

Dan Quill
San Antonio, Texas
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 1

FOLDER

445

John L. Pruet
29 32
36 19
25 & 26
44

Pruett---Mr. Quill, I'll ask you to give me a brief biographical background sketch of yourself; how you came to be in the position that you held, and so forth.

Quill---Well, I became interested in the Kleberg campaign when he was running for the special election for Congress, and that's where I met the President (Lyndon Johnson). He was teaching school in Houston, and during that interim he was over here in the interest of Kleberg. Dick Kleberg, you know is from the King Ranch and this District included San Antonio and Corpus and over into parts of Gonzales County, Seguin, Guadalupe. And so he was in and out of here a good deal. I helped them in their campaign. He (Johnson) used to come out to the house. He'd always get in here on---we had roast beef on Saturday and brown gravy. So, he'd always get in here on Saturday so's he could get that roast beef.

Pruett---Now, you're talking about Lyndon Johnson?

Quill---Yeah. He was a growing boy then, you know. And, so we became very good friends. After he he went to Washington; like I said before, he wanted to be kept informed about the "happenings" in Texas and I used to---when I'd read the paper in the mornings; anything of interest, I'd send it to him that day. He was really a great guy wanting to know what was going on. He really appreciated my interest in sending these clippings.

After he got to be head of the National Youth Administration in the State; well, I traveled around with him. The first project---the first drive-in roadside park, we organized out here on San Pedro Avenue about eight miles from San Antonio. That was the first roadside park in Texas. And the N. Y. A. finished that park, or put it into operation and he was very proud of that park. He used

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 2

Quill-----con't.

to come over here from Austin. His headquarters were in Austin when he was Head of the National Youth Administration. Come over here and show people this Park; he was really proud of it. It wasn't much of a park, but an access out of the San Pedro Avenue.

Then he called me one time about Congressman Buchanan. He was Chairman of the Appropriation's Committee of the House and had died. He was from that Tenth District over there. Lyndon called me and called Sam Fore of Floresville and Denver Chestnut down at Kenedy, Alvin Wirtz of Seguin; he was a State Senator, and, also, I think Willy Hopkinson from Gonzales County. He was a State Senator. And we had a little meeting in Austin to see whether he ought to run for that vacant seat.

Pruett---Would that have been in the Stephen F. Austin Hotel?

Quill---I can't remember that. Anyway, we stayed over there all of Sunday and the question that Tom Miller, the Mayor of Austin, had endorsed Bob Phinnis (?) father-in-law for Congress.

Pruett---That was to fill Buchanan's office?

Quill---That's right. And that Mayor, the Mayor of Austin---that's where the big vote was of that District, was Austin and that was a strike against us---to have the Mayor for somebody else. That's what we were worried about. So, five o'clock came, I think we had raised about---Senator Wirtz said he could get us five hundred dollars and I think we pitched in a hundred dollars a piece. We got, maybe a thousand dollars pledged. But, he (Johnson) had never said that he'd

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 3

Quill-----con't.

be a candidate. Five o'clock came and I said, "I want to tell you something, Lyndon; if you want to go to Congress, the only way that you can get there is to run for it. If you don't run for it, you ain't ever gonna get there." He said, "I'll just run for it." So, I said, "I'm going to have to go to San Antonio, I've got a date there at about six o'clock, and I'm going." So you announce." And that's what he did.

During that election (campaign) he was struck down with appendicitis and they called me from over at Austin and said that the doctor had said "it was a bad case of appendicitis." This was about three or four days before the election, right before the election. I said, "Put him in the hospital and operate on him. That's wonderful, 'A soldier falls in battle". So, he was in the hospital when he got elected to Congress.

Pruett---Do you think that helped him get elected to Congress?

Quill---Didn't hurt him any.

I was going to Washington right----the day of the election I was going to Washington.

Pruett---Were you Postmaster of San Antonio at that time?

Quill---Yes, sir.

The Governor got on the train at Austin.

Pruett---Which Governor?

Quill---Jimmy Allred, from Wichita Falls.

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 4

Quill-----con't.

He got on the train and there was a group of people down there. I don't know what they were doing---seeing the Governor off. I know they weren't waiting to see me, but anyhow our group; Allred was strong for Lyndon for that Congressional Seat, he was strong for Lyndon in that election, Sam Fore was there from Floresville and he showed me a check for a thousand dollars that came from F. D. R. Somebody up there got that money together and sent it down to Lyndon.

Pruett---Let me qualify this. You saw a check signed by F. D. R.-----

Quill---No, no. I don't know who the check was signed by, but he had a check there that came out of Washington, for a thousand dollars.

Pruett---Which you suppose came from the backing of F. D. R.?

Quill---Well, they said that's where it came from.

Pruett---Roosevelt initiated the thousand dollar Campaign gift?

Quill---I don't know about the details, but anyhow he had a check there for a thousand dollars and said that it was sent down by the President.

I don't know if they said this to impress the people or not, but this wasn't any advertised thing about this check. They just wanted to let me know that we had a thousand dollars in the treasury because we were going in debt.

They promised to send me a telegram at Muskogee (Oklahoma).

Pruett---Who promised to send this telegram?

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 5

Quill---Sam Fore or whoever was handling the affairs. This was Election Day, you know.

So, Jimmy Allred---they had bought little spots on the radio; we didn't have any television, that said Lyndon was leading here, leading there. They were paid spots, you know. But, I couldn't convince the Governor that; we were listening to the radio on the train and I couldn't convince the Governor that that wasn't real reports. Of course, they were paid. When I got to Muskogee about ten o'clock that night, I had a telegram waiting. It said that Lyndon had won the election.

When I got up to Washington I went to Dick Kleberg's office and---that was my headquarters in Washington and, of course it was Lyndon's too. I went in there and had a telegram from Lyndon, from the Brackenridge Hospital saying that Mayor Miller of Austin would be in Washington within the next day or two and to extend to him all of the facilities of Congressman Kleberg's office. It made me so darn mad. That guy was trying to beat us three days before, you know; and here Lyndon was going to give him all of the priviledges of this office, helping him out. I didn't play politics like that.

Pruett---Miller was "riding" with the winner?

Quill---Yeah. but he had to go to Washington He'd just got beat and he got Lyndon to send a telegram up there to take care of him while he was there. After opposing him up until about two days before. Lyndon had finally beat him out of the election. So, I said to Mayor Miller, "You know, Mayor, Washington is a pretty big place but it ain't big enough for both of us at one time, so I'm going."

Pruett---That's right?

