

INTERVIEW I

DATE: June 15, 1982
INTERVIEWEE: EMMETT SHELTON
INTERVIEWER: Michael L. Gillette
PLACE: Mr. Shelton's office, Austin, Texas

Tape 1 of 2

- G: I wanted you to discuss that institution [Southwest Texas State Teachers College] as it was when you attended San Marcos.
- S: Of course Old Main was the main building, and it had the turrets pointed upward toward the sky, and Dr. [C. E.] Evans' home was over on the east side of it, on the mountainside there. There was what you'd call a mall now that'd run west down to Austin Street which is now LBJ Street. On the north side of the mall, there was the old library building, and it was a wreck. Next to the Old Main Building it's probably the oldest one. Then if I remember, we had the Educational Building [which] was still on the the north side down on Austin Street, and that was one of the newer buildings. Then when I first got there I don't remember of any buildings being on the south side of the mall. The old gym--it was a wooden gym and it was down on the north, kind of northwest of Dr. Evans' home, down in that area. I think it burned down later. Then the old Evans Field, it was just an old field. There'd been no work done on it at all. We had a grass burr patch in the northwest corner of it. When we played football it was just as much a quarterback's business to keep you out of that corner as it was to make a touchdown. And then the grandstand. We

Shelton -- I -- 2

didn't have a grandstand, just bleachers down there, but under the bleachers there was a room; two of the boys could stay down there.

In those days we didn't go out and get athletes to come there at all. If we gave them a job in the cafeteria we were doing good. But the first year I got there, in 1921, there just weren't any jobs passed out to any of the athletes. Nobody was helped. And frankly, I didn't have any better sense than to think that you had to furnish your own uniform to play. My mother bought me a football uniform from C&S Sporting Goods so I could play on the team. And I think perhaps if I hadn't had that they wouldn't have let me have one, because we just had ragknots [?], just nothing in the way of football.

Now, the physical assets, right at the end of the mall down on the west side of Austin Street, or LBJ Street, [there was a place] called the Little Bobcat Cafe. The two Coers boys, Leland and John Coers, owned that. It was a little cafeteria, and they [would] let an athlete have a job. I think they gave them a job. And maybe downtown, some of the townspeople were athletically inclined and they would help athletes out some. But I never got a job at all until my senior year, and then Dr. Evans gave me the job as editor of the Star in 1924 and 1925 and I got fifty dollars a month out of that. And that was a lot of money, of course. Actually the rent, I roomed with my Aunt Ada McElroy. She had a little house; it's still standing down there. It's on the northwest corner of the intersection where the Methodist Church is there, right close to where the bank and the post office and all that is now. But she had a rooming house for boys.

Shelton -- I -- 3

And I roomed with my two cousins, Robert Shelton--he'd been down there for several years and he was assistant coach that year. He graduated in June of 1921, and they hired him as assistant coach and he stayed there as head baseball coach and assistant football and basketball coach until they organized Stephen F. Austin [State College] in 1923. Then Dr. Birdwell [?] took him over to Stephen F. Austin as the athletic director over there. He took quite a number of the faculty there. Mr. Birdwell, now, was the dean of the faculty, and when he left, Dr. [A. H.] Nolle came in. That's where this took place.

Now the physical feature was this. I was going to tell you about the rooming and board. It cost me five dollars a month for the room. There were three of us in one room, and we were furnished with our laundry. Then I believe I ate at what they called the Perkins House, and that was twenty-five dollars a month. It cost you twenty-five dollars a month and you had three meals a day. At the beginning of the football season, we did have a training camp before school opened and the school did pay for that. The football team went to--and I forget the lady's name who ran that, but I know that her husband went to the penitentiary for bootlegging during prohibition. That was during prohibition times. Williamson, the Williamson House, that's what it was. Mrs. Williamson was a real good cook, and that's where we had our training table. And then Mrs. Penn ran the training table one year. Then back up to the physical assets, I believe that's about all that I can think of that they had there.

G: What was the library like?

Shelton -- I -- 4

S: The library was just an old, old ramshackley building, and you know, of course we didn't have air conditioning in those days. You had to have windows, and a lot of the windows didn't have screens. I know they didn't have screens because--you know, it was a teachers' college and we had to take education as required and psychology or teachers' training. And I remember that in the Educational Building which was the newest building, that was the one down on Austin Street in the north side of the mall, there were no screens on it. [I remember] because I was in a class with old Ed Kallina [?]. Ed Kallina was a big old Bohemian boy and he was the best football and basketball [player]; he was a three-letter man. He was a fine athlete. Ed wore house shoes to school and just for meanness he'd take them off and stick them under his chair when we were in school, and his feet stunk. So everybody knew it and it was sort of a game. The teacher didn't know what was going on. So one day old Ed had his [house shoes off], I was sitting behind him, and the teacher was writing on the blackboard, and I got old Ed's shoes and threw them out of the window. Everybody saw it but the teacher. We had a lot of laughs and they turned around and old Ed had to go out of there barefooted. We had a lot of fun.

G: Was the College Star office in one of those buildings?

S: It was always in the Main Building, I'm pretty sure. I'm pretty sure it was in the Main Building. When Yancy Yarborough [?] and I were editors of it, it was over where the south entrance to the Main Building was. As you go into the south entrance, it was to the left

Shelton -- I -- 5

of it. Now, later on that became the dean of women's office, Miss [Mary] Brogdon's. Of course, Dr. Evans was hard put to find offices for anything, space for anything, because he just didn't have it. He didn't have that kind of space. But I believe there was a boy named Henry Pochman [?] was editor of the Star, or a boy named Bain [?] before Yancy Yarborough and I. That must have been in 1921 and 1922, somewhere along in there. But Yancy was 1923 and 1924, and I believe it was Henry Pochman. He was [the editor], but he wasn't an athlete, unless they might have been managers of the team. But that was the background of the story as I remember it, Of course, the Star was printed by the little printing shop down by the San Marcos Record. And I forget the family there, they're very close. I'll think of their name in a little while. But one of the boys [Walter Buckner] later became a member of the Industrial Accident Board here in Texas.

G: Was it Haynes?

S: No, there was a Haynes boy that played football down there, but it wasn't the Haynes family. And I think his sister may have taught school up there. There was a Miss Haynes.

But the faculty in 1921, I took history under a Mrs. Retta Murphy. She's still living, and she must be ninety-four or ninety-five years old. She's in a rest home down there. And I took history under Dr. Birdwell. He had a doctor's or--I don't think he had a doctor's degree, it was a master's degree. We didn't have a doctorate down there at all until Dr. Nolle came down there. Then there was a fellow named White. I have his picture here because he roomed in the

Shelton -- I -- 6

same place. He came out of Ohio University and he taught chemistry, I believe. Then I may have taken [that class]. No, it was in that class--old Seth Birdwell was a nephew of Dr. Birdwell and he was a real good football player and out of Tyler. But he wasn't inclined to taking education, and he knew he was going to get kicked out the first six weeks, and so he tried to carry me along with him for company. He got me to quit my chemistry class, and after I quit it, and he quit it, well, the professor told me that I wasn't flunking it but old Seth was. Well, Seth, he got thrown out of college and we didn't see any more of him, but he was a fine man and of course he had a real fine and illustrious background with Dr. Birdwell. He was one of the finest men and educators in Texas, really.

I might give you a little background just to throw off if you don't mind it. About in 1922 or 1923 there was a big Ku Klux. The Ku Klux were organizing in Texas and they were taking over everything, and particularly through the Baptist Church. The Baptist Church was encouraging them and everything was anti-Catholic and anti-foreigners and anti-everything, and of course San Marcos was a Ku Klux hotbed. They were against the Catholics. Oh, the town people were strong Ku Klux. They had one of the strongest Klan organizations of anybody of a town that size in Texas. And at that time Hiram W. Evans, who was Dr. Cecil Evans' brother, was the head kleague of all the state of Texas, and he was in Dallas. Dr. Evans told me this himself. He said he was strongly against them, and so was Dr. Birdwell. It was a schism between the town and the college because of the Klan issue. None of

Shelton -- I -- 7

the faculty would join. They were all very liberal-minded, or tolerant-minded. So Dr. Evans told me that his brother Hiram came down there to make a speech to the Klan one time and he wouldn't let him stay in his home. He said, "Hiram, you're my brother, but you cannot stay in my home when you come on a mission of that kind." He said, "When you come down here as my brother, you can stay at my home." But he made him stay in a hotel.

The reason he told me that was because we were [involved]. My father here in Austin, he disorganized them. They tried to kill him. They killed another man one night at the Ku Klux hall. My daddy went down there to find out who belonged to it. They'd written him a letter telling him to quit defending bootleggers or get out of town. So he proceeded to see that they got out of town. And he broke up the Klan in Austin. And Dr. Evans was very close to him on account of that.

G: How did he do that? How did he break up the Klan?

S: The background was this. It was in 1923, I believe it was; I know that Papa was officing in the Littlefield Building at that time. He had gone to Baylor University in the same class with Pat Neff, and Pat Neff at that time was governor. They called them roommates, but that meant they were in the same dormitory. He was a roommate of Pat Neff.

So Papa got a letter from them [the Klan] stating that he had to quit defending the bootleggers or get out of town. So he knew two or three of them, and he went around and waited on them that morning and told them that if anything happened to him or any of his children, he

Shelton -- I -- 8

was going to kill them. So then he gave a news release and said that he was going down to the Ku Klux hall and find out who else belonged to it besides those he knew, on a Thursday night. That was about two nights off. The Ku Klux hall at that time was down about two blocks east of the [Congress] Avenue on Fifth Street. It was the Brown Furniture Company and up above on the second floor they had the Ku Klux hall.

So Papa went down there on Thursday night with my brother Polk. Polk drove down there just about dark, a little before dark, and he had an old man [with him] named Charlie Hamby [?] who had been a law officer here in town and Charlie was a pretty good shot. But anyway, Charlie had a double-barrel shotgun. He sat across the street, and Papa sat down at the bottom where the steps went up to this building at the meeting house, and he had a pad and pencil and he took the names down of about twenty men that came in and [he] knew them all. One of them was one of my brother's daddy-in-law. So then when that happened, my brother Polk came back by in an old Chevrolet, picked up Papa and picked up Charlie Hamby and they all three got in the front seat of that old Chevrolet and went home.

Well, at the same time they were leaving there, there were three boys in the same kind of an automobile left the depot down on Third and Congress Avenue; they were going out on East Sixth Street. They headed north and got up to Fifth Street on Congress and just at that time there was one of these human spiders they had in those days climbing the Littlefield Building. Everybody knew about it, and they

Shelton -- I -- 9

came down and had all the street blocked where no one could get by; they were watching this old boy climb the Littlefield Building. So these boys turned east on Fifth Street, went down to Brazos and then turned back north and they saw it was blocked there, too. Cars were blocked, watching this old boy. So they turned down this alley, the mouth of the alley on the west end, and when they came out on the east end, there were fifteen or twenty men down there--the same ones that Papa'd gotten the names of--and they fired into this car and killed one of the boys named Peter Clayton.

So the next morning the paper came out and said Peter Clayton was killed at the mouth of the alley of the Ku Klux hall and nobody knew who did it. Well, Papa said he knew damn good and well who did it, and he went over to the courthouse and filed a complaint for murder against every one of these men he had the names of. And this town was just red hot. I'll tell you if anybody in the world had dropped a pin, there'd been a slaughter took place. But he had people in the little towns of Creedmoor and Beeville, they had a mass meeting and called Papa and told him they'd bring their rifles and guns and whatever they needed and come in here and kill them, the Ku Klux, if they had to.

Well, I was in school at San Marcos, so of course I knew what was going on, heard about it, so I came home Saturday morning and wanted to kind of hear what was going on. Of course, our house was just an arsenal. We had all kinds of guns and all my brothers were armed and we were expecting them to attack us. So I was at home on Sunday

Shelton -- I -- 10

morning, and I noticed Papa went over to play dominoes on Sunday morning at the Dixie Cafe. There was a big Negro man come walking from Congress Avenue. We lived on West Live Oak Street about two blocks west of where the theater is up there now on Congress Avenue, and this big black man came walking down the street. It was about eleven o'clock. And I recognized him as an old Negro man--he was a young man [then]--[by] the name of Greasy John Sneed [?]. But he had gone to Luling and married one of these Merriweather [?] girls where they struck that oil field about two years before that. He was our man. Papa'd got him out of jail a thousand times and loaned him a dollar a hundred times. Old Greasy saw it in the paper about Papa being in trouble, so he come up here to see about it. So he was telling me about this luck he had marrying this rich Negro woman and it'd just fallen in his lap. Papa drove up at twelve o'clock in the same car that he had down at the Ku Klux hall two days before. And old Greasy just gets up from talking to me and walks out and says, "Mr. Shelton, you want any of them Ku Klux killed?" And Papa said, "No, Greasy. If any of them need killing, I think I can tend to it myself."

