

INTERVIEW I

DATE: December 6, 1979
INTERVIEWEE: WILTON WOODS
INTERVIEWER: MICHAEL L. GILLETTE
PLACE: Mr. Woods' residence, Seguin, Texas

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G: Let's start with your background briefly and how you ended up at San Marcos.

W: How I ended up in San Marcos, was that the question?

G: Yes. Where you came from originally.

W: I was born in Blanco County about a mile north of the city of Blanco which was, as the crow flies, some eight or ten miles from where the Johnsons lived in Johnson City. My first memory of LBJ, I believe is--you know when your families have been friends for three generations it's hard to pinpoint the exact day that you remember a person. My father, Peter Woods, was a cattle driver as was Lyndon's grandfather. His father and my father had been among the few who had spoken out against the organization of the Ku Klux Klan in Blanco County. I think that my most distinct memory is in grade school, seventh grade they called it--they have a name for it now, middle school--when we played Johnson City baseball. I was shortstop on the Blanco school team and LBJ was first baseman on their team.

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But many times before that his mother and my mother, Laura Woods, were such warm friends that I remember their meetings when that warmth showed through. They seemed to have done some work to get the vote for women. My mother, like Mrs. Johnson, was a political activist through 1960 when at age eighty-seven, she campaigned for LBJ.

Of course, Lyndon and I were at that age where we just kids you know stood around and looked at each other. But as time went on we went to more and more things together. Actually I can go back farther if you would like.

G: Sure.

W: Well, Rebekah Baines before she married--I mean, she was growing up, I think about thirteen years of age, her parents, the Baineses, lived in Blanco and about a half mile or possibly two-thirds or three-fourths of a mile from where my parents lived. She skipped through the wooded section there and visited my mother almost daily for two or three summers. Her particular fascination of coming over to my house, my mother had married young and immediately babies had come along, almost one every year for at least four or five years. Rebekah loved to help my mother take care of those babies. She was probably learning some facts of life in doing so, too. Anyway, it was most fascinating for her. Ever thereafter that my mother and Rebekah met definitely you could tell that

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they were real fond of each other and that their relationship went way back.

G: What was Rebekah Johnson like?

W: Well, she was a little bit like her father, who was an attorney and who had run for Congress and was defeated. Rebekah just worshipped her daddy. She couldn't understand why people didn't vote for him, but according to my older brothers that were gone from home before I started school and they knew him, they said, well, he was a fine person and a fine attorney, but one of my brothers said he seldom got out of the house. They indicated he was kind of a recluse and definitely not as outgoing and friendly as LBJ, but a very intelligent person and a most, most religious person. Boy, he drove that into Rebekah, a hatred of alcohol; they didn't like it a bit. Of course, I don't know whether that should be recorded here. Can I say anything I want to?

G: Oh, sure. Yes. You know, if you decide later on that there's something you want to delete, you can do that, too.

W: Well, that was the basis of most of the family conflict that I'm sure you've heard of between Rebekah and Sam, was his tolerance of--he was an anti-prohibitionist in an area of Texas that was almost fanatically opposed to alcohol and the legalization of it or drinking of it. Like I say, I never saw Sam Johnson intoxicated, but of course I saw him on many occasions take a drink,

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and always straight out of the bottle. That's one way they drank it in those days. But Lyndon was never afflicted that way.

Theodore White, whose Making of a President--I have some of his books and recall that he said that no one ever saw Lyndon Johnson intoxicated. That's true. Of course, alcohol is thrown off by your liver and he had a super liver. If his heart had been as good as his liver, he'd be alive today. You'll forgive me for rambling and getting off the subject.

G: That's fine. Was his mother someone who seemed to emphasize education?