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 6

Quill---That's right. That's where I left him. We were pretty good friends but I didn't like him opposing us in that election because he had a lot of power.

Then Lyndon went to work as Congressman. He worked long hours. He'd always answer the same day that he'd receive a letter. He'd answer it that day. He was real good to his office help, but he'd make them work nights. Buy their dinner. He'd see that every letter was answered that day because he's say that there'd be some more tomorrow. I have a letter in there someplace where I accused him of not answering my letter and it liked to broke his heart, because he said he answered everybody's letter, everytime. So that started us off on a long career. I continued as Postmaster and he kept advanceing in Congress.

~~used to go up there~~

I used to go up there. He lived in---when he first went to Congress he lived in the basement of the Dodge Hotel. He had a room there with Malcom Bardau (?). Malcom was Assistant to Maury Maverick when Maury was a member of Congress.

Pruett---How do you spell the man's name that Maverick's Assistant?

Quill---Bardwell, B A R D W E L L. He was Maury's right-hand man. Real smart fellow and a real close friend of mine, and a friend of Lyndon's. They kinda worked together when Lyndon was Secretary to Dick Kleberg.

Pruett---What kind of man was dick Kleberg?

Quill---A wonderful guy. You know, Klegerg----

Recorder turned off while Dan Quill tells of some of his experiences relative to loaning letters to people, from Johnson, and their never returning them.

Pruett---We are continueing now. We have brought Johnson up to the point to where is Congressman. Continue, as you knew him.

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976

Page 7

Pruett

Quill---Well, I, of course he was not in my District, my Congressional District. Dick Kleberg was; and then they re-districted and we got Maury Maverick for Congressman. Maury just had Bexar County. Congressman Kleberg kept Guadalupe County, Gonzales County and then his went on down into South Texas. All of the things that Maury was interested in, so was Lyndon. They had things in common and, ~~so~~ affairs I just---I was interested in Congressional ~~change~~ change in Bexar County. But, because of Lyndon I became interested, of course in the Tenth District as much as I could help him.

But he was a fellow who loved me because I sent him those news items. Strange thing about that; he just thought that was great. I could send him any little old biddy item and By Golly, here would come a letter back. I have some of those letters that I'm going to give to the Library. I found them here a while back.

Pruett---If you don't mind, I'd like to photocopy some of them.

Quill---Most of them are letters of thanks for those news items.

Pruett---They would show that he took the time to thank someone for doing something.

Quill---Oh, he never---I don't care who'd write to him; he got a letter from him.

Pruett---This is dicative of the man and that's why I'd like copies of some of the letters.
Let's continue our talk for the present and get the letters later.

Quill---Well, another interesting thing, you know, is that I arranged his wedding for him. When he was married. I'd met Lady Bird one time. He'd come in here and brought her with him. Either on the way to, or from Corpus. I don't remember which. They usually stopped down at Floresville at Sam Fore's home. That's

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 8

Quill-----con't.

where he's sleep, and eat here.

Well, anyway, he called me one November morning, on a Saturday and said that he and Lady Bird were going to get married and they wanted to be married in St. Marks Episcopal Church.

Pruett---He was calling from Karnack, wasn't he?

Quill---Karnack or Texarkana. He said I want to get married at eight o'clock in St. Marks Church. And he said, take care of everything and get us a couple of adjoining rooms at the Plaza Hotel, and I'll see you at six o'clock. And he hung-up the phone. Well, I used to do him that way, too. Hanging-up that phone.

Well, that was quiet an assignment, and on Saturday at that. No Marriage license, no nothing. I'd been up to Washington---I'd taken a file up there from St. Marks Church, from the Rector; to see if I could get a Second Class Permit approved for his Church paper, there. A weekly paper. And, I got it approved and saved the Church about fifteen dollars a week, on postage. This pleased the Rector very much. So, I went over to see him after this phone call and I told him that he was going to perform a marriage in his Church that night. I told him the story and he said, "I wouldn't think of a thing like that. He's not talking to a Justice of the Peace, I'm a Rector of a big Church and we want marriages to work our satisfactorily; we don't want a "shot-gun" wedding. No, sir!" And, I said, "Wait a minute, I can't get holt of the fellow." And, he finally consented to it.

Pruett---Begrudgingly?

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 9

Quill---Oh, yeah. I'll say. I was a member of this Church but neither Lady Bird nor Lyndon were. He was kind enough to acquiesce. Then I got busy on the rest of the program. It was during the Depression and everybody was broke including Lyndon Johnson and Dan Quill. I had to get that Marriage License, and that was an item. At one time I was Chief-Deputy County Clerk, so I knew my way around at that office. I secured the license and secured the hotel rooms.

I'd bet the President a pair of shoes; on some election or something and he'd won the shoes and I had them there for him. And I gave him his shoes----

Pruett---When they came in for the wedding?

Quill---Yeah. They b

They had adjoining rooms and I was in there talking to Lyndon and Lady Bird came in his room and asked ~~said~~, "Dan, did you get the ring?" God damn, by that time, I was so tired, I was tired and I said, "Ring? You've been passing jewelry stores all day. No, I didn't get the ring." She said, "We don't have a ring." Sears and Roebuck---it was on a Saturday, and Sears and Roebuck was across the street and they stayed open until nine on Saturday. And, I went over there.

Time was giving out on us, you know. They were dressing and getting ready for the wedding. I went over to Sears and Roebuck and this girl said, "What size ring do you want?" I said, "I didn't know they had sizes. I'll tell you what. Give me a dozen of these things on a---I'll bring ~~bring~~ you all of them back except one." They put them on a little old stick and I took them over there. Lady Bird found one and sized it up; the one she wanted and I took the rings back. Then we went to the Church House.

Pruett---That ring was two dollars and fifty cents, wasn't it?

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 10

Quill---Something like that. You know, he never did pay me for it. People would always ask me about that ring and I would say, "Well, he never did pay me for it." He said to me one day; I met him at the St. Anthony Hotel, "Dan, why do you keep telling people that I didn't pay for my wedding ring?" "Well", I'd say, "because you haven't." "Pay me and I'll quit talking about it." I think he was President at the time. But it was true and it made a good story, you know.

After the wedding, we went over to the St. Anthony Hotel and had a little dinner. It wasn't much of a dinner. We had about twenty people, twenty spectators. One of these boys had called me that day and wanted to know if he could come to the wedding. He'd heard that Lyndon was going to get married. I told him, "Sure, if you'll bring us a bottle of wine, you can come." We didn't have any money to buy any wine. He brought that wine and we had it hid under the table. We didn't want the hotel to know it; they sold wine, too. I guess. I don't know. So, after the little dinner they took off.

