had access to a car. I still don't drive now. I still very seldom drive. But she just drove everywhere. She was the bravest person I've ever seen. That's the way they lived.

G: Was this a holiday when you went back to Karnack?

M: Yes, during the summer. She visited us several times, and I visited her.

G: Did you meet her father?

M: Yes. Oh, yes.

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G: What was he like?

M: Oh, he was very tall and handsome, and he was just a wonderful person. I met her stepmother. She was lovely. It was a beautiful home with lots of big porches. Just a charming place. I just loved it. I loved East Texas and Caddo Lake. I just adored it. It was just beautiful.

G: You went out on the lake?

M: Oh, yes. It was kind of a swamp, all the cattails and the little. . . . Oh, I just loved it. She really had a real happy--I think she had a very happy life. She was the youngest and maybe her life wasn't--that's why she had so many friends, because out there--see, I had a big family. There were four of us, a great big neighborhood. But they were kind of alone, you know, in a country home at Karnack, but all of her friends would come out so it was just filled with friends all the time. So she had a wonderful life there.

G: I have a note here that she was the secretary of Theta Sigma Phi.

M: Yes, she had it, yes. She went to the journalism fraternity. She was really very smart. And she joined Theta Sigma Phi.

G: Did she devote much time to that activity, do you know, the journalism?

M: I'm sure she did. She was supposed to do it. She was very conscientious in her work.

G: How did she spend her time in addition to studying? What other pursuits did she follow there? Do you recall any other activities?

M: I can't remember. We were busy every minute. We never wasted a moment. I kept a diary, but I just believe I don't have it anymore.

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G: How about her social life? Did she do much dating? Did she go out much?

M: Went out on weekends. We didn't go out during the week, I don't believe.

G: Oh, really?

M: I don't believe so.

G: I have a note here, she pledged Alpha Phi. Do you remember that?

M: She did that, I guess, after I knew her.

G: Oh, really?

M: Yes, I believe so.

G: Do you recall that?

M: No, I can't remember. I just didn't even know that. I really didn't.

G: I guess she didn't become active. She didn't stay with it.

M: I just didn't know. She didn't? Oh, really? Oh.

G: But I'm surprised that she didn't pledge Pi Phi since you and so many others were Pi Phis.

M: Well, she was interested in Theta, too. I just figured she wasn't interested--I don't believe she was interested in a sorority when I was there.

G: Did she ever go to the Pi Phi house?

M: Oh, yes. Yes, yes, yes. She was over there for--I took her over for lunch a lot.

G: Did you ever try to get her in?

M: I can't remember that to save my life. I can't remember.

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G: I have a note that she was a frequent guest at the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity.

M: Yes, we went over there every Sunday. (Laughter)

G: What was over there?

M: Oh, just everybody, the whole chapter. Someone asked her every Sunday. We were there almost every Sunday. Is it still on the campus? It is real big now, isn't it? It went off the campus and came back.

G: Well, were there fellows there in the journalism school that you knew?

M: I believe so.

G: And you'd be invited over for a Sunday activity with the--?

M: Yes. I wonder if they still do that. I don't think it's as social as it was when we were there. Is it?

G: I think it's still rather social.

M: We went to the Germans every Saturday night. In fact, we'd make our dates for the whole week. The Germans every Saturday night!

G: Well, now, why don't you tell me about the Germans.

M: Oh, they were wonderful! Golly!

G: Well, tell me about them.

M: There was one boy, Temple Bailey [?]-he was a good friend of Gene's-- and he was a Kappa Sig. And we went over there a lot, too, Bird and I. We went to the Kappa Sig house because of Temple, who was a good friend of Gene's. And then a boy named Billy Horne [?], he was just darling. We went horseback riding a lot together. Temple was supposed to be a lawyer, and he went to a one-year law school, but the

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last thing I heard of him he had a seed store in Altus, Oklahoma. He was a good friend of ours.

G: What kind of store?

M: Seed store. Seeds. He didn't become a lawyer that one year at law school. It's funny how you can be a lawyer in one year. But his brother was a good friend of Dawson Duncan's. He had two older brothers who were Kappa Sigs that were really very, you know, big men on the campus, and Temple was a real nice boy. There was a novelist by the same name.

But those Germans were just marvelous.

G: Well, now, describe them to me.