W: Yes, she did. She realized the importance of it. She was determined that LBJ would go to college, and he wasn't too easy to sell. He made that little abortive trip to California, you know, and stayed out there just a short while. When he did decide to go he went all the way. I mean, he talked to his professors. While he was certainly not a bookworm, he was sure seeking that knowledge that the professors had, and he got it largely by just talking to them after hours. They were real flattered that he was mature enough to talk to them, when most of us weren't, you know. But I think all the Baineses were educated people and very religious people, I'll repeat. My parents moved to San Marcos, which actually was the ancestral home of the Woodses. My grandparents came there in 1851 or 1852 and my daddy, when he married

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my mother, they lived in Blanco County for a period of thirty-five years. They moved back to San Marcos to send me and my younger brother to college. Two of my older sisters I believe were college graduates, but they had boarded in San Marcos, or Southwestern, one of them; maybe both of them. That's a Methodist school up at Georgetown, you know.

But when the Johnsons moved to San Marcos to send their other children to college, Lyndon had come first and spent that short while in subcollege, which was high school for those who needed additional schooling before they entered college. I don't know, I'd have to give this some thought and maybe look it up to find out when the Johnsons actually moved to San Marcos. You might have seen where they lived yesterday. I visited them there constantly, and that's when LBJ and I became very close friends. I would stay all night with him and the next night he would stay all night at our house. Kids like, we slept together, it was nothing unusual in those days. In fact, it was compelling because houses were small.

(Interruption)

In looking back, at the time maybe it was just three months, but at the time it seemed like a year. Some of these short periods where Lyndon moved from one boarding house to another, probably to him and to others that lived at the boarding house those periods

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seemed longer than they actually were. For example, Raymond Dwiggins said that LBJ seemed to move about every six weeks. That's not much of an exaggeration, but exactly how long he lived at home, I'm not sure. But he did live there, because if that old house is still standing, I can show you exactly the room where he slept. There's too much history associated with that period, even though in retrospect it seems like maybe it was a year, or a year and two summers, it could easily have been just two or three months periods.

G: What did his father do while his family was in San Marcos?

W: He worked for the Texas Railroad Commission. Later I worked for the Railroad Commission, too, but I came mostly after Sam had left, in a way. He was in the trucking division, which they inspected trucks for weight and size and all that. I was in the oil and gas division at San Antonio; they had a district office there. That was a job that LBJ got me, of course, like practically all of my government work, jobs that he got me. Of course, the first one was working in the state senate as a sergeant-at-arms, assistant sergeant-at-arms. That came from Welly Hopkins. We worked in his campaign I believe in 1935, I'm not sure, or 1934.

G: Let's see, he was elected first in 1930. He succeeded [Alvin] Wirtz.

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- W: Oh, he was elected that early. Well, maybe it was 1932 that I worked in the Senate. They had a session then, like now, every two years.
- G: Let's talk about LBJ's father.
- W: Okay.
- G: What were they like together?
- W: They had lots of friendly arguments, but none of them ever reached a bitter point. Sam would say, "I did this" and that, and Lyndon would say, kid-like, "Why didn't you do it this way?" or that way. But there probably wasn't too much of that. I went from San Marcos to San Antonio in a car with them to hear Jim Ferguson speak and Lyndon was driving and Sam was on the back seat. Lyndon kept turning around and talking to his daddy, and his daddy said, "Damn it, keep your eye on the road and quit turning around." Finally he said, "Stop, Lyndon, I can't stand it," and said he got Horace Richards to drive, because he couldn't stand Lyndon turning his head and talking to him and wasn't watching the road.
- G: Was this while you were in school?
- W: Yes.
- G: Did they agree politically?
- W: Oh, yes. Lyndon tried to be friends--I mentioned the other day--with the Fergusons, but when he first ran for Congress I don't

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believe they supported him, for some reason not known to me and probably wasn't known to him. Thomas, Tom Nichols says in his book that Sam Johnson told him that when he was in the legislature and Lyndon was just a boy, I don't know, ten or twelve years old, that Sam said, "When some representative or state official would visit me and we'd talk business, well, here came Lyndon and sat down on the floor almost between us so he'd be sure and listen in."

G: Do you think that LBJ was closer to his father or his mother?

W: Oh, his mother, by far.

G: Why was this, do you know?

W: Well, it's because Rebekah, she recognized early that he had more than an average share of brains, energy, and she wanted to keep control and she did it very cleverly. He almost concealed nothing from her, and I do mean nothing.

G: Do you think there was more tension between LBJ and his father? Was there a sense of competition, do you think, between the oldest son and the father?