Pruett---Did you all drink the wine?

Quill---Sure, sure we drank the wine. We, that's all we had. If we didn't drink that, we wouldn't have had anything.

On those things and comments; cemented our friendship to a considerable degree and I became very fond of Lyndon. He was a man of principle. You never had to check him. He never did anything untruthful or under-handed. You didn't have to wake up every morning and wonder where he stood; he stood the same way every day. An honorable person. Very honorable. And so we became very close friends.

Pruett---Tell me about his coming by and eating with you.

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 11

Quill---Well, he would---on Saturday was living in those days and she'd always cook a beef roast with brown gravy, and corn bread. Did that Lyndon Johnson ever love that brown gravy and that corn bread. He was a good eater. A fast eater. He always ate too fast; that's the way he lived. He lived too fast. So full of energy that while he was eating he wasn't thinking about that, he was thinking about something else.

Pruett---Where did he live at that time?

Quill---He lived, before he got married he lived in Johnson City.

Pruett---He drove down here for dinner?

Quill---No, he was going through San Antonio going to Corpus Christi. That's where Dick Kleberg's office was. His Texas office.

Pruett---What kind of relationship did Kleberg and Lyndon Johnson have?

Quill---Close, very close.

Pruett---Do you think that Dick Kleberg helped in getting him introduced; I know that Mr. Sam did, to F. D. R. and so forth? Did Johnson ever talk to you about Dick Kleberg?

Quill---Oh, yeah.

Pruett---What kind of comments did he make about Kleberg?

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 12

Quill---He was real loyal to Dick Kleberg. Real loyal. I've been down to the King Ranch with Dick and-----I was down there one time at Corpus Christi, at Dick's Kleberg's home and some immigration problem came up. And he called Lyndon. Lyndon was up in Washington and he called him and gave him the information and asked him to take care of it, whatever it was. Dick Kleberg loved Lyndon Johnson. And Lyndon, he made his own way. He didn't have to get somebody to introduce someone to him. He'd be there.

You take that picture there, of him and Jimmy Allred.

Pruett---This is a copy of the famous picture of Johnson, F. D. R. and Governor Allred aboard ship off Galveston. Tell me about the story behind that picture.

Quill---The President came down here fishing, fishing at Port Aransas, off Port Aransas. You see how thin Lyndon is there. He'd just had that operation. See how thin he is.

This picture was taken on a Naval ship.

Pruett---Did Johnson ever discuss that picture, or that incident?

Quill---He gave me the picture. He liked that picture. God dogget. He gave away lots of those pictures.

Pruett---This picture is the same one, except they've taken Allred out of the picture and filled in between F. D. R. and Johnson. This is the one that they used on sign boards during his campaign for Congressman, isn't it?

Quill---Yeah, I think so. Yeah, sure, don't you agree?

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 13

Pruett---Yeah, I'm the one who discovered that it was the same photgraph, just re-worked.
Jimmie Phillips of Angelton agrees with me, and told me the story about it.

Quill---Yeah, it's the same picture. It was taken on a Naval vessel off the coast of----

Pruett---Galveston?

Quill---No, off of Aransas.

Pruett---Tell me, what did Johnson have to say about that meeting with F. D. R.?

Quill---Jimmy Allred arranged that thing. He and Lyndon loved each other. He just took
a likeing to Lyndon when--he didn't know him, I guess I knew him before Jimmy
did. Anyway, their relationship was real close. And, of course, Jimmy being
Governor when the President came to Texas-----

END of SIDE ONE-----TAPE ONE

Quill---See those Naval boys there. He was fishing off that boat; the President was.

Pruett---I've thought all along that this was taken at Galveston.

Quill---Oh, I don't know. It could have been taken at Galveston. That Naval boat was laying
laying off the coast down at Post Aransas. And Farley down there was his guide
when the President caught a Tarpon, a big tarpon.

Pruett---You said, "Farley".

Quill---Not Jim Farley. This was a fisherman down there. A boat capitan, who knew the
coast. perhaps the best fisherman on the coast at the time.

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 14

Pruett---This other re-touched photo that was used on sign boards implies that the President is for Lyndon Johnson for Congress without really coming out and making that statement.

Quill---Well, of course. That's a good political picture.

Pruett---That's what I wanted. It's a good political move.

Quill---Oh, sure. Sure. We did all kinds of things like that.

Pruett---Tell me about them as they are the things that I want to hear. They weren't illegal or underhanded; they were just good politics.

Quill---

Quill---That was just a good start.

Pruett---Did you see Johnson campaign in the helicopter, the one they called, "The Johnson City Windmill"?

Quill---He came down here and landed in a gravel pit with that helicopter. A couple of days earlier he came very near getting in trouble with that helicopter, like to have run against a building in East Texas; some place up there, I don't remember just where.

When he came down in the helicopter, he landed in what they called Sullivan Park, on the east side of town. Had a meeting out there. I took him down to the Y. M. C. A. There were a couple of---I was on the Board down at the "Y" and Chairman of the Health Club and we had a couple of fellows down there, a couple of colored boys. One of them was Trainer for the Giants at one time. And they gave Lyndon a massage. When he laid on that massage table, he went sound asleep. He just

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 15

Quill-----con't.

went out. He was absolutly exhausted. And, I said, "You get that massage, it'll wake you up for another twenty-four hours." After he got that massage and he took a nap and showered, I guess we went back over to the hotel, or something.

Pruett---What about this incident with the helecopter over in East Texas?

Quill---They got in a wind up there. I remember the story about it. Come pretty near sliding into the side of a building, I think it was Kilgore---some place over in East Texas. (See interview with Thomas Reavley)

Pruett---Did he talk to you about it?

Quill---Sure, he talked about it. It was a pretty narrow escape.

Pruett---It worried him?

Quill---Yeah, of course. In those days a helecopter wasn't like they are today. They didn't manage them as well, you know.

Pruett---Did you ever see him "pressing-the-flesh", shaking hands?

Quill---Oh, yeah.

Pruett---Explain this. Did he ever talk to you about it?

Quill---Yeah. I acquired that habit from him. That came from Sam Fore. Sam Fore published the Floresville Croncile-Journal. A great big fellow; weighed four hundred pounds. Sam had two daughters; didn't have a son so he tried to "adopt"

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 16

Quill-----con't.

Lyndon, I think. They thought a great deal of each other.