And then there was the Wise [?] family, the three Wise boys. Oscar Wise was bootlegging and a contractor and a cattleman. They told Oscar that they didn't like his presence in Austin, so Papa told Oscar, he said, "Oscar, you just get you a double-barrel shotgun, and you set it up in the front seat of your car and you just ride from First Street to Congress up to the Capitol and back all day long.

Shelton -- I -- 11

Tell them to come get you." Well, he did that, and they just couldn't take that kind of lip. Dr. Howes [?] was one of the organizers of it, and Papa waited on him and told him he was going to kill him.

Then while that was going on, there was a district judge in Austin named James R. Hamilton [?], and Judge Hamilton told me in 1929 that he was a target of them, too, because he was a judge and, hell, the Ku Klux was taking over the courts and everything else, violating all the laws. So Judge Hamilton told me one day--I was trying a divorce case for a lady named Theresa Ault [?]. She was on the long distance telephone exchange here in Austin, had been on it for a number of years. When I got through trying the divorce case--it was in the old Walton Building up on Eleventh and Congress, that's where the courthouse was then--Judge Hamilton told me, he said, "Emmett, I never have met this lady here. I want you to listen to this conversation."

He said, "Were you the lady who used to be on the telephone exchange in 1923?" She said, "I'm still on that exchange." Then he turned to me and said, "I want you to listen to this. You know how your daddy and I were, and Senator McGregor [?], against the Klan and how we fought them. One night my phone rang in the middle of the night about twelve o'clock and this lady introduced herself as Mrs. Ault. She was on the long distance exchange and there was a conversation going on between Bill Hanger in Fort Worth--a lawyer in Fort Worth--and Dr. Howes in Austin with reference to the Klan." And [she was] wanting to know if he wanted to listen. He said, "She cut me on

Shelton -- I -- 12

on that conversation, and I heard these two men discussing how they were going to kill me and your father." And he said, "This is the first time I've ever met her." But that's how hot things were. I better get back--

G: Tell me more about the Klan in San Marcos. Do you recall who the leaders were?

S: I don't know. But you see, they were strong anti-Catholic and that's what they were [opposed to]. They went off on that basis and not so much the foreigners. There weren't a lot of foreigners down there. Of course, they didn't like the Germans in New Braunfels, you know. They were foreigners. There's two entirely different governments in Comal County and in Hays County. But the sheriff was on it. Old George Allen was sheriff at that time, but everybody--now maybe Mr. Barber, Mr. Will Barber, who was president of the bank, he might not have been a member of it. I know I later went with his daughter, and his son later became district attorney there; he was a little younger than me. Mr. Barber was just not that type, and I don't think the Johnsons ever belonged to it. Ed Cape may have belonged to it, but it was generally the cotton people down there. I think maybe the Besses may have belonged to it. But I wouldn't want to say that. And the Daileys. That's the reason we had a schism between the college and the Klan in town, was because they insisted on them joining, and they just turned them down and refused to do so.

G: Do you think that it included the financial institutions?

Shelton -- I -- 13

S: It was more or less a personal thing. See, the Masons weren't involved in it because we had a fine, big Mason organization in San Marcos and I belonged to the DeMolays there, became a member of the DeMolay Legion of Honor there. They were still a holdover there up until 1925 when I got out. It was a bad situation. It was a bad situation. They hated each other. A lot of their people in San Marcos, the business people, just would not help the college in any way on account of that. That was what caused it.

One thing about it, my daddy was real close to Governor [Jim] Ferguson. Ferguson had been indicted here when Papa was district attorney, and Papa would not prosecute him because he didn't think he was guilty and Judge Hamilton said to throw the indictments out because he said there was no evidence against him. So when Ferguson was in power Papa had a lot of weight, and Dr. Evans got Papa to get Ferguson to give them a building down there when nobody else could get a building. Dr. Evans told me about that. He said, "Your daddy got this school a building." I don't know which one it was, but it's one of those that's the first one they built over on the south side of the mall there close to the Main Building.

G: What kind of students went to San Marcos?

S: They were mostly kids that wanted to be schoolteachers. We had the situation where we had a bigger school in the summertime than we did in the wintertime, because the schoolteachers were out and they'd come up there and take their courses in the summertime. But we had a bigger school. There were about four girls to every boy. I know

Shelton -- I -- 14

that. I was a rather exceptional one to come from Austin to go to school down here, because the University [of Texas] was available here. Then the local students there came, but until I guess about the second or third year I was there, we had a lot of people from the [Rio Grande] Valley. That was before there were any colleges down in that area. San Antonio had no college. We had quite a few people from San Antonio. We had them from Seguin. And we had a lot of them from up around Mason and places like that. Because there were just no colleges, and nearly all of them came for the purpose of getting a certificate to teach school and then go out and teach school and then come back. Because I remember the years that I played football. In 1921 I was sixteen years old and the men on the team on an average were, hell, they were twenty-four and twenty-three years old. They'd been in the army in 1918 and 1919 and lost two years there, and they'd taught school a little bit and [were] coming back. They were all full-grown men. It was strictly a teachers' college is what it was. They weren't trying to build you up to anything but being a teacher.

G: Let me ask you about Dr. Evans. How would you describe him? How would you characterize him?

S: Well, he was low-key. I think his eyesight was bad. I believe I remember it as his eyesight was bad. But he was one of the finest men I ever knew. And he knew every kid in school there whether they'd need anything or not. And old Cy Tate--Clyde Tate [?] was his name--lived in San Marcos but he just couldn't make a living and go to school, and he said he was getting ready to quit. The day before he

Shelton -- I -- 15

was going to quit, Dr. Evans called him in. He knew about it and he gave him a job.

But he [Evans] was not a teacher. He didn't want to teach. He was an administrator. And back in those days, a teachers' college didn't have a lobbyist like they have nowadays. And Dr. Evans, being the one that lived close to Austin to tend to the legislature, when the legislature was in session, he spent most of his time in Austin lobbying for the other teachers' colleges. He lobbied for all of them. Of course he had a very fine relationship with all the presidents of the other colleges on account of that. But he was a politician. He was much more of a politician than he was a teacher. But he was an administrator, now; he was strictly an administrator. He may have taught a class or two in an emergency, but I don't remember him doing that.

G: I wonder what his field was, his specialty.

S: I don't know. But he came from somewhere out around Breckenridge, Texas as superintendent of schools out there. He was always in the administrative end of it. And I didn't know the old boy that was president before Dr. Evans came down there. I didn't know him. But my cousins and my brother, they started to school down there in 1915 or 1916, I believe it was. Then during the war, 1917, one of my brothers, Earl, was going to school down there. And they all went into the army. Earl and Robert Shelton went into the army. See, they lived at Dripping Springs and my uncle, their father, was a doctor at Dripping Springs for years. He had a family of thirteen kids and

Shelton -- I -- 16

that's the only place they could go to school. But out of that thirteen, I think seven of them got college degrees.

Dr. Evans was strictly an administrator. I know he called me in in 1923 I believe it was, and we were going to renovate the old Evans Field down there. It just wasn't level, there wasn't anything right about it at all. So we were going to put on a campaign and try and get some money to renovate it and [work for a] bigger and better Evans Field. He put me in charge of that all one summer. I was to try to get donations and get pledges. I got a whole lot more pledges than I got money, and the pledges didn't come out all right. But I have some pictures in here I think showing what they were doing, when they were using scrapers and horses to move the dirt from one place to another to make it all somewhat level, anyway.

But he was just one of the finest men, and like I say, he had one daughter and she's still living. She married a boy named Erwin Soyars and they live in [San] Saba now. Soyars died about two years ago.

G: Her husband?

S: Her husband did, yes. He was a San Marcos boy, but he was a farmer and a rancher. I'm sure that Dr. Evans bought the land and put them on it out of what he did, because he was a very frugal man, and of course he didn't gamble and he didn't drink and he was very religious. But he and his wife belonged to different churches, and they would go to the different churches in San Marcos each Sunday. They'd go down and one of them would go to their church, but they never did try to convert each other at all. His wife was a wonderful woman, too. Of

Shelton -- I -- 17

course she was just retiring. You didn't know her unless you went out and asked about her. But I don't believe I was ever in their home more than once or twice. But I was welcome there, I'm sure.

G: Now he would take students in to his garage apartment, is that right?

S: Yes. He'd just give them free [rent]. Oh, he'd let them mow the lawn or something, just a token, to do things like that. And that's the way he took Lyndon in. I think old [Vernon] Whiteside was rooming with Lyndon up there. He told me he was, but old Whiteside is so full of bull you can't tell everything whether it's true or not. But Whiteside, he's living in Austin here now. He called me up until about three months ago, and I got to where I wasn't at home enough to go out with him. We've been wanting to go out a while. Whiteside, he swears that he's the one that organized the White Stars, but I thought Lyndon did. I thought Whiteside was a Black Star, but he said he wasn't, that he and Willard Deason. . . . See, all that stuff happened after I got out. I never was a fraternity man to start with. I didn't care whether I belonged to it or not. When I got to the University [of Texas], I wouldn't join a fraternity for two years because I just wasn't a fraternity man.

G: Well, do you have any idea how the Black Stars originated?

S: Yes. In a way I do, because Bob Shelton was one of them, and A.D. Hildreth [?], and they might have organized the year that Jesse Kellam was there. Jesse was there in 1920, but he left in 1920. He wasn't there in 1921 because he went down to Tampico. See, they struck oil in Tampico about that time, and a whole bunch of San Marcos boys went

Shelton -- I -- 18

down there to get rich, and Jesse was one of them. Now Claud stayed home because he was a little younger than Jesse. And Claud must have been about a year older than me because he played on a football team in 1921. And Doris Kellam, Jesse's sister, is exactly the same age as me; we were born on the same day, February 12, 1905. Doris is living here now, you know. She married a boy that Dr. Evans took under his wing and made him a member of the faculty there, just gave him a job as bookkeeper and everything in the college. He was Wildenthal, Bryan Wildenthal. He was in my class, and he graduated with me.

Actually when I got my degree down there at San Marcos, I had lacked that course I missed the first year that I was telling you about that I quit; I lacked one course of graduating in 1925. So they called me in--the football team did. They generally elected the captain for the following year when we had a T smoker. They wanted to know, they said if I'd come back--I hadn't graduated--and play, they'd make me captain. I said, "No, I'm going to take a course by correspondence and graduate this summer."

So I took a course in anthropology here at the University under Dr. Pierce [?] and I graduated. So Dr. Evans called me up when I came back--I'd been to Colorado that summer. He said, "Now you come down here before school opens, because you're not going to get this degree unless we have an exercise." So I went down there to get my degree because I was going to start in law school. He called Tom Nichols. Tom Nichols had been the janitor and he'd worked himself up to a good job, and Bryan Wildenthal was taking care of the books or something

Shelton -- I -- 19

when Mr. Chamberlin [?] left--this bookkeeper at the college. And he called Bryan and Nichols and he handed me a degree and that was the exercise that we had. We had a graduation exercise. Dr. Evans was a stickler for that kind of form. Bryan then went on and finally, you know, he became president of Sul Ross [State Teachers College], but I lost track of him.

G: Were there any non-athletes in the White Stars when you were in it?

S: Oh, yes. Yes. There was a boy named, oh, his folks ran a boarding house right there across from the Ward House. His name was--I can't think of it right now. But Yancy Yarborough was one of them.

G: He was not an athlete?

S: No, and he was in there before I was. Yancy got in a year before I did. And then there was a boy named Bain I know was in and then this fellow Pochman, he was one of them. It wasn't strictly organized as an athletic matter, but it kind of developed into that.

G: What was the purpose of the organization?

S: Nothing but social. Just to do something that was against the rules. We'd have meetings up on the river. We'd go off up there and eat chicken. We'd steal them. We had one deal where we decided we were going to have a chicken day and everybody had to steal a chicken and bring it. They couldn't bring one that they bought. Old Ed Kallina was a Catholic and he had to steal one from the priest, and he did. They had chickens at the Catholic Church. We put them all down in [lockers]. There were two boys, old Cy Tate and somebody else were rooming under the bleachers at Evans Field. That was right before

Shelton -- I -- 20

they had the other field. And he had some old lockers in there, and that's where we kept our chickens until about time to eat them.

I don't know whether you've heard of Dr. Nelson but he was the agricultural man down there, and he was a brother of I. A. Nelson who was teaching here in Austin that Nelson Field's named after him. This Nelson down there, he'd got Dr. Evans in a notion of buying him a rooster that cost fifty dollars. And that was unheard of. They carried it as an asset on the school books I think. Some old boy found that rooster out there and brought it down and put it in one of these lockers. And old Cy Tate was taking agriculture. He said, "Man, we can't do that. They'll put us all out of school." So they turned the rooster loose and told him to go home. Well, the rooster had never had any good company like that bunch of chickens down there, and he wouldn't leave. He stayed out there on Evans Field and Professor Nelson, he'd come down in the evenings. We'd hear him coming down hollering, and his chicken had a name, the rooster had a name. He had him a little stick and he was going to whip him home when he caught it. And he never did catch him. The rooster was out in Evans Field and we had that old highboard fence around, he couldn't see it in there. But that's just the kind of thing.