W: I really don't think there was much competition. If he had a serious problem or wanted to make a serious decision, he went to his mother for help, that's for sure.

G: Perhaps she may have given him higher aspirations and encouraged him more, do you think?

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W: Yes. I told you the other day that Virginia, Mrs. Woods, and I went with Bill Deason to this decision-making meeting at their Johnson City home on Sunday afternoon when all the family relatives were there. Presumably LBJ was to decide whether to run or not. Of course, he'd already made up his mind, I'm sure. Anyway, all of them promised to withdraw their savings 100 per cent and contribute. He got enough money for a pretty fair start, and I think outside of the family the people there, so far as I know, were Willard Deason, Wilton Woods and Virginia Woods. It's possible there was someone else there that wasn't related, but it was George Johnson, who was a teacher at Houston; Jessie Hatcher, his older sister, and Sam Johnson's older sister; Mary Johnson Price, Mrs. Sterling Price, she was there, they contributed all their savings. Bill Deason promised a thousand dollars and use of his car. I promised to work mine out; I'd be there from start to finish. Lyndon said, "Well, we need a chauffeur to drive this car anyway."

G: Was this in 1937?

W: Yes.

G: When he ran for Congress the first time?

W: Yes. But Mrs. Johnson had very little to say and I know now what she was worrying about. I didn't know at the time that her daddy had run for Congress and was defeated. It was a stunning blow to her as a child. If you read this letter that she wrote Lyndon the morning after he was elected, she was almost gleefully saying how proud she was of him, which indicates to me that she probably was

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afraid all along that he wouldn't be elected. Well, of course, that would have been a very logical fear because he had some real formidable opponents.

G: We always hear about Rebekah Johnson being the source of inspiration and yet he pursued his father's profession, politics. Do you think his father was the one who influenced him to go into politics?

W: No. He confided to Jesse Kellam and I think Jesse recorded this. He quizzed Lyndon about what he was going to do and Lyndon said, "I'm going to go into public service." Jesse said, "You mean politics?" and Lyndon said, "Yes." This girl from El Paso that he took to Monterrey when he and Welly and the other girl went down there on vacation in 1934 I believe it was said that Lyndon never mentioned the possibility of going to Washington, but he did confide to her that he hoped some day he could be governor of Texas. Well, now, that was real logical at the time because at that time Washington was just as far away from Texas as London is now. So far as I know, there never had been a government as we know it where they helped the poor people and really entered the lives of the family. You know, one president was nominated and he wasn't even at the convention, and it was a matter of three weeks or so before he got a letter telling him that he was going to be the nominee. Well, that just shows the difference in times. I'm sure that Lyndon never mentioned to me that he hoped to be president or expected to be. I don't recall him saying that he would like to be governor some day, but she recalls and she has a real fine memory, Bernice Byler.

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G: Did he ever tell you that he was going to go into politics?

W: No, he didn't, but I could see it. We were working before we got out of college in Welly Hopkins' campaign. What we did was distribute circulars to try to get a crowd at a political meeting. Welly was an extraordinarily fluent speaker and when he started speaking we were scattered purposely throughout the audience and would start the cheering. Worked good.

G: Are you familiar with the story that LBJ was working on the highway gang?

W: Just secondhand.

G: You don't have any insight on--

W: We overlooked one thing that LBJ made his first political speech at Henly. Henly was just a crossroads west of Dripping Springs, and on the point of this hill was what we would call now a roadside park. I don't know what it was called in those days, just a camping place. The community people would meet there for picnics and political speaking. The speakers would talk from the back end of a truck, I suppose, or a wagon. Anyway, it was elevated. I remember it as being real dark because they had no electricity. They did build two or three campfires around to furnish a little light. Sam Johnson was supposed to speak for Pat Neff and he didn't show up, for reasons unknown, unknown to me at least. But as someone spoke for the other candidates, LBJ was telling his mother that, "I'd

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better talk or someone better talk," and she okayed him talking and I think probably made a quick review of what he expected to say. He just made a little extemporaneous pep talk for Governor Neff.

G: What did he say, do you remember?