Pruett---He was a great confidant to LBJ, ~~wasn't he?~~

Quill---Oh, yeah. But he was the one that said, ~~"press-the-flesh"~~ and I picked that thing up. I was talking to a doctor the other day and he said, "You know, my two boys are nineteen and twenty-one and they still remember when they were little kids and you'd say, 'Press-the-flesh'. I'd tell them that that was the big Postmaster, there. He's the Postmaster of all the town." "Press-the-flesh", those kids remember that.

Pruett---Did Lyndon Johnson ever express his enjoyment of "pressing-the-flesh"?

Quill---Oh, yeah. He was always saying that when he was shaking hands with you. Yeah, he used it lots of times; "Press-the-flesh".

Pruett---Describe the relationship between Maury Maverick and Lyndon Johnson.

Quill---When Maury got elected to Congress, he knew nothing about the Congress. Lyndon had been up there as Kleberg's Secretary and Maury teamed-up with Lyndon in the interest of learning the ropes. And, that's how they became pretty close. Of course, Maury was from San Antonio and San Antonio use to be a part of Kleberg's District. So they had lots in common. They were two different kind of people, altogether. But,----

Pruett---In what way?

Quill---In their build, their mannerisms, everything about them was different. Maury ~~was more liberal, I think~~ was more liberal, I think, than Lyndon.

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 17

Pruett---Did you ever meet Lyndon Johnson's father?

Quill---Oh, yeah.

Pruett---Would you discuss his and Lyndon's relationship and any stories that you might know?

Quill---Well, his daddy was a member of the legislature.

Pruett---The Texas Legislature?

Quill---Yeah. I went to school once with---what was his name; Sam?

Pruett---Yes, Sam Ealy.

Quill---Sam, Sam, yeah. They were great friends---father and son. But, the old man was a little more rough than Lyndon. Sam was a pretty rough old guy. Lyndon's mannerisms-----

We had a fellow here in San Antonio by the name of Harry Jursek (sp. ?). He's President of the Lone Star Brewery. At the time, he was a candy salesman. He went through all of the hill country up there selling candy and Lyndon used to go with him. He'd open the gates to all of those ranches up there, for him. Harry would give him fifty cents, or something of the kind. They've been long time friends.

Sam Johnson, I think was working for the Railroad Commission after he was a member of the legislature, wasn't he.

Pruett---I don't know. I know very little about him.

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 18

Quill--- Well, I don't know. See, I can't remember all of those things real well. It's been so long. I knew his mother real well.

Pruett---Did Lyndon Johnson tell you any stories about his father?

Quill---I'm sure that he did, but I don't remember. I wouldn't know how to tell you anything about that.

Pruett---What about Sam Houston Johnson? Did he and Lyndon get along well?

Quill---No, but Lyndon loved that brother of his. But, he never could do anything with him. I could tell you a book about Sam Houston Johnson. You know, a brother in office like Lyndon was---you have a younger brother that tries to keep straightened out, but----- You know, Sam succeeded him as Secretary to Dick Kleberg.

Pruett---That's what I'm wanting to get to.

Quill---He didn't continue to be his Secretary because he didn't handle his job right. He didn't handle his job right like his brother, Lyndon did. They were two different; like black and white, those two brothers.

Pruett---Why?

Quill---Well, Lyndon had good habits and Sam had bad habits. That makes a difference.

Pruett---Why would Sam have had bad habits with them both coming from the same family?

Quill---I wouldn't know. I wouldn't know. Lyndon did everything in this world for Sam. And Sam was a pretty wild boy.

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 19

Pruett---Tell me about Rebecca Johnson, Lyndon's mother.

Quill---Oh, she was ^awonderful lady. She came to San Antonio one time and she went to the doctor in the Medical Arts Building. I was in the Post Office, right across the street. I don't know who was driving her; maybe she was driving herself. But, she got a ticket for parking. She came over to my office----you'd thought she'd comitted murder, oh, myggosh. I never saw a lady so upset in my life. And, I said, "Don't worry about that. Let me have that ticket. Don't worry about it, you'll never hear anymore about that ticket." So, she gave it to me. Judge Calhoun was the Judge of the Corporation Court and I gave him the ticket and told him that it was the Congressman's mother and asked him if he wouldn't dismiss the case. It was only about a dollar, or two fine. It wasn't very much, but she didn't know. I wrote her a note; that letter, I think is in the Library. She wrote me back and thaked me.

After he retired----after he retired as President, he saw this correspondence between his mother and myself and he called me on the phone. He said, "Dan, is Judge Calhoun still living?" I said, "No, he's not living, he's deceased." Lyndon said, "Well, I was just reading this correspondence between you and my mother, and I wanted to call him up and thank him for dismissing that ticket for her."

Pruett---It had been thirty years.

Quill---Yeah, oh about forty. Anyway it'd been a good many years. Oh, that guy. He was thoughtful about everything. He never missed a---- He really loved his mother. Never was a son who loved his mother more than that guy loved his mother.

Pruett---Is that right.

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 20

Quill---And she was a delicate lady, just a wonderful person.

I was on my way to a Postmaster's Convention when I heard the news, or read it in the paper.

Pruett---When she passed away?

Quill---Yeah. I didn't get to that funeral. I went to his Dad's funeral. I didn't get to that funeral, but I sent a memorial or something. But that mother; he sure did cherish her.

Pruett---Did he ever express his feelings about her, to you?

Quill---Oh, yes. Lots of times.

Pruett---Give me an example, or cite an example! What were his fondest memories of her?

Quill---Well, I think the memories that he had were the difficulties that she had under economic circumstances, the poor economic circumstances raising that family. He was always concerned about her health. She was kind of a frail lady.

Pruett---While we are discussing her, let us look at these pictures.

This is photo number 602, photo # 3, Mrs. Samuel Johnson, Lady Bird Johnson and L. B. J. reading some of the letters wishing the Senator best wishes, after his 1955 heart attack. Elaborate on the thoughts that you have as you view this photo.

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 21

Quill---He was up there in Maryland when he had one heart attack.

Pruett---This is at the time of the 1955 heart attack and he might have been home to recuperate. Here is another picture taken at the same time. This one is of Lady Bird and him.

Quill---Do you have one of him in a hammock?

Pruett---No, that's all that I have taken during this period.

Quill---Well, you know he has a swimming pool in his front yard there at the ranch. And he had a hammock out there and he used it a great deal.

Pruett---Elaborate on those two pictures. Or what you may recollect about his 1955 heart attack.

Quill---You can see that he got a lot of mail. All that he did was come back to the ranch and mope around and regain his strength.

I was up there several times during that time. These pictures, I guess speak for themselves.