We had this supper that night. Of course in those days the kids didn't drink. We didn't have anything to drink. Once in a while they'd slip off and go off down to Dad Saunders' place on the edge of Comal County. Dad Saunders had a saloon down there, and they'd go down there, but I never took a drink like that. My daddy was an

Shelton -- I -- 21

anti-prohibitionist, but he never had any liquor in our house. He was real Baptist. He just wouldn't let any liquor come in our house at all. And so I just didn't [drink]. And then I thought it was wrong to do that and be an athlete. I wanted to be an athlete more than anything, and I had a hell of a hard time making it.

G: Well, was the Black Star organization at all political? Was it interested in student politics when you were a member?

S: I don't think it was. We were too democratic down there, the whole student body was democratic, and actually the fact that you belonged to the Black Stars didn't have a thing to do with your social attitude. In classes and everything else I think it was more or less organized on a basis that because fraternities were not allowed, just to show we could violate the rules. And I know Dr. Evans knew it was going on, but he didn't say anything about it, because it hadn't created any issue.

You see, actually the student body, the men that came in there, they were not athletes, they'd maybe stay just one year and leave because they had to teach. We didn't have a lot of boys. Like I said, there were about four girls to every boy. It was just beginning to be a college, because in 1921 is the first year that they gave degrees there, you see. So it wasn't a social deal. It was just something that. . . . I know our student body was thoroughly democratic, and we associated with each other whether you were in a fraternity or not. It didn't make any difference. Later on, now, it might have become that way, because some of the boys--I'll tell you frankly,

Shelton -- I -- 22

I didn't know they were having the damn thing until I got in it, and I was living right in the room with one of them. Bob Shelton was my [roommate]; he was one of the organizers and I never knew anything about it.

G: How did you find out about it?

S: They asked me to join about the second or third year. It might have been the third year that I was in there. But I didn't pay any attention to them. It didn't make any difference to me. I was having a good time, and I had all the friends that I wanted.

G: Of course, after you joined the organization you learned a good deal about it, presumably.

S: Well, there wasn't anything to it but just like I say, we'd hold meetings, clandestine meetings maybe once a week, maybe once a month. I don't know how often it was.

G: How did you select members?

S: Hell, I don't know. I don't know that I ever selected any myself.

G: But would you vote on members?

S: Oh, yes. They'd vote on them. I'm sure they'd vote on them. But, you know, my recollection of that bunch--I know we had a pretty pin. I was more interested in getting that pin than anything. We had a Black Star pin, little pearls around on it, and I was more interested in my T pin--we had a T pin, too, that we gave. The main thing was to get the pin so that you could give it to one of your girl friends.

G: I see.

Shelton -- I -- 23

S: So none of the boys ever wore the pin, because as soon as they got it, the girl friend took it away from them. I think Raymond Cavness probably belonged, too. Raymond stayed down there two years in a row, maybe three years in a row. And then Claud, Claud Kellam, he was able to stay the whole time, because his mother ran the hospital there, you see. They were local people and I think his mother--I never heard of Claud and Jesse's father. I think he must have been dead before I came in there. Then there was a barber named Riordan [?]. I know I went with his daughter once, and she was a very close friend of Doris Kellam. I went with a little girl from Dripping Springs. Her name was Brack [?]. And her uncle ran the Brack studio down there, and he did all this photography work for the Pedagog. Then I'll think of some of the other family names there. An old boy named Taylor Cliett, and then the manager of the football team. I know the manager of the football team--he did play baseball, though--he was in the Black Stars. And I'm still trying to think of this old boy that his family lived in a rooming house over there, and it's a rooming house that a bunch of the White Stars stayed in.

G: Was it the Pirtle House?

S: Pirtle House. Well, now, wait a minute, Wray--the Pirtle House and the Wray House, too. There was a Wray House there. W-R-A-Y is the way they spelled their name. And he was not an athlete, but he belonged to the Black Stars.

G: I wonder if you had to get in by unanimous vote.

Shelton -- I -- 24

S: I have no idea. Actually, it wasn't that big a deal. It wasn't that big a deal. I was glad to be in it, but it didn't mean a whole lot to me.

G: Did you ever hear the story of LBJ being blackballed or not voted into the Black Stars?

S: Well, no, I didn't, because see, when I got out, I'd come back to the T smoker, and I went with girls down there. All the time I was in law school I'd date down there, because I knew more down there. Red Boggus [?] was my best friend, and Red was editor of the Star the year I left. And he was captain of the baseball team. And I'd just go down there, and I was going with the little Barber girl at that time, Lena Belle Barber. I'd come down there, and then I started to go with another little girl from the Valley. And [there was] an old boy named Willard McCracken [?], he was from Kingsville. He was not an athlete and I think Willard probably was in the Black Stars. But he was just a nice guy. The debaters or those that were editors of the Star-- really, it gravitated toward athletes alone perhaps after I left there, and that's probably what set Lyndon off because he was not invited.

Actually Lyndon was not too popular the first year or so he was down there. He was what you'd call a horse's ass. He chose his own friends, and by doing that he kind of ostracized himself from the others, you know. He was not an athlete under any means. He wouldn't even go to the World Series games when he was president of the United States. I don't think he ever threw the ball out or anything. He

Shelton -- I -- 25

just wasn't an athlete and wasn't inclined to be that way. He had that attitude when he was down there. He had his goals set when he started to school down there, to be president of the United States, and by God, he made it. But he didn't see that that entered into his path at all, being an athlete.

But I have an idea from just a feeling that more than likely that sort of thing arose after I got out of there, that it became more of an athletic thing than it was just what they called outstanding students or outstanding--because I know I was there two years before they took me in and hell, I guess I'd made four or five letters by that time and I'd been business manager of the annual, the Pedagog. I was that the first year, and I belonged to the dramatic club and everything. But I think they just had Bob in there and they thought that was enough. Bob Shelton was enough in one family.

G: How did the debate team operate? Was it a class? Was it an extracurricular activity?

S: No, I think we had to volunteer. They had to beg us to do it. There wasn't any competition, but I was in the Chautauqua Debating Society. We called it Chautauqua and the Harris-Blairs. The Harris-Blairs was a debating society, and then they had two or three girls' societies there. That was the closest to fraternities you were supposed to have, you see. And we did some, I guess, debating in the Chautauquas, I'm not sure. They're in the Pedagog, it shows some pictures of them in there.

Shelton -- I -- 26

I guess that's the way I got into it. However, in high school I was on the debate team at Austin High School. Tom Martin Davis, who is now the retired head of Baker, Botts in Houston, he and I were the debate team in Austin High School, and we got our butts beat in the finals by two other guys because Tom Martin and I figured we were so much better than they were that we wouldn't practice, and we didn't. Old John Cofer was the judge, and he found for these other two guys, an old boy named Red Mather [?] and Warren something, I forget his name. But they beat Tom Martin and I. Tom Martin later won the state championship in declamation. But I had the background. Of course, my daddy being a lawyer, I was going to be a lawyer and I'd been also class orator in junior high school and in high school. I was class orator and we had a society there called the Sons of Erin in Austin High School, and we had a debate club there and Joe Thorne Gilbert and Stanley Hornsby and all that bunch of boys were in there and Tom Martin Davis. We had a real bunch of boys.

G: Who was your debate coach?

S: At San Marcos?

G: At San Marcos.

S: I can't think of it. I don't know that we had any, but we were bound to have had a debate coach, but I don't know who it was. I could look at the faculty--

G: Did you travel?

S: Oh, no, no. We had one debate, and that was East Texas [State Teachers College] came to debate. And I remember that the president's

Shelton -- I -- 27

son of East Texas was on the debate team against me. I don't know who the other one was, but they had some judges come up from San Antonio to judge the debate. And then Yancy and his partner, they went off probably to Denton. I think we debated East Texas in Denton or maybe Huntsville, but I believe it was Denton. They were our big rivals. East Texas and Denton [North Texas State College] were our big rivals, where we could travel. We'd never go to--you see, Stephen F. Austin wasn't operating then, but Huntsville was. Huntsville [Sam Houston State Teachers College] was the first one organized, but I don't think we debated with Huntsville. We had athletics with Huntsville in every way, but I don't know that--you know, it was difficult to get anywhere. You'd have to go by train to Denton, we could go by train or--buses were not running then. They had the old Red Ball Bus, but you couldn't take a team on the bus at all. You had to use taxis to go, teams. And of course when the debate team went off, that was a big deal. I should imagine Yancy went to Denton. But he can tell you about that.

G: Were the debate teams popular with the students?

S: I think it was. Yes, I think it was. See, actually the Chautauqua and the Harris-Blairs, there's more rivalry between them than there was in the Black Stars. And I'm sure that they were cross-members. I'm sure Black Stars were in both of them. I'm sure they were.

G: Why is it that if you have all these debating societies that there were only four people who were willing to go out for the debate team?

Shelton -- I -- 28

S: Well, now, we may have had some competition on there, but actually I imagine the coach just kind of picked you out. We probably had some competition there, but I don't remember any. But I remember I worked like hell to try to win this, and I lost. Every time I was in a competition on debate, I lost. We lost to Commerce that year. This thing right here, I forget what the subject was, even. But I know that one of the judges from San Antonio was a close personal friend of my father's, and a lawyer. And he came around and told me I'd made a good speech, but it wasn't as good as the other boy's.

G: How did a student get to be editor of the College Star?

S: That was by appointment, really. The editor was supposed to pick out the man to help him during the year, and he was going to take the job the next year. But Dr. Evans was the one that decided who was going to be [the editor]. And it was a job. In other words, it was a reward, because you made some money out of that. That's [one of] very few things you [could] make any money out of out there. Like he gave Bryan Wildenthal a job as bookkeeper for the college I think maybe the last two years he was there, because Mr. Chamberlin had been there and he went over to Stephen F. Austin with Birdwell. And I think Dr. Evans just put Bryan right on in. He might not have been the head man the first year, but I think by the time he was senior, Bryan had a good job because Dr. Evans wanted him in there, and he wanted to reward him. He rewarded me by giving me that job one summer on that Evans Field [project] and then making me the editor of the paper the next year, 1924.

Shelton -- I -- 29

Now, I ran for representative DeMolay in 1924. I was in the DeMolays there in San Marcos, and I'd sent in my record and there wasn't any rule said about it, we didn't know what the rules were. There were three judges. One of them was Mr. Frank Cheley of the Cheley Colorado Camps. He lived in St. Louis then. And there were some others nationally known in Kansas City. I got a letter from Dr. Evans recommending me, stating what kind of man I was, and it was the finest letter I ever got. I tried to get a copy of it later on, but they've destroyed the records up there. But he said--because he showed me a copy or sent me a copy--"This is the best all-around student that ever went to this college." And he said, "He's among the best all-around students in anybody's college or town." He wrote that to me, and I got second in the national contest on the strength of what he said and some other people in Austin, Mr. Lyman J. Bailey [?] and other people that I got to recommend me on it. Because they didn't have anything.

We didn't know what we were competing for. It was all-around DeMolay. Well, hell, I wasn't very much of a DeMolay. I just went to it once in a while, but I got in the contest. And then later on I got Homer Thornberry to get into it, and Homer got to be a representative DeMolay. And I got old Vann Kennedy, Vann Kennedy, he got into it. He was in this chapter down in San Marcos. Homer was in the chapter up here of the DeMolays. Well, I got Homer a trip to Colorado. They gave him a free trip to Colorado as being one of the outstanding DeMolays in the United States. And I was a courier for a number of

Shelton -- I -- 30

years for the DeMolays here, trying to organize chapters around Austin here and such as that.

G: Did you ever have Professor [H. M.] Greene for a course?

S: I don't know that I did or not. But I did know Dr. Greene--I call them all doctors, none of them were doctors. The one that had the swimming pool down there--what was his name? The pool's named after him now. What's that park down there? They called it the park. It was named after him. He was the swimming coach, and then we might have had a tennis coach, but he was one of the players, I think, named Avey [?]. I believe there was a boy named Avey and he played tennis. But see, we looked down [on that]. There's four sports, that's all, football, baseball, basketball, track. Those were the major sports. Golf and tennis were beneath the dignity of anybody that wanted a contact sport. And I believe Avey was there, and we thought a lot of him. I did. And let's see, the Woodsons, of course. Dr. Woodson, the Woodsons and the Arnolds, Mr. [M. L.] Arnold was--I forget what he taught. But he did teach me--I lived in his house one year.