W: Well, I think he was running for re-election, wasn't he? Anyway, he reviewed possibly his connection with Baylor University, at Waco. Didn't he have some--

G: Yes, he was connected with it.

W: I think he mentioned that and mentioned that he was an outstanding man and certainly well qualified for the office he sought and on and on.

G: Were you there at the time?

W: Yes, I was there, my mother was there, and my father. We, I suppose, went in a Model T Ford, I've forgotten the exact year.

G: Legend has it that's when he met Welly Hopkins.

W: Yes. Welly was there. It must have been then, because Welly was in the legislature one term prior to the senate race. I suppose that's correct, that that's where he met him. Of course, Welly is still living.

G: I talked to him. Do you remember anything else about that meeting?

W: No.

G: But you do recall that his mother was there?

W: Yes.

G: Anybody else that was there that you remember?

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W: Well, I think probably most of the people that were interested in local government or in what was happening upstate. I don't know that Percy Brigham was there from Blanco, but he was a local leader and banker and real close friend of the Baineses, Rebekah's grandparents.

G: Now, in 1927, when LBJ enrolled at the college in San Marcos he organized I gather a Blanco-Gillespie County club. Do you remember that? Did you have anything to do with that? They had swimming parties and things like that, almost as soon as he got to campus.

W: No, I don't. I could have gone to them. You know, at college then, like now, there was so much to do that. . . .

G: He was also active in the Harris-Blair [Literary Society].

W: Yes.

G: Can you tell me about that organization and what he did in that?

W: Well, they elected officers, and I'm sure that he was one, wasn't he? I remember it as a debating organization where Professor [H.M.] Greene taught them how to debate and how to organize a debate and how to present it. It could have been time for a good deal of friendly talk among professor and students.

G: My notes also indicate he was a member of the Student Welfare Council for 1927, the governing organization. Do you know how he got all of that?

W: Well, they were all elected. He was a real resourceful campaigner even then. All those student offices he was elected to, it didn't happen by accident. He went after them whole hog like he did

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speaker of the Little Congress when he was secretary to [Richard] Kleberg. Did a lot of planning and "You'll do this." He seemed to come naturally with--he knew what to do and how to do it and when to do it as far as political campaign went.

G: What did he generally do? Did he organize a close group of friends?

W: Yes. You know the question of White Stars and Black Stars, that's pretty well covered in LBJ's Formative Years. Got a couple of copies there. Of course, that was a period when whatever you were going to do you had to keep secret, because we were in a minority. He knew that. Like they point out in that book, he used all the tricks in the trade and they came, virtually every one of them came from LBJ. Like nominating their candidate for president first for some minor office, and of course he'd be elected before anybody knew what was happening, that kind of thing.

G: Let's talk about the formation of the White Stars. Was LBJ blackballed from the Black Stars, do you recall?

W: I've always heard that but he never told me that he was.

G: You never had any firsthand knowledge?

W: He was tall and thin and non-athletic, and all the Black Stars were athletes, and participating athletes. It just doesn't fit to me that he even tried to get in. Of course, he might have, because he had that desire to be where the action was and they had control, you know, this many years.

G: I think that when he would reminisce about it in later years he seemed to feel that Frank Arnold had blackballed him.

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W: That's entirely possible, because Frank had considerable temper and kind of wore a chip on his shoulder towards me and I'm sure LBJ and Horace Richards and Hollis Frazer and [Vernon] Whitesides. Of course, like I told you the other day, we had control of the College Star. We got even then, printing things in the paper. What else?

G: Can you recall the approximate date or year or time of year that the White Stars were organized? And where the first meeting was held?

W: Well, the first meeting was in the old Hofheinz Hotel on the fourth floor, I believe in Horace Richards' room. The hotel was sparsely populated. There weren't but a few people living there. We met up there in the fall of 1929.

G: Why would you rent a room in a hotel?

W: Oh, it was rented by one of them as a student. He lived there. Yes, I'm pretty sure that was Horace Richards. Walter Grady from Tennessee seemed to be the only one that had prior knowledge of how fraternities operated and why they were named these Greek letters, had a lot of good background knowledge about fraternities that he had gotten somewhere along the line. He's still living and still apparently real mentally sharp. I would recommend you talk to him on the phone. That would be sufficient.