Pruett---When you were up there visiting him at the ranch during this time was there any particular worries or concerns that he had?

Quill---He never had any notion that he wasn't going back to Washington. He knew that he was going back. All that he was trying to do was to regain his strength and get ready to go back. He didn't have any fear about going back. Do you mean, did he give-up?

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 22

Pruett---Yeah.

Quill---No. No, not him.

Pruett---Here is a picture of all of the family: Lady Bird, Lyndon and the girls.
Describe this picture.

Quill---That's Lucy.

Pruett---Did you know Lucy?

Quill---You bet.

Pruett---This picture; B-4650-1 is of Johnson campaigning for the Senate against Coke
Stevenson. I'm sure you have some stories from this period.

Quill---Who is that fellow? I know his face.

Pruett---I have no idea. Neither does the Library. Did you see him during the 1948
Campaign?

Quill---Oh, yeah.

Pruett---Did he ever talk to you about Coke Stevenson?

Quill---Yeah. You know, I was a good friend of Coke Stevenson before Lyndon came along.
You know, Coke Stevenson was the closest Governor that we ever had from this
part of the State. Anybody from Austin, down couldn't get elected to nothing.
He was from around Junction. That was as far as the Governorship was concerned.

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 23

Quill-----con't.

When Coke---I was real interested in his election as Speaker of the House; wasn't he Speaker of the House? Yeah, he was. We had an old boy out from East Texas who was running against him. I went over to the Legislature with Denver Chestnut and Sam Fore and I. We went over there and was helping Coke. We got him elected as Speaker of the House by a vdry---- one or two votes. The Speakership wasn't decided until nearly all of the hundred and fifty votes were in.

Pruett---What kind of a man was Coke Stevenson?

Quill---He was a good man, but this man wasn't----this guy was as active as he could be. Coke was a easy going fellow.

Pruett---Lyndon Johnson was a very active man?

Quill---Oh, yeah.

Pruett---Did Coke Stevenson ever talk to you about Lyndon Johnson? What kind of a man did he think Lyndon Johnson was?

Quill---Well, he talked about him in the Press.

Pruett---No, I'm talking about before all the trouble started.

Quill---I don't know. I wouldn't know.

Pruett---Did Lyndon Johnson ever talk to you about Coke Stevenson?

Quill---Well, we talked about him after he had gotten on us in the election controversy.

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 24

Pruett---What was Lyndon Johnson's opinion of Coke Stavenson?

Quill---Lyndon would have a good opinion of Coke Stevenson. He was fair about everything. Hw was a man that you could do as dirty as heck, and the next day he'd forget about it.

You know how he won the Senate, as far as the Republicans were concerned? He loved everybody. Durnest fellow I ever saw. I told you about that incident in Washington, about getting elected up there and sending ~~SAE~~ word that the Mayor of Austin was on his way and for them to take care of him. That's the way he did his business.

Pruett---This is a picture taken in Pueblo, Colorado with James Allred, Elliott Roosevelt, Maury Maverick, Marvin Jones and Fritz Langham. Do you remember that time when they were traveling?

Quill---There's Lyndon next to Maury. There's President Roosevelt with Elliott next to him.

Pruett---Did you know Elliott Roosevelt?

Quill---Yeah, he was a good guy and a tough rascal.

Pruett---What do you mean?

Quill---You know, he had a radio station up there in Fort Worth and he had an interest in one down here and he'd come down here.

Pruett---Did he and Lyndon get along well?

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 25

Quill---Oh, I don't think that they were very close. I don't know. They were different people----had different interest.

Pruett---Did Johnson talk to you about F. D. R.?

Quill---Oh, yeah, sure.

Pruett---Do you remember any of his comments about the President?

Quill---He said that F. D. R. reminded him of his dad. You know F. D. R. helped Lyndon a lot. When Lyndon was just getting started F. D. R. was a powerful man. One word from him and it'd help you all over the place.

Pruett---Tell me about Mr. Sam----Sam rayburn. What kind of a fellow was he?

Quill---A wonderful guy. He was a----I used to go up to Washington; I don't know why I was there. I was in Mr. Garner's office, the Vice-President and Sam came in there and I excused myself. He said, "We haven't got any secrets. Sit down there." We're just planning what we're going to do this week in the Congress." and they sit down there and made their plans. I think, at that time they were having trouble with Huey Long. He was interfering with their program, or something. Sam Rayburn, he ruled that House with an iron hand like he did a couple of National Conventions that he was presiding over. A fellow told me, one time, "Don't ever incur the enmity of the Speaker; I've been standing up on this floor for two years, trying to get recognized."

Pruett---He'd by-pass you, if you didn't get along with him.

Quill---By-pass you, he just wouldn't pay any attention to you. This man had been

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 26

Quill-----con't.
waiting two years to get recognized, he said. No, Sam was a wonderful guy. I think that I had the last letter that he ever wrote. He wrote me a letter and said, "Dan, I'm back home away from those big city doctors and I've got my country doctor. He's going to help me." and a few days after that they took him to Dallas and he died.

Pruett---Did Sam ever mention to you what he thought of Lyndon Johnson?

Quill---Oh, yeah. He'd tell anybody what he thought of Lyndon Johnson. He was just like his son. He loved him. He kind of treated him like a son, you know. He did more for Lyndon than anybody I know of. As Speaker of the House, and he had that power, and then he had that reputation as an honorable man----way above the average Congressman.

Pruett---Some people say that Mr. Sam was a little hard-headed.

Quill---No, he wasn't hard-headed. He was firm. When he made up his mind, he made it up. There was no ifs and ands about it.

Pruett---How did he and Lyndon Johnson get along together?

Quill---Wonderful. Lyndon had the greatest respect in the world for Sam Rayburn.

Pruett---Did Johnson ever tell you how he felt about Sam Rayburn?

Quill---Well, I could see it, I could see it.

When President Truman came to San Antonio in 1948, the Texas Delegation was

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 27

Quill-----con't.

in San Antonio and I was Chairman of-----nobody here would have anything to do with Truman because they was betting twenty to one that he was going to lose. Remember that? We had a Mexican Mayor and he had just come up the hard way; he was lacking the mannerisms to entertain a President. No reflection on him because he was a good friend of mine. A good man. He said that this public service company that the city owned needed him there. The company was run by a Colonel Tuttle. He had run that public service company for years. When it was made known that President Truman was going to visit San Antonio, the Mayor called Tuttle and told him that he wanted him to take care of the program for him. Well, Colonel Tuttle was pretty smart politically, you know. He came over to me and said, "Dan, you know I can't get involved in this thing." I told him, "I'm under Civil Service, I can't either." He explained that, "Everybody in town likes you. They aren't going to say anything, or bother you about doing anything." I said, "I know, but-----". He sat right there and talked me into being Chairman of this Committee. I told him, "The only way I'll take that thing is if I have complete control over the tickets. I want to know everybody who gets a ticket. We're not going to give these tickets out recklessly. I want the tickets." And he said that he would give me the tickets and he did. All except for the members of the City Council; he held those out on me. I knew it when the President arrived because there they were and I hadn't given them a ticket.