G: He was history, wasn't he?

S: I believe he was history. My history teacher was Birdwell the first year and he was a wonderful teacher. He just oughtn't have gone into the administrative end of the college; he was a wonderful teacher. Then Mr. Arnold did teach me, because I lived in his house with Jack Horton. We roomed in Dr. Arnold's house one year. They weren't giving doctorates. Some of those men kept on going. The faculty members went off in the summertime and they got their doctorate and

Shelton -- I -- 31

all of them went to Peabody. See, Peabody, that was the big teachers' college there in Greeley, Colorado. But Peabody was where most of ours went to get their doctorates. Dr. Arnold was one.

Then [there were] the Woodsons. They were both dean of men and dean of women, the two Woodsons were. And their daughter, the youngest daughter was named Fanny, and she was in my class. She started the same year I did in San Marcos and then she later married the old boy named Jones--I believe it was Jones--that became president of Texas Tech. And then Martha Woodson was the middle-sized girl, and the oldest girl was named Anna. She married an old boy that was head of the band down there. His name was Barrow, and he was the uncle of the Barrow that was on the Supreme Court here in [Austin]. But Barrow, he was a schoolteacher, but he also could play a band and he was the head of the band. He was a student and also the head of the band.

G: Let me ask you about Professor Greene. What was he like?

S: I'll tell you frankly, my memory of him is so little that I can't tell you much. But there was very few members of that faculty that weren't just fine people, because Dr. Evans screened them. I mean, if they were in there--I'm just trying to think [of] some of them. Retta Murphy, I never will forget one thing about her. She was an old Irish woman and she was an old maid, and during a race between this old boy when Mrs. [Miriam] Ferguson ran for office the first time--she ran on an anti-Klan ticket and there was an old boy from Dallas who was the Klan man running against her--and she just frankly was stronger

Shelton -- I -- 32

against the Klan, against the guy than she was for the Fergusons. So one day in history class, something came up about who we ought to be for, about the relative qualities of this guy, and Miss Murphy made this remark. She said, "Well, the worst you can say about the Fergusons is that they're knaves. That's all they've been accused of." But she said, "Whenever you have a choice between a knave and a fool, you better take the knave every time." I never will forget that. She said, "When there's a choice between a knave and a fool, I'll take the knave every time."

G: Deacon Wright, do you remember him?

S: Yes, I remember him. He came down from some school in Missouri, and his brother came down and played football, but he played football--he might have played the last year I was there, but I believe he played in 1925. But he came down about that time and he brought his younger brother with him and played football, because Wright was a backfield man. I took a team up to Dripping Springs and played the first football game up there. It was Christmas Day of 1925, and Wright went along with our team, and we had seven Sheltons on the team and played Buda. And Buda had old Bill Kuykendall [?], and Ike Kuykendall and old [Sherman] Birdwell, that old Birdwell boy that was Lyndon's right-hand man, you know. He was from Buda. They had a team, and we beat them fourteen to nothing. But Wright was on our team to help fill out the eleven men that we needed for our football team. And we had seven Sheltons and four other boys. But I didn't know Wright personally, except I just knew of him just casually after I'd graduated.

Shelton -- I -- 33

G: Was Miss Brogdon a force to be reckoned with on campus?

S: Yes, she was. I'll tell you when she first came down there, she took the bull by the horns and she campused old--I don't know whether you know the story about old Raymond Cavness. He was a strong religious man and everything and he was on the basketball team and on the football and baseball [teams]. He was a three-letter man. But the girl he was going with and later married, she got sick and he went up in her room to take her some flowers or something, and Miss Brogdon, by God, kicked his butt and campused him for a week or two, so he couldn't play basketball. [It was] during basketball season; I remember that very well. And the day that his campus tenure was over, he got to play against Southwestern [University]. Southwestern came down to play us in San Marcos and old Cavvy got to play that night. We beat them sixteen to fifteen, and so help me God, they fouled old Cavvy on the last play of the game and he threw the free shot that won the ball game. And all us, we just hollered about Miss Brogdon at that time. She would have lost the ball game for us if Cavvy had been off.

But then she was just gung-ho a whole lot more than Mrs. Woodson. She took Mrs. Woodson's place. So when they wouldn't have dancing at that time, and later on, the first year or second year I left, they had dancing and Miss Brogdon wrote me a personal letter and asked me to come down to the first dance. I remember that. So she and I were big friends after I got out of college but I never had any problems, because I never was much of a girl-chaser anyhow. I obeyed the rule,

Shelton -- I -- 34

I'll tell you for sure. I didn't want to get kicked out of that school. But I think she was a fine woman, really. She's as good as they. . . . She was what they needed, and she's what Dr. Evans wanted, anyhow, and that's good enough for me.

G: Did the students have any way of doing practice teaching while they were--?

S: Oh, yes, yes. We had classes. I had to do some practice teaching.

G: Was this in the sub-college?

S: In the sub-college, yes. We had those kids in sub-college, and we'd teach them. We had to have a class of practice teaching to get our degree out of there. And I had a class that I had to teach. I don't know how long or how many times you had to do it, but of course if it'd been regular the kids wouldn't have learned a whole lot from us.

G: Well, was the sub-college like a regular high school?

S: It was. It was a regular high school. It had a football team. See, my younger brother was captain of the football team and they were just damn near as good as the Bobcats. See, my younger brother in 1926 was captain of the--they weren't called the Bobkittens. I forget what they called them. They might have been called the Bobkittens [Lobos]. They had a damn good football team.

That was the year that Joe Bailey Chaney [?], he graduated from Howard Payne [College] the same year I graduated San Marcos, and they got him down at the [San Marcos] Academy as a coach. He was a Baptist, you know, from Howard Payne. So he nestled up against my brother and took him away from San Marcos, took him up and he played

Shelton -- I -- 35

football with Howard Payne two years out there, and he was the best lineman probably in the state of Texas. He weighed two hundred and forty pounds and mean. Harold was--Joe Bailey stole him, and he wanted to take him back to Howard Payne with him. Then later on, Joe Bailey came as our coach at San Marcos, you know. He came back down there after he'd coached at Howard Payne for a while.

But the last year I guess I was there, Jack Horton and I roomed together, and Jack was coaching that team. He was coaching the sub-college team. And he and I roomed together in Dr. Arnold's home. We had a deal on--of course we'd work down there until dark on the field, and we'd start home. And we had a little old potbellied coal stove that you put coal in it. I never had coal before, and so we bought a dollar sack of coal from the Smith Coal Company there--old Mack Smith's daddy ran it--and we got us a big old tow sack that high for a dollar. And going home in the evening we went by East End School up there, right close to where the Catholic Church is, and they had a coal bin. And Jack and I, we weren't thieves, but hell, we'd run out of coal and we thought, "Well, it won't hurt us. We're taxpayers, surely, or we're going to be someday. Let's just pilfer a little of this coal once in a while to keep our stoves going down there." So we had a deal on where one night he'd go in and get a little bucketful, or whatever we'd carry it in, a tow sack. We wouldn't get much at a time. And I'd stay out and watch to see if anybody was going to catch us, and if anybody came, whoever was in the thing was going to knock on the door when it was time to come out, and if you didn't answer,

Shelton -- I -- 36

well, you were supposed to stay in there. So I saw the possibilities of that, and the next time I got old Jack in there, I just ran on home. He stayed down there for two hours afraid we were caught. Well, we got our coal business on that basis.

(Interruption)

G: Do you recall your first association or acquaintance with LBJ?

S: No, I don't. Because I'll tell you, he was a kid at Johnson City, and I know that I ran into him and deals like that, but he was below my dignity actually because he was younger than me, you see, and if you were two or three years apart then, that's all the difference in the world. My cousin, Elbert Shelton, who is Bob's older brother, he taught Lyndon in school in Johnson City. He went to San Marcos and took a certificate about 1914, 1915, along in there, and then he went up to Johnson City and taught Lyndon in ward school up there. Then the first I heard of Lyndon was when I came back to these meetings and this stir-up about the White and the Black Stars came up. That's when I first heard of Lyndon.

Then when the President got in there, Lyndon went into the National Youth Administration and hired Jesse. See, Jesse, was a real close personal friend of mine. I just loved Jesse, because he was just a fine man. He had gone over to Lufkin to teach when he got out a year or two before I did, and he'd sent us some good football players, you see, over there. I got to play with some of the boys that Jesse coached and sent over here to play with us. So it must have been--I think Lyndon and Jesse are kin to each other somehow or

Shelton -- I -- 37

another through the Cages, the Cage family. I've always heard that, that they were creek cousins, somehow or another. So when Lyndon got that job, he was bound to have known Jesse somehow or another besides in college, because Jesse was out of school down there long before Lyndon ever came in there. And Claud was gone, and so was Doris. We were all gone before Lyndon ever came to school. So he was kin to them somehow or another. And that's where he met Jesse, but he couldn't have hired a better man than Jesse to help him run the office while he did his politicking.

G: Did you have any contact with LBJ when he was NYA director?

S: Only in this situation. See, I was on the relief board here in Austin, Travis County, and we made a political organization out of it. We had three thousand people on relief and I was on the board with Q. C. Taylor [?] and a fellow named Kit Carson [?] and Dr. Gettys [?] at the University and Charlie Page, Sr. [?]. And it was a political organization.

G: How do you mean political?

S: Well, we saw the possibilities if it. You got three thousand votes, and they're all friends of yours and they're on your payroll. Well, we had a ticket that ran for office in Travis County one year, and we elected them one year through the relief board. The relief board, we had that three thousand votes, and actually we used them. I mean, they were friends of ours. And my brother ran for county commissioner, I think that's where he got elected county commissioner. He beat an old boy about 1934, I think it was. We got into it. And I

Shelton -- I -- 38

stayed in it until I think maybe--my brother was county commissioner I know when Lyndon ran the first time.

G: Well, now, what contact did you have with LBJ through this relief board?

S: Well, I don't know that I had any, but then we were beginning to feel that that was a way to get ahead in the world, you know, so that was the reason he went into that NYA, but that was a state organization. When Lyndon went into that, he was thinking of state office at that time. It didn't make a lot of difference whether it was governor or whatever it was, he was building him a political organization. He did that and this was the same way.

At that time I wasn't interested particularly in running for office here in Travis County, but I was interested in calling some shots. And actually we picked up a ticket, and every man on our ticket won except the county judge. The old boy, George Matthews, beat our man. Our whole ticket went in, and I mean, that's the way I got Homer Thornberry started in politics. Homer, he ran against the old boy that led the ticket and I got the relief organization in back of him and Homer beat him. I forget the old boy's name now. But he wasn't the right type of individual we found out after he got in; he decided he did it all by himself. But Homer was a real fine boy.

G: Well, now when [James P.] Buchanan died in 1937 you had that special election and of course, Polk Shelton ran or announced as one of the candidates. Did you talk to him, your brother, before he announced?

Shelton -- I -- 39

S: Oh, yes. We discussed it. He didn't want to run, and yet he did, too, he thought it was about his time to run. But you see, there was a lot of younger politicians [who] were looking [ahead]. They knew Buchanan was getting old and knew that sooner or later he was going to get out. But he had picked C. N. Avery and Houghton Brownlee--they were the heirs apparent, because they'd been running there. But when you had this special election here instead of being a primary, you see, they knew that there wasn't going to be a big turnout. Well, then the people in Williamson County and Caldwell County and different places, they want a single shot, and old Merton Harris down in his county, if you could get all the votes in your one county, you had a pretty good chance of getting elected, because the high man won, you know.

I remember hearing Mr. Buchanan make a speech out at Oak Hill in 1936. That's the last time he ran for office. He got up and made the remarks up there that things are going on in Washington that he doesn't approve of at all, like this relief business and giving people something for nothing. And he told a story, either from the platform or in talking to a group of us people that were out there to hear him after the platform, but he made this remark. Of course he was head of the Appropriations Committee in Congress at that time which was the most powerful committee. He said that some of these New Dealers came in there in one of his subcommittees that were making appropriations, and he was very serious about it. He [the New Dealer] said that the mule population in the United States just hadn't increased a bit in

Shelton -- I -- 40

the last two or three years that he'd been up there in Washington tending to these things. They thought he was making a jest out of it, and they found out he was serious. He didn't know that mules were hybrids, and when they found out about it, the Democrats expunged his testimony before the committee. And he told that story about it, and he said that he was just not in sympathy any more than--you know [John Nance] Garner quit on account of him not being in sympathy with what Franklin Roosevelt was doing.

But that's the last time I saw Mr. Buchanan was out there. Then when he died, well, Lyndon was the last one that--nobody considered him at all at that time.

G: Well, now initially Mrs. Buchanan thought about succeeding her husband.

S: See, they lived in Brenham, and I didn't know them at all personally, had no contact with them at all. And I didn't know the children, I didn't know her, I didn't know him except that we thought he was a good congressman, there wasn't anybody--we owed him no particular loyalty of course in this area. Avery just handled his business for him.