G: I sure will. Well, how were you notified that you were to meet at the Hofheinz Hotel?

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W: I think it was LBJ. It could have been one of the other members that almost whispered, "We're going to have a meeting tonight or tomorrow night at the Hofheinz Hotel in Horace Richards' room to organize a competing fraternity to the Black Stars. As you know, they've been running the Student Council, the student body, all these years and we've been completely out in the cold. We want to see if we can't do something better." Well, naturally that attracted. I'm sure everyone that was invited showed up. I always thought it was seven because they gave each member a number and I was number seven, but [Fenner] Roth says there were eight there and that that eight was Archer Wilde, who didn't play much active part in school and after school he seems to have disappeared. He became some kind of combination teacher and off-brand preacher I believe, combined. He wasn't interested in things we were interested in and we weren't interested in what he was interested in.

G: Well, it was a pretty select group then.

W: Yes, it was. But the group grew very slowly because the emphasis was on "don't get somebody that will spill the beans and let everybody know what we're trying to do, because we haven't reached that stage yet. We've got to be stealthy about it."

G: Do you think different ones of you were chosen because you represented different areas on campus or different majors in college or anything?

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W: I don't think so at that time. The original seven or eight was strictly a matter of personal friendship. We knew each other well enough to know that the other one could be counted upon to maintain his secrecy.

G: But now Albert Harzke doesn't seem to have been interested in politics at all. Why was he chosen, do you think?

W: Well, I don't know at what stage Albert came in. He didn't tell you his number, did he?

G: I think he was six.

W: Oh, really? Well, it was personal friendship with Willard Deason or maybe LBJ or somebody.

G: He and Deason were roommates, I guess. Maybe that was it. You know, we've heard that there was a long-standing controversy over how it was started and whether the first member was Horace Richards or Vernon Whitesides or LBJ and this. I wish that you would give your version as accurately as you can remember it.

W: Well, I'm like the majority of the others. I'm not sure whether number one was Horace Richards or LBJ. An organizational meeting was held in Horace's room. I'm not sure who even brought up this idea of numbering the members. I think the importance of it has been exaggerated because later it became a matter of teasing about who was really number one.

G: Was there initially a strategy for wresting control from the Black Stars?

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W: Not a strategy, but it developed pretty rapidly and it was this: to get control of the Student Council, because that's the way they controlled that whole student body, they controlled what activities the students were to engage in, collectively. The Student Council was-- at that time, you didn't get very far in student activities without the blessing of the Student Council. They had it 100 per cent and we didn't.

G: I gather the council controlled the student blanket tax monies.

W: Oh, yes.

G: How did you eventually get control over the Student Council?

W: By electing members friendly to us.

G: This would indicate that you had a large following on campus in order to get them elected to begin with.

W: No. We didn't have any following at all hardly to begin with. We had to develop as we went along. As we brought in new members cautiously we were developing friendships with girls that we thought would be elected and if they were elected they would be friendly to us rather than Black Stars. I've forgotten how many girls made up the Student Council. If I remember it was at least 50 per cent I believe.

G: Can you recall any in particular that were friendly to the White Stars?

W: Well, you've got me there on names.

G: How about Nan Hawk?

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W: Oh, yes. Nan was definitely friendly to us and she was a very capable person.

G: Did you help her get elected Gaillardian?

W: I'm sure we did. If she needed some help we did. But getting back to those original members, it says here the first ones were Lyndon Johnson, Vernon Whitesides, Horace Richards, and it's entirely possible that the numbering was in that order. Willard Deason, Wilton Woods, and Hollis Frazer. That's six. Walter Grady.

(Interruption)

G: You yourself were on the College Star.

W: Yes.

G: I was going to ask you about LBJ writing editorials.

W: Well, quite frequently when it was something simple like Thanksgiving and he wanted to have an editorial about Thanksgiving, he'd say, "Wilton, you write it." I'd say, "Where am I going to get material?" He'd say, "From an encyclopedia, what do you mean?" I remember writing that one and there were others like that where it's just a matter of reciting mainly when they started and why, and it is true, it's all laid out in the encyclopedia.