END of TAPE ONE

Quill---Well, anyway, I can't remember the secretary's name. I went up to the back of the train and this secretary came out and I said, "What do you want done here today? I'm Chairman of this committee." and he said, "You do anything that you want to. We'll do anything that you tell us to do, but I want to tell you one thing; the President will not make a speech on Sunday, a political speech."

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 28

Quill-----con't.

I told him, "We've made arrangements for him to make a speech at Alamo Plaza at three o'clock in front of the Alamo." He said, "Well, he won't do that. He won't speak at a Political Rally on Sunday." I said, "Suppose that we introduce introduce him?" and he said that that would be all right. I told him that we proposed a little visit inside the Alamo and after that; we had a little platform out there in front, elevated where people could see him and we would introduce him. Maury Maverick was Congressman at the time and he introduced him, I think. Maybe I did, I don't remember. Truman went in the Alamo and he read Travis' letter, you know that real appealing letter.

Pruett---"I'm besieged by ten thousand mexicans under the command of Santa Anna." Is that the one?

Quill---Yeah. Well, he virtually memorized that thing---I'm sure he hadn't studied it before hand. Anyhow, he made a heck of a speech; a historical speech. And didn't say anything about a wonderful President or anything.

We took him from the train to the Baptist Church and took Margaret and Mrs. Truman to the Methodist Church, when we took them off the train. And then we had lunch at the Gunter Hotel with the President. Margaret and Mrs. Truman had lunch at the St. Anthony Hotel with Mrs. Wienert from Seguin and her bunch. So that evening we took them to the Alamo and he made that talk and we came back to the hotel. And we had a Dinner that night. It was a very successful thing. thing.

When we got back to the hotel I went into his suite. We sat across on two beds from each other. He said, "You're worried about my campaign, aren't you?" I said, "I sure am and what's worrying me are the polls." He said, "Son, let

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 29

Quill-----con't.


me tell you about the polls. When I was running for Senator from Missouri the Kansas City Star decided that they didn't want me in the Senate and they took----established a poll. Every morning that poll showed me on the bottom and I started out, and I told Bess, "You know, I got up early this morning and I didn't get home until dark. And I shook hands with lots of people, and I looked them in the eye and they shook hands with me. And ~~I could tell from the~~ way they gripped my hand and what they said, that they were going to be for me. And this guy, here comes out and says I'm last. That can't be so." He said that thing went on and he beat all of them. "I want to tell you something Son, I want Beat them all. And he went on, "I want you to dismiss that from your mind. Don't you believe in one of those polls because they'll fix you up. At least the Kansas City Star will, I don't know about Mr. Gallup." The Kansas City Star will fix them like they want them." And so we had this woderful Dinner and the Alamo Plaza had more people on it than ever before. Never had that many since; every school kid in town was there. Everybody was there. Just had areas of people.

He said, "How'd you get that crowd together?" and I said, "I didn't it together, you're ~~an~~ President and you know, we don't get a President to come by here every day." He said, "Yeah, but I know. I go other places and I don't have that kind of a crowd." I gave him a watch, a wrist watch that day.

Not too long before he died, I organized a little group and we flew up to the Library up there----

Pruett---To Independence?

Quill---Yeah. We got there a little early. He didn't go to lunch that day and a



Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 30

Quill-----con't.

guard came up to me and said, "If you're the group from Texas, the President said that he'd be glad to see you now." That was an hour early----it was about one o'clock instead of two. That's when ~~we~~ were going to see him. So we went into his office. He was in a wonderful mood.

Zencraft (sp.?), our best photographer in San Antonio, he went with us and took his Kodak. I asked could we take pictures? The President said, "Sure, let's take some now." He played the piano for us. One of the fellows, who owned the airplane and took us carried his daughter. She was about fourteen or fifteen years old. He said, "Can you play the piano?" and she said "Yes." Truman told her, "Sit down here and let's play the piano." We just had a ball and took lot's of pictures. Have you been to that Library?

Pruett---No.

Quill---You ought to go. It's got all those gifts. Nixon kept all of his. He's got them all on display. He's got a sword up there with jewels in it; I don't know what it's worth.

Pruett---Truman was a great fellow, wasn't he?

Quill---Oh, wonderful. Oh, wonderful.

Pruett---How did he and Johnson get along together?

Quill---Good. Oh, yeah, good.

Pruett---You see, Truman was in the Senate ahead of Johnson. Truman was in the Senate

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 31

Quill-----con't.

and Johnson was Congressman. And you don't see much----sometimes you do but most of the time each guy is in his own baliwick. But they were really good friends, now.

Pruett---Did you ever hear Johnson comment about Mr. Truman?

Quill---He thought he was a great guy. There was no difference between those two. They were both good Democrats, together.

That Truman, he was---- He came down here when he was Chairman of a Senate Committee and went out here to Kelly Field. Out there they have an Officers' domicile. No hotel in San Antonio has anything like it. It's the most elaborate thing that you ever saw, but it's done by the officers. They did it with their money; the government didn't have anything to do with it---- the tax payers, that is. But, the General said to me, "That fellow can't see that, he wouldn't understand it." I told him, "If you explain it to him, you can." "Well", he said, "I'd rather not if I keep him from it." I don't think he did show it to Truman, either. You know, Truman was a hard as heck about throwing money away.

Pruett---In 1953, I believe Truman came down and visited the L. B. J. Ranch. Do you remember that?

Quill---Yeah.

Pruett---Eddie Arnold, the Western singer was there and---- well, you are familiar with it. Harry Truman, Sam Rayburn. This is a picture taken there. Were you there at the time?

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 32

Quill---I think I was. ~~I~~---no, I guess I wasn't. What year was that.

Pruett---'59, I think.

Quill---No, I guess I wasn't.

Pruett---Were you ever at the ranch?

Quill---Lots of times.

Pruett---Tell me about one of your visits to the ranch.