G: Would Polk have run if she had decided to run?

S: I don't know. But he didn't owe Buchanan any loyalty. He probably would. Polk probably would have run anyhow. But he was running on an issue. See, Polk was running on the Supreme Court issue, about FDR stacking the Supreme Court. And most of the bar association were

Shelton -- I -- 41

outraged at that. So Polk would have run, because he was the bar candidate against the President on stacking the Supreme Court.

G: What did Polk see as his base of support?

S: In those days we didn't care. We'd been in politics all our lives, my daddy had; my daddy'd been school superintendent here in Austin, and county attorney and district attorney, we'd been tied up in the Ferguson races. Polk had been campaign manager for Dan Moody when [he was] running for attorney general. He was just his close friend. And he just made a lot of friends all over the district here. You see, we did a lot of practice in San Marcos and we'd gone to school in San Marcos. I tell you frankly, when Lyndon ran I don't know who Dr. Evans voted for. He probably voted for Lyndon, but he didn't take part in the race because he felt like he owed us more than he owed Lyndon at the time. And he did. He owed the Sheltons.

G: Did he ever convey that sentiment to you?

S: Just by his demeanor. Just by his demeanor, he just did not take part in that campaign because, see, Lyndon at that time owed him more than [we did] because he'd never done anything, never been in a position where he could do Dr. Evans any favor. But Dr. Evans liked him. But I know that Dr. Evans did not take an active part in it because of that. I think that. And I actually [think]--he didn't owe Polk anything, but if it had been me and Lyndon, he'd have voted for me before he'd have voted for Lyndon.

G: Well, now, the support that your brother had presumably was to some extent opposition to the Court-packing bill.

Shelton -- I -- 42

S: That, and then Polk had the--you see, he'd been high up in the American Legion here, and he had the veterans back of him and he had the bar. Polk had a good firm basis to go on.

G: But didn't Senator Brownlee have a lot of the same opposition?

S: Brownlee, he just didn't have any personal friends. You liked him, but he didn't have any basis of. . . . Houghton Brownlee, I'll tell you the kind of politician he was. He did a lot of drinking. He'd go out to a barbecue to electioneer. He'd drink a bottle of beer with one guy, and he'd talk to one guy all day. He'd never go on to do any contact at all. He just sat and drank his beer and just let it go at that. He was a rich man. He'd married into riches anyhow, so he just never had anything hard in his life at all.

Now his brother, Dr. Brownlee, was one of my closest friends. He officed next to us, and during the years his brother got more votes for Houghton than Houghton got for himself. His brother was well thought of. But Houghton was in the law firm of Garrett, Brownlee and Goldsmith, and it was understood that he got the Littlefield business. Somehow or another he'd mixed in with Major Littlefield [who] liked Houghton Brownlee, and old man Garrett--he was a railroad lawyer--and Goldsmith did all the work. Goldsmith was a lawyer. Houghton Brownlee couldn't have tried a case in the courtroom. I don't remember him ever being in the courtroom.

G: Well, did it seem odd that there were two candidates who opposed the Court-packing bill? That did split the vote on that.

Shelton -- I -- 43

- S: It may have, but I'll tell you, Houghton Brownlee did it just because he would have lost support if he hadn't done it. Polk was sincere in the matter, very much sincere in it. And I think Houghton did it because he thought he might could get some votes, and now he was sincere, too. The lawyers just didn't believe in packing the Supreme Court. Now, see, Roosevelt wasn't the man at that particular time that he'd become later. He just wasn't the idol of the country at that particular time. And he was stretching things a whole lot, you know, and that was one thing that he went out on a limb on. And he didn't win it either, you know. He didn't get to stack the Supreme Court at all. He backed down himself on that. But that didn't keep Lyndon from getting in there, because Roosevelt was popular on every other thing but that.
- G: Well, the polls, the Belden polls that were published in the Austin paper, seem to indicate that the Tenth District was in favor of that Court-packing bill.
- S: They were for Roosevelt, they were for him, but the bar association national-wise somehow or another, they made him back down on it. See, he had to back down on it.
- G: Well, let me ask you this. You're knowledgeable in this whole range of factors here. Do you think the voters tied the Court-packing bill, or the need for the Court-packing bill to that Duke Power [?] case and the fact that there was a lot of apprehension over the constitutionality of building these dams the way they were proceeding? Do you remember the Duke Power case that had been before the Court?

Shelton -- I -- 44

S: No, I don't. I didn't have anything to do with that, but I know the people, the ones that I associated with, they were all for these dams because they were bringing business here. I was strong for the dam situation. But what elected Lyndon was the fact just that he was for FDR all the way, and that was [because of] Senator [Alvin] Wirtz. Senator Wirtz in my opinion was the smartest politician that ever hit this country. And he [LBJ] was a brilliant man, but I don't think that he was smart enough to grab that issue. He was lucky. He [Wirtz] picked an issue that hit, and Lyndon was smart enough to go along with him all the way on it, and he got a lot of--that's what elected him, exactly.

G: You were not aware of any relationship between the Court-packing bill and the building of those dams?

S: No, I wasn't. I don't remember that at all. I was pretty busy in that relief, in local politics. I was in that.

G: Who supported Avery?

S: I don't know. But he was a fine man. C. N. Avery, personally you couldn't keep from liking him. And his son, Buck, was a little younger than me, but I knew Buck and I knew all of his daughters. But Mr. Avery had a broad base, because he'd been Buchanan's man and actually, the politicians around over the district, if they wanted anything they'd come to Avery. They didn't go to Buchanan. And at that time, that was just the beginning when the United States congressman had enough gifts to give out that he could build him a base of operation. Because I'd say up until Wilson went out, the congressman

Shelton -- I -- 45

was nothing, all he'd do is appoint postmasters, that was about all he got to do. So there wasn't a whole lot of patronage to give anybody. He'd write letters and send you pills and things like that. They had that stamping privilege, and we'd get letters from the congressman, but nobody paid any attention to the congressman at all. It wasn't a big job until just about when Roosevelt went in there, [then] the national government began to take on importance. And of course it's got you by the neck now, it's the main thing. But Buchanan was a good man, he was a real--

G: Now, Avery was well-known in Austin. . . .

S: And, see, he married into the Nelson family in Round Rock, so they had banks. I don't think Mr. Avery--and he'd been on the city council in Austin, you see. But that was more or less by acclamation. He was just a damn nice guy. Everybody liked him, and he never made anybody an enemy that I know of. I always thought Mr. Avery was just a fine man. And I felt like I never asked him for a thing in my life, but I knew that if I ever needed it, I could go ask him about it and he'd do it.

G: Merton Harris was another [candidate].

S: Yes, he was the district attorney down in Smithville. He lived in Smithville, but Bastrop--you see, that district was the main part of this congressional district. It had Washington County, it had Burleson County, and it had Bastrop County, and then of course that's as far as Merton went. But Merton in that district there, Merton got second; he beat Polk. But Polk carried Lee County. But he carried on

Shelton -- I -- 46

account of the Negro votes, where Polk got all the Negro votes in Lee County, nearly. And they allowed them to vote, you see, in this election because it was not a primary. But Merton Harris, he had the broadest base to start with, because he had made campaigns in three or four of the counties there. And he was well-liked, but when he lost that race, he left and went over to Texarkana and became a partner of a fellow named [Elmer L.] Lincoln. Actually, Polk and I got most of his business. He asked us to take it over.

G: And then there was Sam Stone.

S: Yes, Sam Stone was a fine man. He was county judge of Williamson County and they figured that it everybody in Williamson County voted for Sam, he'd win. And he damn near got all the votes up there. Everybody up there loved him, and he was a good man. There was no reason why you'd vote against Sam Stone.

But every one of them had their little base to go on, and see, they almost had the same situation down in Caldwell County. Old Fred Blundell [?] wanted to run so bad he could taste it, and he figured he'd get all the votes there and in Hays County, and he probably could have. If he'd run, he'd have given Lyndon more trouble in Hays County than anyone else. Hell, Polk had a lot of friends in Hays County. We had a good bunch of people down there, all the Gary family. And Lyndon, see, when he was down there, he just didn't make a lot of friends with the powers that be down there. But when they put that issue of Franklin Roosevelt up, well, they were for Franklin

Shelton -- I -- 47

Roosevelt, and a lot of people down there thought that Polk's friends were just strong out for him and they'd come out and work for him.

G: Did Fleetwood Richards consider running?

S: He was for Lyndon. He was for Lyndon because they got together, that little group of Fleetwood and Adams, Fred Adams, and Fred Blundell. That group got together and said, "Well, we're going with FDR." They figured their bread was buttered on that side. And they were late in doing it. They were late. They didn't come out until they saw Lyndon was going to win or they thought he was going to win. But they didn't encourage him to start with. Fleetwood might have. I didn't ever know him; I know his son much better than I did him. But he was in a group of men down there that were the king bees, and they had a big poker group that played poker down there a whole lot. And we represented all the gamblers here in Austin and our clients were wanting to get in, but they wouldn't let him in that game because they knew Fleetwood and Fred Blundell and old Fred Adams and that bunch of gamblers down there. Dr. Ben Jones and Will Watt [?], they'd go down. But they knew that they were duck soup for these gamblers that Polk and I represented [who] were professional gamblers. Fleetwood made a lot of money, you see, in East Texas oil fields. This fellow Fred Adams went over there, he invested some of the boys' money in Lockhart and by God, he made them all rich. Because they made quite a little bit of money out of the Luling oil field.

G: Now, here's a copy of your campaign literature, a poster. It says

Shelton -- I -- 48

"Aggressive programs for the Tenth District, flood control, electric power, social security, rural electrification." This looks like--

S: I don't know that Polk ever discussed any of that with me at all. He just took it--I don't know who he might have talked with.

G: How would you describe him in the political spectrum? Where did he stand? Do you know?

S: Polk would always be conservative. However, we represented at that time and for years later all the building and trade unions, the labor unions here. We would probably be called liberal at that period of time. But Polk was a good speaker, he was a good lawyer, and thoroughly honest, and Polk would have been a statesman. But he wouldn't have lasted long in politics. He wouldn't have traded. He wouldn't have compromised his conscience for anything in the world. And he wouldn't have been a good politician on the strength of that.

G: But this doesn't look like a conservative platform.

S: Well, like I say, we were poor. We were on the poor side. See, it wasn't but two or three years before that that Polk and I--we were actually the ones that put Tom Miller's bunch in for office in Austin here. Actually, I was campaign manager for Oswald Wolf [?] and Polk got Tom to run. Our influence is what put that group in. Mr. Simon Gillis [?], who went in with them, he raised us out in South Austin. Our youngest brother married his daughter. We were right in the middle of all that hub of politics there. And Tom wanted to run so bad he could taste it. He just wanted so bad to get in the race, and I think Polk scared him out.

Shelton -- I -- 49

G: Really? Well, why didn't Miller support Polk?

S: I think he--I don't know. Tom, you couldn't count on Tom for anything. He was Tom Miller. Remember, he was the best mayor we ever had. Tom Miller's the best mayor we ever had. He was a brilliant man, but then I'll tell you what happened. The man they put in as city manager, they called us and asked Polk and I who should be city manager. And we wanted Guiton Morgan [?] in it, and we asked them to put Guiton in. See, they'd agreed they were going to put, oh, this old boy Graham, Tom Graham's daddy, Murray Graham. Murray Graham was on the ticket when Tom Miller ran for mayor first, and Murray was going to be the city manager. Polk and I were backing Guiton Morgan and we got Guiton appointed. Well, Mr. Gillis, we were just like his children. He was raised right over in our back yard, and actually, you know, he was a Catholic, big Catholic, and when they had this Ku Klux trouble, he and Papa were together. His house was just as full of arms as we were, and he didn't live but two blocks across the street from us over there.

G: Did you ever attend any gatherings in the campaign where LBJ was appearing?

S: The only one that I ever went to was down at Smithville and I think I told the story--I don't know whether I told you about it or not--but they were having a trades day down there, and I was to go down there and talk. See, [when] they have a trades day they give out tickets and prizes, and at twelve o'clock in the middle of the square down there, wherever it was, well, then all the people'd be there and

Shelton -- I -- 50

they'd draw some numbers or something out of the hat, and the people'd get as much as fifty or a hundred dollar prize. So we had to hunt the crowds up. So I went down there to represent Polk at that thing, and I had an old boy named Fred Colwell who was my sound man. We had a little old sound equipment in my car, so we went down there to talk to these people and I found out that we were following Lyndon all the way down there. Lyndon would stop at all these little old corner filling stations and buy a gallon of gas, and put his sign up in there. I didn't have any better sense that to buy all my gas when I left home, and I didn't get to trade with all of them. But Lyndon was buying gas from every one of them.