G: You know, I read through his editorials and he really had a flair for writing and it's almost like his mother. Did you ever notice that similarity, that a lot of those editorials, you know, as if his mother could have written them. He really seemed to have developed her style.

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W: Maybe she did write them. He farmed out these few to me. It was a matter of saving his time. He wanted to move on to something else rather than get out the encyclopedia and look up the history of Thanksgiving Day.

G: But you don't recall his mother ever taking on a few of these assignments herself, do you?

W: No, but she was so close to him and she knew what was going on, I mean 100 per cent.

G: He also seems very interested in politics from the editorials. He's stressing study the Constitution, and several of them [were] on political power. Was this something he also talked about a lot.

W: No, we didn't talk about it a lot because he was so much more mature than we were. That's the reason he talked to the professors quite a bit, because he was talking to them man to man. He had a lot of knowledge that I'm not sure where he got it, maybe it was beginning sitting at his father's knee when his daddy was talking to some important person. But his knowledge of government and politics was way ahead of most of us.

G: Did he ever try to promote the creation of a journalism school there at San Marcos?

W: Yes, according to Tom Nichols. Did you read what Tom said about it?

G: No.

W: Well, Tom taught the course in journalism and he said that LBJ approached him and said, "Professor Nichols, why don't you teach a

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course in journalism? It's needed here." Professor Nichols said to him, "Well, look, it takes six or seven students to get the faculty or the president to approve a journalism course." Lyndon said, "I'll get them for you," and Mr. Nichols said, "You just get them." He said in there one of the first ones to enroll was his lifetime friend, Wilton Woods. That's in Tom's book. I have it there.

G: Did you enroll in the course?

W: Oh, yes. Yes. I enjoyed it. In fact, about the last time I saw Tom before he died he said, "You know, I've spent a lifetime wondering why you didn't follow your journalistic training, brief as it was, because you definitely showed you had some ability in that field." I said, "Well, you know how it is. Get married and first thing you know you have a couple of babies and making a living has to take first priority." He said, "Yes, I understand that."

Of course, this I don't know needs to be recorded here, but locally I have a pretty good reputation for having some journalistic ability. Just recently the Seguin Rotary Club, which has one hundred and forty members, the board of directors said that the time had come, had to have a history of the Seguin Rotary Club. I asked the secretary later, "How come they saddled me with that job?" and he said, "Nobody else was even considered." Same way with Elks. It was organized in 1911 and took over an organization that was started in 1886. Well, I've written a history of that. And there have been

so many organizations and so many people that say, "Wilton, I have a real important letter to write. Why don't you write it for me?" You know me, I can't resist.

There's an excellent book.

G: I notice that every year there would be a special freshman issue of the College Star and a sophomore issue and a junior issue, senior issue, and there would be a competition to determine which class had put out the best issue of the paper. Do you remember that?

W: No.

G: Okay. I notice also LBJ was selected as editor of the summer newspaper in 1927, I believe. 1927 or 1928. I'm wondering how he got that position.

W: Well, I'm not sure that summer whether that came from the Student Council or whether by negotiation with the faculty members in charge of looking after the College Star. But if you will get out one of those editions you will see that Wilton Woods was associate editor.

G: But did he campaign for these things? Who do you think was in charge?

W: Well, he campaigned for anything that he wanted. I'm not sure campaign is the right word. He maneuvered events to where they came his way, just like being elected shortly after going to Washington as speaker of the Little House [Congress]. Well, that was a matter of an organization being half asleep. They had a slate picked out, you know, and he rounded up secretaries and talked to them with such enthusiasm. He was such a persuasive person that he could talk

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them into, and they just went to that meeting, unknown till they showed their hand at the meeting that they were going to elect Lyndon Johnson, and they did.

G: Now he went to that 1928 Democratic [National] Convention in Houston.

W: Yes.

G: Do you know how he got there or anything like that?

W: He got a press pass, which I think got him in free. Whether he hitchhiked or got a ride with somebody, I'm not sure how he got there. That was a period, too, when times were hard and hardly any college students had any spare money for going to conventions. But it was one of those things where he would maneuver to get there, no matter what.