Quill---I use to take him tamales up there, you know. I took a big five gallon can of tamales and I had another small can. Those guards at the gate: State Highway, Secret Service and so forth---you know what a job that is; a hard job, just standing around. So, I'd always take these guys some tamales. Out there on that Highway 1 post, and a man would drive up there and give you some tamales ---he'd appreciate it.

Pruett---He'd remember you the next time?

Quill---Darn right. Then, the Secret Service lived right in the back, in a trailer thing; behind the big house, and I'd always give them what was left. When you'd drive in there, one of them would always come out and see what you wanted. I'd always give them the tamales that I didn't give to the guards at the gate. Then, I'd take the big can full of tamales around to the back, to the kitchen for the President.

I got a phone call one day from Washington, from the Vice-President of American

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 33

Quill-----con't.

Air Lines. He said, "You know, Dan, I was over at the White House and I, a while back took the President some musk-mellons. Last night he said, 'You're just like Dan Quill. He brought me some tamates up to the ranch and I told the Post Master General that when his postmaster brought me some tamales up to the White House, I'm going to invite you over to the White House for a Mexican dinner.' He brought me some tamales up to the ranch, but by the time he got them to me they were just about all gone."

Pruett---He was talking about your giving some to the guards at the ranch?

Quill---Yeah, he just made that story up, you know.

And, so Warren Woodward said, "Dan, you know what the guy wants, don't you. He wants more mellons and more tamales." He asked me, "Can you get the tamales?" and he went on to say, "I can get the mellons." I told him, "Yeah, I can get the tamales, but how are we going to get them up there?" He said, "We'll get them up there on my airplanes."

So, I got the can of tamales, and I got the schedule and he phoned down here from Washington and told the people who loaded the planes not to put that can where it would freeze, but in a compartment where they wouldn't freeze. Well, he called back down here and told me, "You know, I went out there to Dulles Airport and got those tamales and took them to the kitchen at the White House and they were still hot. They must have been boiling when they left down there in San Antonio." I told him, "I bet that the Post Master General don't get any of those tamales."

Pruett---Who was Post Master General at the time, O'Brien or Gronouski?

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 34

Quill---I guess O'Brien might have been, I don't remember. But, he wasn't going to give him any. That was a big bunch of stuff.

Pruett---Were you up at Hye, Texas when O'Brien was sworn-in as Post Master General?

Quill---Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

Pruett---Tell me about it.

Quill---Well, I never did like O'Brien.

The incident that caused me not to like him. We invited him down here to dinner. He said that he'd like to come and then they called down here and said, "Say, the Post Master General says this schedule shows that he'll have to stay in the Dallas Airport for two hours and he's not going to do that." You can come up there and get him in an airplane. I told him, "If I borrow an airplane, I'd like to borrow it for myself. I don't do that." He told me that if he was to come, we'd have to do it. So, I made arrangements for an airplane to fly up to the Dallas Airport---he was coming down by commercial plane. Our plane was to meet this commercial flight and let him jump off of his plane and onto ours and be brought to San Antonio. Then, I got a call and was asked, after getting all those arrangements made, "How'd you get that plane?" I said, "I don't know, but I got it." That's not the question. The question is that I'm going to get the Post Master General and bring him to San Antonio. Isn't that what you want?" They asked, "Whose plane is it?" and I said, "It's mine; for the time being, anyway." Then, they said, "You can't bring anybody up there with you." and I told him that, "Maybe the man that owns the plane would like to go." He said, "You can't bring anybody. He may have a government contract, we don't know." I said, "I'm not going to embarrass him, you can be

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 35

Quill-----con't.

assured of that. But, to borrow airplanes, you have got to have some concessions, some latitude." So, I just had to go alone.

Pruett---Did you ever discuss this with the President?

Quill---Oh, I don't guess I ever talked to him about it.

But, this O'Brien stayed on the commercial plane until we got a chance to taxi over near his plane. I had a couple of news friends that I thought that he would like to see. He had a couple of men with him, but we exchanged greetings and he got his face in a newspaper. He was so indifferent to everything. You know, I would have appreciated your coming up and getting me and saving me a two hours in Dallas and, also----he had some horror about that because it was where Kennedy got killed.

We got him down here and I told him, "I'll tell you one thing Mr. Post Master, I'm sure glad that we don't have to take you back to Dallas." I was madder than hell at him. He was kinda "swelled-up", he rubbed me the wrong way. He was kind of acting like he was better than us, as Post Master General. I knew a lot of Post Master Generals and I've served under six Presidents.

Pruett---Did you know Jim Farley?

Quill---Oh, yeah.

Pruett---What kind of man was James Farley?

Quill---Out of this world. Out of this world. I've got a letter in there from him that I wouldn't take anything for.

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 36

Pruett---James Farley wrote me about twenty-three letters about Lyndon Johnson and F. D. R., before he died.

Quill---In 1964, Lyndon called----we were having a party at the St. Anthony Club down at the St. Anthony Hotel. They had hats: Democrat and Republican. We were going to hear the election returns. That's a club that I belong to, and the only way you can get into that club is by invitation. A club member can take a person, but there's no money exchanged there; they send you a bill at the end of the month. I had a couple that I'd invited to come down. We were going to "put it on" those Republicans down there. This couple were good Demo=~~crats~~crats----take a drink and be merry. I had a date with a gal.

I was just getting ready to leave the house and the phone rang. It was Lyndon and he said, "Dan, I'm sending an airplane down to San Antonio and to Floresville to pick you and Sam up. I want you all up here to hear the returns, tonight."

Pruett---Where was he calling from, the ranch?

Quill---Yes, from the ranch.

He said, "We're going to be at the Driscoll Hotel." Oh, no, he was at the Driscoll Hotel when he called from Austin. This was about two hours before the returns started coming in. And, I said, "Lyndon, I can't come up there." You know, he was the President. People always said that I was too abrupt and that I didn't have good finesse to associate with the President because I didn't follow protocol. He said, "I want you up here." and I said, "All right, ~~but don't~~ send a plane to San Antonio, I'll drive up there. I have to go down to the Hotel and see those people down there to make arrangements for them to let my friends and guest in." I was suppose to meet them in the lobby. I couldn't

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 37

Quill-----con't.

do them that way, even for the President. They wouldn't have been able to get in to the party. "I'll get up there, don't worry." Well, I get down to the Hotel and the pilot had landed out here at Spencer Field and called the house, and they call me. I finally got to talk to him from the Hotel. It was a miserable night, just miserable. I told him, "Don't bother with me. I'll be up there. You tell them I'll be up there as soon as I can. But, you go on and pick Sam up." He told me, "I can't land at Floresville. You know anything about Floresville?" I told him, "Yes, there's a landing field down there on the Connally Ranch, right near the Connally Ranch. But, they'll put some lights on for you. Weren't the lights on?" He told me, "No." I said, "Well, I'll call down there and tell them to put the lights on for you." They'd take automobiles out there and kind of arrage them with their headlights to light the field. It's not much of a strip. He had no business of even landing, he shouldn't have done it. But, anyway he picked him up. I drove to Austin.