So when we got down there I was mad as hell, and I knew that I could outtalk Lyndon in a speech at that time. So I had this sound equipment. I got out there where they were going to have this trade day about fifteen minutes before they were supposed to have this drawing and I hollered in my loud [speaker] equipment out there and [said] Lyndon was there, he was one of the candidates and I was only the brother of a candidate, and I thought it only fair that he should come out and talk and I'd let him use my equipment. I challenged him to come out, and old Lyndon wouldn't show. He didn't show at all. So then I carried it right up until about ten minutes before closing, and I just made a rip-roaring speech and nothing but about him. I just eat him up about--and I said some derogatory things about him. Then when I saw they were getting ready to have the drawing, I quit and they had the drawing and everybody went home. And I don't think

Shelton -- I -- 51

Lyndon ever got over that. I don't know where he was all the time I was haranguing him either. I'd eat him up.

G: What did you say about him? Do you recall?

S: I think one thing, I said that his uncle, Mr. Martin up there in Fredericksburg loaned him the money to go to school and Lyndon didn't pay him back. It was something that I ought not to have said. I was ashamed of myself when I did it, but I made that remark, and actually during the campaign the reason I said that was because Martin's son, who is Lyndon's cousin, came down and told us he was helping Polk because Lyndon still owed his daddy money, and he figured Lyndon ought to be paying his debts back before he ought to be running for office, you know.

But then I don't know--at that time we'd already knew we were going to get the Negro votes in the little Negro community in Blanco County. They had come down and wanted to know whether they could vote. See, the Johnsons--Lyndon never was strong for the black people until they got to where they could vote. And naturally Polk carried Lee County and he got all the Negro votes in Lee County, and that's the way we carried it down there. The Negro people were for us in South Austin. We've always been friends with the black people, and sincerely friends of them. So we were going to get that vote, and we voted a lot of Negroes absentee; we voted them in that race. But I don't know whether--see, Lyndon, if you can put yourself in the position, I thought he was an upstart. I just thought he was an upstart. I didn't figure he had anything on him but ambition, and I learned

Shelton -- I -- 52

later that he did have. I voted for Lyndon every time he'd run for office after that. And I always did it because I thought he was the best man.

G: Why do you think he won that race?

S: Well, he put on a good campaign, and he got around and met people. I'll tell you one thing he did. He had the government back of him because he had some old boy that was giving out these parity checks, you know, to these farmers. And he'd go out and talk them into letting him pass the checks out to the farmers, which was of course illegal, but hell, I don't know of anything, we didn't pull any punches. Any way we'd get a vote, we did it, too. But Lyndon, I know out around Manor he passed out the checks out there. And one of my friends came in and told us. They were outraged about Lyndon, the government helping him that way. Well, it outraged me, too, but I thought he was smart as hell to get it done.

G: Do you think he had a more active campaign pace than the other candidates?

S: I believe he did. I just believe that he just worked, and he had a bunch of boys working with him. I didn't know until later that all these boys had come in here like Bill Deason and Birdwell and all that bunch were working for him. But we did this; we had some people, friends in Washington like this old Perry boy. He was raised in South Austin, a friend of ours, not Joe Perry but--

G: Arthur Perry.

Shelton -- I -- 53

S: Arthur Perry. Arthur Perry was about the age of my brother Earl and I remember him. Arthur was writing letters from Washington to the people in South Austin that he knew and asked them to vote for Lyndon. And he had a well-organized campaign like that. Everybody that Lyndon knew all over the state, they were writing letters to the people they did know, so he picked up every vote he could get that way from friends that he had out of the district. So he knew how to campaign. They put on a real good campaign.

G: Let me ask you about financing.

S: He spent two to three and maybe four times as much as Polk and I did, and we spent around forty, fifty thousand dollars. We borrowed every nickel we could get and put every nickel we could get into it and I'll tell you one thing that happened. Mr. Kavanaugh ran the little paper, the Round Rock Leader. And in those days there was a place that had good fried chicken up there in the town of Round Rock, and people from Austin would go up there. We would go up there about once or twice a week and eat at this Sam Bass Cafe, I think it was. Of course, old man Kavanaugh would come up and meet the people from Austin and try to get a little news or something. So he was over there during this campaign when Lyndon had filed the amount of money he had spent for advertising. And it was ridiculously low. And Mr. Kavanaugh came over there and laughed at our table and said, "You know, I've been highly complimented. I noticed that Mr. Johnson has filed his campaign report as to how much he spent for advertising, and you know, I have gotten about 25 per cent of that money." So he just didn't put

Shelton -- I -- 54

in it what he'd put on these others. But old man Kavanaugh was laughing about it. But he had to pay Kavanaugh for what he got.

G: Why do you think he spent three or four times more--?

S: Because of the tracks he made. He couldn't have done that--he did much more advertising than we did, a whole lot more.

G: You're talking about newspaper advertising?

S: Everything. Everything. Lyndon, he had people working for him that when you ran into tracks he made--we were lucky this way; we got the Packer [?] people, [they] just called us or wrote us a letter and said, "We have a certain number of advertising billboards that you can have. You can put your own advertising on them." Well, we got that through Jesse Jones. I'll tell you the way that happened. When this thing first started breaking, well, Paul Wakefield was then secretary to Jimmie Allred and secretary to Sterling [?] and he was a close personal friend of ours. And I sold him ten acres right up here. His boy still lives up there, Paul Wakefield did. Well, anyway, he had been secretary or something to Jesse Jones as a kid. He'd worked in his paper down in Houston. And so we went to see Paul. And Paul was backing Polk, strong for him. And he called Mr. Jones and asked him if he would help Polk, and Mr. Jones said yes. Now, he was head of the RFC at that time. So that was before Roosevelt took an active part. It was the first week or two of the campaign. He said, "Yes, I'll tell you," So he knew what side Polk was on against the Supreme Court, and Jesse Jones was not for that.

Shelton -- I -- 55

So as a result of that contact, the Packer people called us and said, "We'll give you this free advertising." Then first thing you know, Paul called us in and said, "Mr. Jones has had the pressure put on him from Mr. Roosevelt." Told him that he'd appreciate it if a member of the cabinet wouldn't take an active part in this campaign. Now, I know that happened. So I know that all the money that FDR could send in this campaign to his friends, he'd put it in for Lyndon and Lyndon got it. I don't know where it went.

Ed Clark, I noticed Mr. [Robert] Caro told me that Ed was a little leery about telling how much he spent, this, that and the other. So finally when I told him how much we spent, Ed had to come on up where they spent at least fifty thousand dollars. But I'm sure they spent over a hundred thousand dollars. And that was a lot of money.

G: Well, we're talking about 1937 dollars.

S: And that was a lot of money.

G: How did you spend forty thousand dollars? That seems like a lot of money.

S: It was. But now, I don't know how we got it. I bought a piece of land out there and gave it to Polk as a part of my campaign [contribution] and finally the week before, or maybe two weeks before the campaign was over, we were broke. And Polk and I were sitting there saying, "Well, we can't do anything more. We don't have any money." So I said, "Well, Hiram Reed [?] is a friend of ours," and Hiram was in business then down at San Antonio. I went down to San Antonio and

Shelton -- I -- 56

told Hiram that we were broke and we needed a little money. Well, I'd represented him for different things and we'd been to the Boy Scout Jamboree together. He said, "Well, Emmett, Pop"--meaning his daddy, D. C. Reed--"is for Lyndon because he's for Roosevelt." He said he's for Roosevelt because they were broke when Roosevelt went in and he brought them back, you know. And so Hiram said, "All right, if you need some money, let's go down to the bank." He went down to the Alamo National Bank--his office was in the building--and we went down and went in there and he drew out fifteen hundred dollars and handed it to me. He said, "You can pay me back." He knew I was developing these hills out here, or at least buying a lot of them; he said, "Some day you can give me one of them mountains out there." So we brought that fifteen hundred dollars up and just sopped up our debts. We didn't go anywhere with it, we just paid some of the things we already owed, because we were determined we weren't going to be in debt when the thing was over, and we weren't. We paid our debts off when it was over.

G: Before the end of the--?

S: When the campaign was over, our debts were paid except for what little we might have owed in the bank. No, we didn't have like Ralph Yarborough or some of these guys do, just buy printing and depend on people giving you some money.

G: I thought you were deep in debt after the campaign.

S: I don't think we were.

G: That's what Caro says.

Shelton -- I -- 57

S: Well, now, we may have been, but we may not. But my recollection is that that fifteen hundred dollars that I owed Hiram was all we owed. And to pay that off, I gave him twenty acres of land up here on Terrace Mountain Drive now where it is for the fifteen hundred dollars, and we went together and subdivided it, and before we got through, he got his fifteen hundred out and he and I had twenty-five thousand dollars apiece profit made on the thing.

But Polk borrowed all that he could borrow. But we were not that stout. We couldn't have borrowed over ten thousand dollars. We spent all we could together, but Polk couldn't have borrowed over ten thousand dollars.

G: So you borrowed ten thousand--?

S: We may have. I'm just throwing that out. We borrowed all we could.

G: But you think you may have had thirty in cash laying around somewhere.

S: That or we got it from our friends. See, our friends helped a whole lot. A whole lot of our friends put money in, all of them that could. And we had a lot of workers working for nothing.

G: Did you have some salaried workers as well?

S: I don't think we did. I don't know, except our own secretary. See, we were in the office there at that time. We were officing with Everett Looney. We were not partners, but Everett was in the office there. And Everett had been told by Jimmie Allred that he didn't want him to take an interest in the campaign. Jimmie was governor at that time and he was for Lyndon, because he was looking forward to an appointment out of Roosevelt and the federal judgeship when he got out

Shelton -- I -- 58

of the governor's office. So Allred, although we were close personal friends with Jimmie Allred, he was politics. And so Everett, two weeks before the campaign was over, he decided it was about time for him to get out of that town. He went on a vacation. He didn't help us a bit. But if Polk had been elected, he'd have been the first one in line, like Ed Clark was, to get all the gravy he could get out of it. Now, they were politicians.

G: Looney did speak in LBJ's behalf during the campaign.

S: I didn't remember that. I didn't remember that, because he was in our office and we were associated with him.

G: Did Ed Clark take a stand in the campaign?

S: I didn't know it, because I didn't even know Ed then. See, Ed, he had been at the Capitol, and I never did any business up there. When Paul Wakefield was in the office, I did a lot of business with him and Pat Moreland. See, Pat Moreland was in Jimmie Allred's office. They were our friends, and I did a lot of business with them. As a matter of fact, you talk about the pardons that Ferguson gave, Jimmie Allred gave as many pardons and in as lush a way as Ferguson ever thought to do it. I know that I represented an old boy, a gambler, and he'd got caught hijacking a game here out on the Post Road to the San Antonio highway. There's a guy named Skeet Hobrick [?] from San Antonio--

Tape 2 of 2

S: There's an old boy named Jack Rankin [?] who was a big gambler and he owned what was called the Rankin Courts. It was right out there on South Congress Avenue just before you get to the entrance into St.

Shelton -- I -- 59

Edward's College, and he was over on the west side of there and they did a lot of gambling there. Well, old Skeet Hobrick was the big gambler and a criminal. He was the kingpin gambler in San Antonio at that time, and Franklin Spears was senator. And Franklin represented Skeet in his misdemeanors and his criminals.

Anyway, old Skeet and another guy came up here and held up this poker game one night. Of course the gamblers all knew him, so they got Skeet indicted in Travis County here and also this old boy that we represented--I forget his name but he worked for Allis-Chalmers. He left here to go to Allis-Chalmers. Anyway, what happened, our man, somebody put the money up for Polk and me to represent him. We just pled him guilty, because he was guilty; they had the case on him and he went on down to the penitentiary and stayed about a year. In the meantime, Skeet Hobrick had enough influence to keep from going to trial. Old Franklin Spears kept him from going to trial.

Well, I was in with, of course, Wakefield and Pat Moreland, and I start trying to get this old boy a pardon, because I think Mervin Asheer [?] would have put up money for him. All the gamblers would help each other. And so they gave him a pretty good-sized fee to go up and get this old boy out of the penitentiary. I know the legislature was in session, because old Skeet had finally gotten off down to the penitentiary. And the way we worked it, instead of giving them outright pardons--and they all knew about this as well as anybody else--he had reduced the sentence to where he didn't have but about two weeks to serve, and that wouldn't make the newspapers, you know.

Shelton -- I -- 60

The man'd have fifteen years, you'd reduce it to two years, and he'd already have some good time, and he was out before you'd turn around.