M: Well, they were at the gym, Gregory Gymnasium, and they were every Saturday night at eight o'clock. And you dressed up, really dressed up, and we had the most fun in the world. They were over by twelve. Eight to twelve we danced every Saturday night.

G: They were dances?

M: Oh, they were dances. We danced.

G: Why did they call them Germans?

M: I don't know. Germans. A German is a dance that starts about twelve o'clock, I believe.

G: Oh, in the afternoon?

M: No, at night, at night.

G: Oh, it starts at night?

M: It's late. That's what a German is, because I know I organized a Waco Club down there and got everybody from Waco together, and we had

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a club and I know we had a dance. It wasn't a sorority dance at night so we had another dance. It was a German. That's what a German is, and you serve breakfast.

G: Well, you had them that late because there were earlier activities all night?

M: Yes. There was an earlier dance. We just danced all the time.

G: Well, now, did you have live bands at these?

M: Yes. Oh, yes. Every Saturday night. A good live band. That was just the most wonderful thing in the world, and we danced constantly. We just had the most fun. Yes, we loved it.

G: Now, Dawson Duncan was--

M: He was surely good-looking.

G: What fraternity was he in?

M: I can't remember. He was a handsome young man. I think he was already working. Wasn't he already working when we were down there? I believe he was. He had finished school. I believe he was an SAE, but I'm not sure.

G: I gather he was interested in politics?

M: Yes. Oh, yes. Yes, he was. I've read a lot about him. Wasn't he killed, or did he die? Is he still alive?

G: I don't know.

M: I've lost so many friends, I can't remember who is here. But he sure was good-looking. He really was.

G: Did you ever get any indication that Mrs. Johnson would end up in politics through marriage?

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M: No. No. No. Politics was the last thing in the world. I mean, that was something as far as the moon.

G: I gather she really had one interest in serious journalism.

M: Yes. She was determined to make--like my granddaughter, she was really an achiever. My granddaughter is an achiever. There are just achievers in this world, and there are some that don't achieve and don't really care. I didn't care to achieve. I could have, if I cared to.

G: Did she ever talk about her hopes for a profession?

M: No.

G: Never did?

M: If anyone--actually in those days, that really wasn't the thing. We wanted to do something but--I was thinking of Mrs. [Juantita] Kreps today, you know, the Secretary of [Commerce] who had to resign on account of her husband and the children. That's, to me, a woman's place because, really, your family comes first. And we all wanted a family. That was the main thing. It's just hard sometime to do both. I know she loves her job, but--she's secretary of the interior, I believe.

G: Commerce.

M: Commerce. But she had to [resign], you know, on account of her husband. Look what happened to her poor husband. I really--I'm not for women's lib, to tell you the honest truth.

G: Well, did Mrs. Johnson ever indicate an interest in moving to some other part of the country?

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M: No. No. We've always wanted to stay in Austin for the rest of our lives.

G: Really?

M: It killed me when I had to leave. I thought I was going to die. I didn't think I was going to live if I had to leave Austin. I just adored it. She loved Austin. She was so happy there.

G: Really? How about weekend trips, did you take many?

M: I can't remember. I can't remember any. Oh, yes, her Aunt Pattillo Miss Effie, came one weekend and I know [we] went to San Antonio and saw Eddie Cantor. That's the only time I remember going.

G: Is that right?

M: Yes, saw Eddie Cantor.

G: Who else went? Do you recall?

M: I can't remember. Maybe one other girl from the house, but I can't remember, or maybe two. But I do remember that. I just recalled that. Yes, Aunt Effie took us. She took us. She was a darling. Oh, Bird just adored her. She was so darling.

G: Tell me about Aunt Effie.

M: Oh, she was just adorable. She was just a bundle of energy and just precious. She was just a darling. Bird just adored her. I remember when we married, she sent me a little--some linen, I remember, a piece of linen. She was really a darling. She was just Bird's mother, really, to tell you the truth. She was a precious person.

G: Well, did she visit in Austin very often?

M: Yes, she visited us.

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G: How frequently?

M: Oh, I guess about--when we were there, about twice, I believe.

G: Where would she stay when she was in Austin?

M: I can't for the life of me remember. I guess I'd go to the top of the house or something, and she'd stay with Bird.

We had an awful lot of company. I remember there was an inauguration when we were there and everyone came, and my mother and father came. Ross Sterling was inaugurated, and they all came and dressed in our room. Imagine! The room must have been just jammed full of clothes and everything, but we managed. But I was just thinking--

G: Did you go to the inauguration?