G: Did he talk about his experiences there?

W: Not much. He probably talked to President Evans and people that were mature enough to know what he was talking about and interested enough. But just an average student in San Marcos if he even knew they were having a national convention in Houston, it was just a headline he saw as he thumbed through the paper, I believe.

G: I noticed that shortly before that convention Governor [Dan] Moody and Senator Wirtz both spoke in San Marcos at Riverside. Do you remember that? Were you there? Was he there?

W: I'm sure we were both there.

G: You don't recall any incidents related to that though?

W: No. Why were they speaking? What was the purpose of their speech at Riverside?

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G: I think that Governor Moody was just there to talk at, oh, maybe graduation or something of this nature. I think it dealt with education in part.

W: Oh. There were quite a few meetings at Riverside Park, Sewell Park.

G: I'm not trying to limit this, so if you think of anything that is triggered, well, go ahead.

W: Well, that college period there are others that remember it more clearly because they played a bigger part in it than I did. Now, getting down to his first race for the Congress, I was in the middle of that, and his race against Pappy O'Daniel, that was 1941.

G: We'll get to that. I want to ask you about his academic career there in San Marcos. Do you recall what his favorite courses were?

W: If I remember correctly, the average student didn't have much choice. You know, nowadays you have electives and all, but I don't remember that being the case there. It seemed like the courses you were to take were set out for you and you took them. I could be mistaken but that's the way I remember it.

G: Well, did he like Professor Greene, for example, in history?

W: Oh, yes, very much.

G: I think you indicated earlier that Professor Greene was an influence on him. Can you describe or elaborate on that?

W: Well, just as an example in later years, which shows that--he hadn't been in the White House six months until Professor Greene spent three or four days up there visiting him at LBJ's request. Willard Deason, Sherman Birdwell, Mack [E.M.] DeGuerin and a long list of LBJ's

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ex-secretaries, they all went to Washington on purpose. They were going to see LBJ without him inviting them specifically, so they tried to get me to go but I wouldn't do it because I'd already been to the White House. I showed you the pictures. But they went through this tour and some way they got word to LBJ that they were up there and he and Professor Greene came out and made a talk to them, just a few minutes. Lyndon turned to the Prof and said, "Prof, we got to go get to work." The boys were slightly disappointed that they didn't get to see him.

G: Why was Professor Greene a major influence on him?

W: Well, he was a man that liked his students and they, of course, reciprocated and liked him. LBJ particularly, as I've mentioned several times already, was more mature than the rest of us and Professor Greene probably really enjoyed talking to him more than the average student. Certainly LBJ was always asking him, "Now what do you think about this or that?" Professor Greene would tell him. Just a warm personal friendship developed there that lasted on up through the presidency.

[End of Tape 1 of 1 and Interview I]

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Legal Agreement Pertaining to the Oral History Interviews of Wilton and Virginia Woods

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 21 of Title 44, United States Code and subject to the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth, We, Wilton and Virginia Woods of Seguin, Texas do hereby give, donate and convey to the United States of America all our rights, title and interest in the tape recordings and transcripts of the personal interviews conducted on December 6, 1979 and April 20, May 4, and June 10, 1982 in Seguin, Texas and prepared for deposit in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

This assignment is subject to the following terms and conditions:

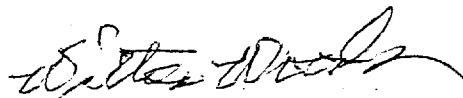
(1) The transcripts shall be available for use by researchers as soon as they have been deposited in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

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

(4) Copies of the transcripts and the tape recordings may be provided by the Library to researchers upon request.

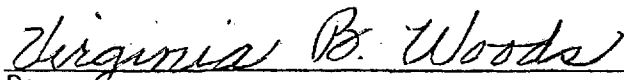
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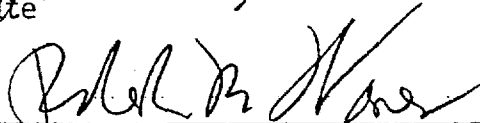
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