So Franklin was with me. Franklin Spears was all for my man getting out. So I got my man out, and he was supposed to beat it to Wisconsin just as fast as he could get there, and he had him a job with Allis-Chalmers up there. They had a system then going where they'd hire ex-convicts and they worked hard. That was a real good business. Well, as soon as my man got out, although old Skeet hadn't been in the penitentiary but about half as long as my man had, well, old Franklin came down from the Senate, where he had a little influence with the Governor, you know, in the Senate, and insisted that his co-conspirator'd gotten out and his man was entitled to get out. And that's the first Jimmie heard about my man getting out. The way it worked, of course, was my man's sentence was reduced. Well, he tried every way in the world to revoke my man's pardon, but my man had made it out of Texas before he could catch him. But I don't know how old Franklin ever made it all right with Jimmie, but Jimmie had to give Franklin something, and I don't know what happened, but that was just the way the politics was worked then.

G: Well, back to the campaign. How did you spend your money?

S: We didn't do it as well as Lyndon did, because we spent a little bit in newspaper advertising and we did hire out to people to go out and just campaign. We'd pay them maybe five dollars a day, but Polk and I figured that when it was over, if we'd done this, if we'd just made a list of the people that were on our side and gone and gotten them to

Shelton -- I -- 61

go to the polls and paid five dollars for people to hustle them to the polls, we could have gotten more for our money than we did by just scattering it, shooting it. And I guess other boys did that, too.

But we didn't know any way to campaign in those days. You know, you didn't take a poll. You just went and talked to your friends and depended on them coming to vote. But half of the people we talked to who said that they were going to vote for us didn't show up. They just weren't interested in the campaign. And a lot of them thought, "Well, he don't need my help." Polk was very popular with them, he was popular. So they figured everybody else felt that way about it. But they didn't.

But the way we got our big vote, I don't know whether I've told you or not about the meeting that we had at the Negro church in Giddings the night before the election. It was on Friday night. There was an old Negro man that was superintendent of schools out at the little Negro town of Littig, out there close to Manor. J. E.-- I'll think of his name in a minute--he was one of the most brilliant men I ever knew. And he was a real politician. The Republicans hired him to come up and speak in Kentucky and Tennessee among the black people where they let them vote during an election. He was a big politician. His son went to Harvard Law School and graduated and became a law partner of this black congressman from Chicago.

G: Was that Edwards?

S: No, it was way back yonder. That was way back about that time. But anyway, he was for Polk. We'd been representing them and actually

Shelton -- I -- 62

when I was on the relief board I gave them a cannery. He come to me and said, "The black people in the east part of Travis County, we don't want any money. We don't want on relief. We've got farms, we'll work, but we would like to have some way to package our goods." We got the money together to give them a cannery. So we gave them a cannery, and he became my friend that way. But he liked us and so he said, "If the Negroes can vote in this election, they haven't been able to vote in the Democratic primary, so I'm going to hold a meeting down in one of the Negro churches"--probably a Baptist church--"in the west part of Giddings."

I went down with old Fred Colwell. Fred Colwell had this speaker outfit we had, and I know it rained as hard as hell that day. But we were going to speak about dark. We got down there, and old Dr. J. E. Clayton, Professor Clayton, and he had a Negro who came all the way from Chicago, a lawyer named Betts [?], he was raised down in Beat 13 [?] down in Giddings, and he was going to talk to them. He was one of the native citizens that made good. They had all that thing revved up, and we got down there and I never saw so many Negroes. They were just hanging on the rafters. I bet you there were five hundred of them in that church and outside listening. So we had this sound system all rigged up, you know, and I was sitting in the back, and there was a Mrs. Harriman [?] came down there, too. She was with us somehow or another. But we were the only three or four white people there, and Clayton, he cut it [the microphone] off and said, "When the

Shelton -- I -- 63

folks can't hear me talk with my own voice, I ain't going to talk."

So he cut it off, he and Betts.

Old Betts got up first. He was a successful lawyer from Chicago, and he looked just exactly like a chimpanzee. Head run right straight up to a peak in the back and run out and looked like a little red part of it. And he was a little round fellow, looked like he was about five foot, four inches tall and just as round as a butterball. And he talked, I never heard such a speech in my life. I can see why he was a successful lawyer. He told them about Polk, what a great man he was.

Then Clayton got up. And Clayton is a student of the Bible if there ever was one. Of course all the Negro preachers are, and he was a preacher along with his teaching. But he knew the Bible from one end to the other. And he'd make these quotations, and wind them up and he'd drive them home and those people'd just squeal, just holler and squeal. But I remember old Betts making a talk. Negro people, when they're among themselves, they're their own. He said, "The white folks think they got the advantage of us." He said, "They ain't anywhere near us. We got every color of the rainbow in our race." They'd laugh and holler and go on, and of course they'd make fun of each other like old Redd Foxx can do it, you know. Well, Betts did that kind of talk and Clayton got up and he drove the Bible. When he got through comparing Polk with Jesus Christ, you thought Christ was kind of a backslider. But when the elections took place the next day,

Shelton -- I -- 64

Polk carried Lee County. Every one of those people came to vote, every one of them. And that's where we got it, Clayton.

G: How did you get black votes in other areas?

S: Well, you know there's a little black community in Blanco County, over in the southwest part of Blanco County. They call it the Colony, the Black Colony. And those people came down and asked us how to vote. They told us that they wanted to be for Polk, because that was still not too long after we had all this Ku Klux trouble and all the Negroes in Central Texas were for Papa because he was against the Ku Klux, you know. And we'd represented them. For years we've been very tolerant and we liked the Negro people and they liked us and it was sincere.

Just a sample of this, now, less that ten years ago I had a bleeding ulcer and fainted in the elevator in the Capital National Bank Building. And the boys in the motor ramp building--all Negroes--that handled the motor ramp cars there, you know, they happened to come in there and see me laying there. They found out that I'd had a bleeding ulcer and [was] needing a blood transfusion and they got together and called the hospital and told them they'd give twenty pints of blood. And they would have. But they're our friends.

G: Did you pay poll taxes for any of these people?

S: No. See, it was too late. When this election came off, the poll taxes had all been paid. And the election was--see, you had to have your poll taxes paid by January 31, but you had to have a poll tax to vote. And the Negroes, you see, the disadvantage they were at in those days was the fact that when they paid their property tax, they

Shelton -- I -- 65

had to pay a poll tax, and yet they wouldn't let them vote in the primary. Well, all these Negroes in Giddings and those up in the Colony, they were landowners. And they paid their taxes, and they had to have poll taxes. You see, the people that we got, the black vote that we got was substantial black people. There's a whole lot of difference between a black man and a "nigger." A "nigger" is just-- you can be a white man and be a "nigger" if you're just as sorry as hell. That's the way people look at them. And the most substantial black people in Austin were our friends. Like the Lotts and the Hunts and all the people in South Austin, the Williams and the Buntons and all that bunch. They'd have done anything in the world for us.

G: How about radio? Did you spend any money on radio?

S: The radio was not very--we may have a little bit, but not [much].

Polk didn't make more than one or two speeches. I know that radio was not the way to contact. The way to contact them was hoof. We'd just get out and meet people. And yet there wasn't any way to meet them, you see, because unless you had a barbecue and, God, even in those days you could spend three or four hundred dollars on a barbecue, and then you weren't making any headway. We just had to get out and walk up and down the streets and meet people and talk to our friends and get them to call people. We made lists and we'd call them, and that's the only way we knew how to politick. Lyndon just had the issue. He got elected because he said, "I'll go all the way with FDR." He just said, "I'll be his rubber stamp," and that's what the people wanted at

Shelton -- I -- 66

that time. And it was the best thing to do. At that time it ought to have been done.

G: But weren't most of the other candidates also in favor of the Court-packing bill?

S: Yes, but they were dragging their feet. They didn't do it like Lyndon did. Lyndon just cast his--the rest of us were trying to, hoping to get a little bit of this other vote, too, you know, because they were Of course Sam Stone, I don't know about him. He knew what he was going to get. He was going to be Williamson County and that was all. He didn't even campaign anywhere but Williamson County, I don't think. And Merton--I don't know about him. Of course, Brownlee, he lost as many votes by campaigning as he made. But Avery, his vote was pretty well set when it happened. But the trouble was that people just don't come out and vote in these special elections. There just weren't many people coming. And Lyndon got his people out to vote. But it was a masterpiece of campaigning, as far as I'm concerned.

G: Let me ask you again how much you think your side spent in that campaign.

S: I don't think we spent over forty or fifty thousand dollars, because it just wasn't available. We just didn't have it. And we spent every nickel we could get and borrow, I'll say that, for it. But that was a lot of money, just a lot of money. At the time, Polk and I thought we'd spent about twenty-five thousand, but before we got through, I guess we spent around forty before we got through paying it out. But

Shelton -- I -- 67

that was just a lot of money, more than we [anticipated]. If we'd known what it was going to be, we wouldn't have gotten into it. We couldn't have. We couldn't have afforded to. But you know, you get into something like that and you start throwing good money after bad money because you're in. You think, well, you might as well go on and win. We didn't know at that time, of course, that most of the expenses take place in the last two or three weeks. And we didn't save any back for that. So the experience might have been worth it.

G: Why does your expense increase the last two or three weeks?

S: Well, that's because then you begin to see where you can make it.

G: Do you use your poll workers, or street workers?

S: Well, I guess so, but you see the thing about it is that Polk and I knew this. We'd been in politics enough to know these guys would come in and try to bleed you and take your money, then don't do you any good. We didn't hire into that kind at all. We knew all that bunch, because we'd been in races for other people and had these guys come in to try to save it. It's usually people who say they're going to turn a certain bloc of votes, like the Czech vote, and they're going to do this, that and the other. They're the kind that take your money and don't give you anything.

G: Well, how did you distinguish which ones were bona fide workers?

S: We didn't solicit any outside workers. Our friends came to us and we used them. That's the way it was, because we wouldn't have hired a political worker, because I've been through that before too many times. I just knew that--and you see, we had a pretty good [base],

Shelton -- I -- 68

that relief organization; I still had some help on that. These boys that were my friends, they worked for us. We got all the votes we were entitled to. Lyndon just got more. We got every vote that we were entitled to. And we had a good substantial background on that and base to go on, but he just absolutely out-campaigned us. And I know in the final analysis the people in this country at that particular time in history were for Franklin Roosevelt having his way, and we were, too. Just like right now I'm in favor of the President having his way until he proves he's wrong. I just believe that Reagan is a big help to this country and I'd go with him even though I thought he might be wrong until he proved he was wrong. But that's the way people felt in those days. But it's a different ball of wax then than what we are now.

The attitude I had toward Lyndon, I just thought he was an upstart, and I knew I was a better man than he was. And I think he knew it. But by God, he had his way in the world and he paid for it, of course. I always thought that Lyndon was just a great man, so far as what he was doing. He's given this country just a whole hell of a lot.

G: Was your brother surprised at the outcome?

S: I don't think so. I don't think so. We thought we might win. We thought we might win. And I think the other people thought that. I think Lyndon thought we were going to be the top runners with him. He knew that Avery and these others had fallen by the way. Of course, you never could tell about Stone, because we didn't know what kind of

Shelton -- I -- 69

turnout there was going to be in Williamson County. If all the people in Williamson County voted [that had voted] in the primaries, he'd have won. But they just didn't think that much of Sam. There's so many factors there that you couldn't take into consideration. If Sam hadn't run, Polk would have gotten most of his votes.

G: There have been accounts of how LBJ attempted to win over his rivals after the election.

S: Well, he didn't make any of them mad. He just ran against them. But it wasn't a personal issue with him at all.

G: But after the election. I understand he wrote letters to his [opponents].

S: Oh, he may have, I don't know. But I know this. Polk and I have been strong for him ever since then. Lyndon, I've never written him a letter that I didn't get an answer the next day. And I've never asked him for anything that I didn't think was right, anyhow, but I tell you now, he didn't give you lip service. He'd do you some good.

Just for sample, one of my nephews worked on Lyndon's staff for a while; Edgar Shelton, Jr. worked on Lyndon's staff for a while in Washington. And lobbyists put on a barbecue on the twenty-first of April or March 2 for all the congressmen of the Texas delegation. Well, Lyndon asked--Homer and Lyndon, Homer was in Congress then--asked my nephew to get somebody to do that job for them. Well, Edgar, Jr. just called my son, Gilbert. He was a musician. He asked Gilbert to come up and put on the program for him.

Shelton -- I -- 70

So he got off up there and Walter Jenkins took a fancy to him and said, "You're a big-time man." So he called old Elvis Presley's man Colonel Parker or whatever his name was, and leaned on him pretty hard. He said, "I've got a singer here, and you've got one started." Elvis was doing pretty good about then. It was in 1955, somewhere along in there. And Walter told him, he said it was a personal matter with him, he wanted him to give Gilbert a break. And old Colonel Parker called me--I remember I was in the office--one day about two o'clock and introduced himself. I didn't know who he was. That was before Elvis got important, and I wasn't much of a musician anyhow. He said that Mr. Jenkins had called him and told him to help my son but he was just tied up and couldn't do it, and he wanted to call me and apologize, and for me to tell Walter not to fall out with him over it. Well, so Walter sent him to see Mitch Miller in New York. But I mean, they did work for him.