M: Yes, we all went to the inauguration.

G: She did as well?

M: Oh, yes, we all went. There was a big dance. Or several dances. One of the Waco--Guy [Edgar] Witt, he was the lieutenant governor. I remember. He was always having teas at the Capitol and Bird and I would serve. She would always tell me to come and bring somebody. They were good friends of my father's and mother's. I remember that, too, serving tea at the Capitol. Loved the Capitol.

G: Can you tell me about St. David's [Episcopal Church]? You both went to St. David's?

M: Oh, yes. Well, I really am a Presbyterian, but while I roomed with Bird I went with her to St. David's. We went together. Now, the next year, when I went to the Pi Phi house, I went on back to University Presbyterian because it was right across the street, I mean near it.

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But that year I attended [St. David's], except one of our roommates was a member of the Roman Catholic church. I can't remember. She was a pretty, little, blackheaded girl, black curls, and we went to her church at Eastertime, I remember, to this beautiful Catholic church in that vicinity. But, oh, St. David's is so beautiful, but I haven't seen it since. But my granddaughter just adores it, and my grandson. They just adore it.

G: Was there a particular minister that Mrs. Johnson liked there?

M: I can't remember that, but we just loved the service. We loved it. My granddaughter is just crazy about the minister. She said, oh, she saw him somewhere and she was so excited, seeing the minister. (Laughter) They must have a wonderful, charming minister now, because she's not too happy with her church here. She really just loves St. David's, and I'm so happy she does. She's not so happy [here], she says. But it's so old and, oh, it is really a landmark. It's a historical building. I'll just have to go down and see it again. But she just adored it and I am so happy she's there. I want to be sure and write Bird and tell her that. I want to tell her my granddaughter is there.

(Interruption)

We went [to Austin for] two visits. One was so ludicrous I can hardly believe I did it, but when you're young, you do strange things. [We] had this little baby girl, dying for Lyndon and Lady Bird to meet her, for them to see her. So proud of her. We took this four-month-old baby to Austin and spent the day in the Capitol and with Bird when she

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was living in that beautiful Spanish home, just beautiful. What street [was it on]?

G: San Pedro, I think.

M: It was so beautiful. But we first took Cynthia to the Capitol to Lyndon's office. Imagine, this four-month-old baby. So hard on the poor little baby. But she was pretty strong and healthy. And we took her to the Capitol, and Lyndon played with her and put her on the desk and everything, and we went by Bird's and spent the rest of the day. Isn't that unusual? Imagine, taking a little tiny baby.

G: This was the first time you met him? Is that right, or had you met him before?

M: No, one time we went down to the Texas, I guess, Baylor game and had dinner at that beautiful home on San Pedro, and Gene and [her husband] Lasseter were there. There were six of us. We had a wonderful, wonderful dinner. Mother kept the baby. Then we went back and took the baby. I couldn't wait to show my baby off. We had two wonderful visits. And then I have seen her two other times, once at the train station and once out at the coliseum when they were with a general who spoke that time. She looked awfully pretty. She had a pretty hat with something on it, a red hat. She looked so pretty, as pretty as I have ever seen her. She had the most beautiful, sparkling, big eyes. I bet she's just beautiful now. The thing that I couldn't recall in looking at the pictures was that she is so much smaller than I am. I must have grown, because she is real tiny. She is just about 5 feet 2. She is real tiny. I didn't realize how tiny she was. She's real tiny.

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G: Well, I certainly do thank you.

M: Well, I just wish I knew more. I wish I could see [the Ranch]. She did ask me to come down. She was having a [reunion]--oh, a weekend Lyndon was out of town--at the Ranch. I have never seen the Ranch and she wanted me to come with a whole bunch of people--oh, kind of a reunion--from Marshall. But I don't drive, to tell you the truth. I just don't drive, and the bus just wasn't a very good connection. I just wasn't able to go. I was real sorry about that. I just don't drive the car. I go to the church and the grocery store, but I do not drive. And I was so sorry because I've never seen the Ranch. I've seen pictures and pictures and pictures, but I never have seen it. We went by it once when we went and visited our children at camp, but we couldn't see it so--it was way in the distance. We went by it, but we couldn't go in. It's secluded.

G: Well, I certainly do thank--

M: Well, you are sweet to come by.

End of Tape 1 of 1 and Interview I

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