And if you'll see--I've got my marine scrapbook in there, I had a correspondence going on between them, and Lyndon did everything but twist the arm of the navy to make them let me get in the marines when I was thirty-nine years old. And I mean it wasn't lip service. He didn't say, "I'll tend to it for you." He did it. And I know Edgar, Jr. told me when he was in the staff there, he said the mail that came in that office was answered that day. If they stayed all night and all the next day, they answered the mail currently. And he did. That's the reason they got that big LBJ Library out there. All

Shelton -- I -- 71

the correspondence he got, if you've got the letters he wrote, by God, you could fill up two or three buildings like that.

G: I want you to recount the episode of encountering him in his car after the campaign where he offered you a ride.

S: Well, oh, yes. That was not like Caro said it was. Here's what it was. I officed in the Capital National Bank Building and I had to go off to the courthouse where most of my business was, and I'd have to go by the federal courthouse on the way up there.

(Interruption)

So I'd gotten up to the corner there, the federal courthouse was on Colorado and Eighth Street there, and it was one-way traffic coming south at that time. I was over on the corner walking across the street, really, and Lyndon was driving his car. I didn't recognize him because I hadn't seen him in so long, you know, and didn't know what kind of car he had, and I was hurrying to get across the street, because I was afraid he was going to run over me. And he hollered at me, and then I recognized who he was. He said, "Get in here with me." And he knew I was going to the courthouse, going up that direction because it wasn't toward the Capitol, so he said, "I'll take you to the courthouse." So we passed the time of day and just talked a little bit, nothing but personal matters, and he got up to the courthouse and he let me out. It wasn't like Caro said. Caro said that he came back and [I] got some papers. He would have done that for Polk, but I don't believe Lyndon would have brought me back, wasted his time bringing me back to the office to do that.

Shelton -- I -- 72

But you couldn't keep from liking Lyndon Johnson; he made you like him. Because he was my representative. He was my representative, and like I say, I didn't vote for him just because he was my friend every time from then on; I voted for Lyndon because I thought he was the best man.

G: But he was not parked when you came out? He was driving along?

S: Oh, he was driving. He was in his car and that's the reason I didn't recognize him, because you can tell Lyndon from two blocks off as big and tall as he was. You know, you'd recognize him, and he'd be shaking hands with everybody, too. But he called me over to get in his car, and we rode up to the courthouse, and we stopped and talked up there a while. We did sit and talk a while.

G: What did he talk about?

S: I don't know, just personal matters. I had another occasion to be with him in an airplane. I don't know whether I told you about that or not, but I had a divorce case in 1952, along about 1952, along in there, at Lubbock. The only way to get out to Lubbock was to fly to Midland and then fly over to Lubbock. So I was coming back home from that case one night, and I got into Midland and Odessa, and Lyndon was on the airplane. So we started home. The plane, old Pioneer Lines was what it was. So we got into stormy weather, we got down here to Austin, and my gosh, we couldn't land. It was storming. We'd had a little conversation there, and he had somebody with him--I don't know who it was--and so we had them wire down and tell Jesse Kellam--Jesse was going to meet Lyndon at the airport and take him wherever he was

Shelton -- I -- 73

going, take him home. So we wired and told them at the airport that we were going to go on up to Temple. So Jesse was to follow the plane and come up to Temple and meet us at the Temple airport.

Well, we got up there, we couldn't land. So we finally landed at Waco, and Jesse was following the airplane up. Of course he got in there about thirty, forty minutes after we got there, and we landed at Waco. And Lyndon had an altercation of some kind with the old boy there at the Pioneer Lines. He told them, by God, he was a congressman and they were going to do--oh, they wouldn't give us a passage or something. I don't know what it was. But anyway, he leaned on him a little bit. So when Jesse got up there, they invited me to ride back with them to Austin and two or three other boys from Austin. They filled up the car. I know I sat in the back, Lyndon and Jesse sat in the front and me and two other guys sat in the back. It might have been Birdwell. I knew them, though. So we got on back, and Jesse took Lyndon by and he took me home. They brought me home. It was way late in the middle of the night by that time. So I saw him then.

Then the last time that I ever had any dealing with Lyndon and actually spoke to him was [when] they put on some kind of barbecue up at Fox's in Williamson County there--the Fox boys' place. Homer and Lyndon were there. It was for Homer, really. I think Lyndon might have been vice president then, but I believe it was before that. So they were shaking hands with everybody coming in--Lyndon and Homer--and I went up there by myself. I went in, and I remember when I passed by and went on, well, maybe out of earshot, Homer said to

Shelton -- I -- 74

Lyndon, "Lyndon, Emmett's going to outlive both of us. He don't look like he's as old as we are, and he's older that we are." I remember Homer saying that. I didn't stay but a little while, and then came on home.

Then the last time I saw Lyndon was when they had the San Marcos school there, when they had all the editors. They put a plaque on the school building with all the different editors there, and I was one of them, and Frank Vance was there and Lyndon was there. By that time he had been president and was out and had a bunch of Secret Service men around him and I didn't even go up and speak to him, because he just wasn't the Lyndon that I knew, and I didn't figure that he cared to make any conversation. It would have been a little stiff if I had done it that time. It wouldn't have been a personal matter.

G: Did he give you any advice on buying land out here?

S: He sure did. I'll tell you what it was. While he was congressman, he came into our office and Everett Looney happened to be in officing with us; he was in the next office, but we were not partners. We had our offices together. And we didn't call ourselves Shelton and Looney or anything. He had his name and we had our name on that door. But anyway, it was right when they started building these dams down here. So Lyndon came over to see Polk and me. He came in our office and Looney knew who Johnson was, but he didn't know him then. He hadn't met him personally apparently. He might have been for him, but he didn't know him.

G: Well, now, he made a radio speech for him.

Shelton -- I -- 75

S: He might have, but he wasn't friendly with Lyndon.

G: How do you know that?

S: He wasn't invited into the conference. Lyndon was talking to us and he didn't talk to Looney. Looney was listening through the keyhole, though, because we had these slats in the door, but anyway, Looney was right next door to us as close as right in there and he was listening to what we were saying.

But Lyndon came in and talked to Polk and me. Lyndon knew, of course, that I was buying land up in this area then and knew I was involved in it. So he told Polk and I, he said, "This fellow [Harry] Hopkins that Roosevelt's got running the thing and put up that money, he's going to build highways all up and down this river and he's going to build dams." And he said, "If y'all know of any land that you can get hold of out there cheap, you boys ought to buy it because you can't keep from making money on it." Well, I'd already had that idea myself, you know, and that got me in a notion of buying the Roy Ranch. He didn't ask for a nickel out of it, he didn't say "cut me in" or anything like that, he just gave us a tip and he knew that we weren't well-to-do. But he knew that there was a chance to make some money out there. So then he left.

Well, as soon as he left, Looney worked his way in there and asked me, "Emmett, you ought to know all about that land up there. Don't you know something we can buy?" "Well," I said, "the Roy Ranch is up there. I know the Roy girls, they live in Houston. They're two old maids, and they've got eighteen hundred or maybe three thousand

Shelton -- I -- 76

acres up there. And I know generally where it is. My land joins theirs," that I'd already bought. Because that was about 1940, somewhere along about 1939, 1940. Lyndon had already been congressman for a while. So he said, "Well, why don't you get hold of them and see if we can buy it." Well, I started writing them then, and I got them into a notion of letting us have an option on eighteen hundred acres of their land and that's all that old Gary Bradley and that bunch made that pile of money out of it now where St. Stephen's School is. I'll come to that in a minute.

But I made an option for a year. We paid them a hundred and twenty-five dollars to buy that and we were going to pay them thirteen thousand dollars for the eighteen hundred acres. Well, the year went by and old Hopkins hadn't done anything about building roads close to us, so Looney and I decided, well, we'd better front out another option. So I went down to Houston, and we talked to the girls again. They gave me an option again for a hundred and twenty-five dollars and I've got some correspondence in there--funny thing, I gave them a hot check for twenty-five dollars. I didn't have the money to do it, and I gave them a hot check and they wrote me a letter explaining the fact that the bank must have made a mistake or something and I've got all that in there. But imagine the whole Roy Ranch carried on the option for a hundred and twenty-five dollars a year!

Well, the second year was up and somebody had to do something. They weren't going to give us any more option, and things were moving around a little bit, so old Looney, we decided to buy it. He was

Shelton -- I -- 77

going to put the money up, and my brother John E. and I were going to pay the second year's payment. We'd paid a little bit of money on it, so then in the meantime Looney had formed a partnership with Ed Clark, and they had some money. So Ed Clark--when the time came for John E. and me to put some money up, we didn't have it, so Looney said Ed'd give us our money back, all the money--I think we had three or four hundred dollars in it. So Ed was gracious enough to give us our money back, and then he was on the board of the St. Stephen's School. We were getting ready to try to locate a school. He let them have four hundred acres down there I think for forty thousand dollars. He didn't have but thirteen thousand dollars in the whole eighteen hundred. But anyway, Ed never did give me a quart a whiskey even for being so nice to give him our interest in the Roy Ranch. But I was damn glad to get out of it, I'll tell you.

Now, that was where that happened. Then the upshot of that was that this land right in here that we're on now, I found out when they were going to start the dam here. The Austin dam was going to be rehabilitated. And I'd been negotiating with some people named Storer [?]. They owned the dam site and two hundred acres of land, and this mountain [that] went all into Bee Creek. They owned two hundred acres of land, and the only one I could find was a woman that worked for the Stewart Title Guaranty Company in Galveston. So I started corresponding with her to see if she'd let me buy this two hundred acres, and what she'd want for it. Well, she wrote me a letter one day and said that they'd take two thousand dollars for this two hundred acres. And

Shelton -- I -- 78

there wasn't any roads in here at all then. The only way you could see it was from where the LCRA building is.

So I know my brother Polk, at that time we hadn't recuperated fully from that campaign and he didn't like me buying all this land out here anyhow and not having any money to pay for it. So I got old man E. G. Kingsberry. He was the one that built the television tower. We always called him Mister [?]. Old E. G. was kind of swinging his weight around and shaking his pockets like he had money in them, so I got him in my car one day about eleven o'clock right after I got that letter. I drove him out to the LCRA building, pointed over here and said, "Now, they're going to make this a good dam here, and when they do we can get over there." I said, "There isn't any way to lose money on that." So I said, "If you'll do this, if you'll put up the two thousand, I'll let you get your money back when we start selling it and we'll split the difference, or the profit." Well, he said, "Let me think on it."

Well, we went back to the office and I said, "Hell, I knew that was good." So I asked Polk. I broke down, I said, "Polk, we ought not to let this go by." He said, "Well, let's go down and talk to Ed Wroe." Ed Wroe was president of American Bank then. So they stayed open till three o'clock then, so we went down to talk to Ed and I showed him the letter, you know, and he said, "Well, I wouldn't give you a nickel on any of that land over there across that river." But he said, "Polk, you've got some diamonds here that Mr. Norwood sold you. I'll loan you the money on the diamonds."

Shelton -- I -- 79

Well, Polk, he made the deal. So I wired this woman that we would take the land. Then they discovered, by God, that they'd ought to have got a little more for it. So they wanted three thousand. I got old Everett Looney to represent me in some kind of lawsuit there, but we finally bought it for three thousand dollars. And I had the dam site. Before we got the deed--it took about three or four months to work this thing out--old Paul Wakefield had Jesse Jones buy ten acres over here for a thousand dollars. So I had a thousand dollars in the bank, and the city paid me fifteen hundred dollars for the dam site and all that nature park down there, twenty-five acres. So I had twenty-five hundred dollars in the bank before I owed and we went up by five hundred dollars.

We made a lot of money out of that one, made a lot of money. And Lyndon put me on that, you see, and he never said anything, but we did do this. I did some advertising in the television later on and gave him a lot off here. They still own a lot on Terrace Mountain Drive. I don't think they know where it is, even.

G: Up on Mount Larson?

S: No, it was on Terrace Mountain Drive. They bought the Larson's place, but I didn't have anything to do with that. They didn't even come to ask me. Those people were just tickled to death to get the [chance]. I think they'd have given it to Lyndon if he'd asked them to, because they just thought he was the greatest man, you know. But I represented the Larsons lots of times and subdivided a lot of their land, but not that.

Shelton -- I -- 80

G: Well, I think this is probably a good place to stop.

S: I think it is, too. I'm give out.

[End of Tape 2 of 2 and Interview I]

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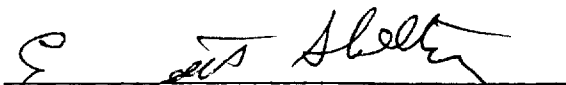
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