I stopped in front of the Driscol Hotel and the Secret Service Agent, Benevides was in charge there, and he said, "Dan, the President, he's been asking everybody where you were? You're going to get us all in trouble." I told him that I'd got there as fast as I could.

He had a Federal Judge----the one whose parents were deaf, Thornberry and four of us and his children. That was it. I mention this because Jim Farley called down there during the returns, asking for Lyndon. Lyndon told me, "That's your former boss, go in there and talk to him." "Tell him that you're talking for me." I went in and talked to Farley on the phone. He wanted to know how Lyndon was doing; he asked, "How is the President doing?"

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 38

Quill-----con't.

and I told him, "He's doing alright, but heck, he's trying to get Goldwater to concede but he won't do it." Mr. Farley said that it was looking good, real good. We stayed there until midnight, waiting for that guy to say that he was beat.

Pruett---Lyndon knew that he was winning?

Quill---Sure. They had that auditorium, the Coliseum over there on the river packed with people. And it was nearly midnight.

I said to Lyndon, "Let me tell you something, you've got all those people over there. They voted for you today and you've got to get over there. You can't stay here around these telephones. You've got to get over there. Sam, you make him go." Sam said, "Let's go Lyndon." I finally ducked out and came home. Gosh darn, it was raining and drizzley and horrible.

Pruett---Johnson loved a good political fight?

Quill---Oh, yeah.

Pruett---And he always remembered his friends, like calling you and Sam Fore to come to Austin for the returns.

Quill---Yeah. You know, Sam and I, we always did things for him, took care of him helped him out of trouble and all of those kinds of things. And he thought about that. That was real nice, wasn't it?

Pruett---It sure was. Not many people would have done that. He could have had anybody in the world there.

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 39

Quill---Sure, that's right. He had the Governor there in town----anybody.

Pruett---Did you ever see L. B. J. and his dogs together?

Quill---Yeah.

Pruett---Do you have any stories about him and the dogs.

Quill---No. I'll tell you the only story that I know about him and the dogs.

The Priest up there, Father Schneider went over to see the President----the President thought the world of him, he built him this Parrish House, maybe a little residence or something----anyhow, Lyndon had that built and paid for it.

Pruett---A fine gentleman. I see him everytime that I go to Stonewall.

Quill---You ask him about my helping him get naturalized.

Well, anyway he went over there to the ranch and told Lyndon, "You know, Mr. President, I believe if you'd call up Dan Quill at San Antonio, he'd get the Archbishop to come up here to the dedication of my Priest's house. I believe that he could influence the Archbishop to come." Lyndon told him, "I sure will call him, maybe he has that much influence." This was the President that Father Schneider was telling somebody else had that much influence.

Lyndon called me and laughed, saying, "God darn, a damn Post Master. When did you take over the progratives of the President?" I said, "What do you mean?" "Why, I want to tell you what Father Schneider said when he came over a while

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 40

Quill-----con't.

ago." and then he told me. Lyndon said, "Well, as long as he wants it done that way we'll have to do it that way, I guess. Will you get a hold of the Archbishop and get him to come up?" I said, "Yeah, I'll get him." He replied, "I'll send a plane down there to pick you up. This Dedication is going to be about eleven o'clock and I'll send the plane down there about nine o'clock in the morning. But, I'll call you in the morning before he leaves here." I said alright. I told him, "I'm going to bring my sister, ^(C)Kathrine with me." I live with her. He told me, "Sure, her up." She's a Catholic and the Archbishop's a Catholic, so that tied in pretty good.

So, we get out there and get in this helicopter and go up to the ranch, the next morning. ~~We were met in a little old cart and took up to the house.~~ They were all gone, but one of the girls was there with little Patrick Lynn. We stayed there at the house until the President showed up. Then, we got in the car and went over to the Dedication.

When we got back, he invited us to lunch. I told him, "Now, the Archbishop has to meet an appointment; a big bunch of Priests, and he has to be back in San Antonio at a certain time, and we can't have any lunch. We have to go back."

So we went out----he had these two little old dogs. This cart has two or three different seats on it. One of these dogs was up on one of these seats and had wet on the seat where my sister was going to sit. He didn't say anything; he just took his nice, clean linen handkerchief and cleaned off ~~the seat and we~~ got in.

Pruett---Did he put it back in his pocket?

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 41

Quill---Yeah. We got in the ~~rain~~ aircraft and took off.

Pruett---He didn't say a word?

Quill---No.

Pruett---When was this? After his retirement or while he was President?

Quill---I'm sure that he was President at the time.

Pruett---He loved that ranch, didn't he?

Quill---Oh yeah, I'll say that he loved it. He had a good friend, Jesse McNeil in the cow business that lives here. Jesse and I, we were up there visiting and ~~the~~ Lyndon asked, "Jesse, how much will that bull weigh?" Jesse told him what he thought, and Lyndon said, "Aw, you're wrong about that." Jesse asked him, "What do you think it'll weigh?" They got in an argument about it and Lyndon finally said, "I'll tell you what, I'll bet you five bucks." They weighed that bull and Jesse McNeil got it to the pound. Whatever that bull weighed, ~~twelve~~ twelve hundred and eighteen pounds ~~or whatever~~ it was. Lyndon wrote him a check and Jesse told me the other day that he still had the check.

Pruett---Here is something that I've heard nothing about before. Hopefully you can add some light to it.

On January 21, 1946, at the invitation of his close friend and allie, ~~Alvin~~ Alvin Wirtz invited Lyndon Johnson to attend the Democratic Executive Committee Banquet in Dallas, Texas. This power Texas political leader was endeavoring to promote Johnson for the State's gubernatorial nomination. Congressman

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 42

Pruett-----con't.

Johnson didn't make a very good impression upon the group and, therefore, didn't run for Governor. Do you know anything about this; or it's truth?

Quill---No, I never heard of it.

Pruett---Why did W. Lee O'Daniel tell Johnson that he wasn't going to seek the Senator Morris Sheppard's vacant seat a few days before Johnson announced that he would seek it on April 22, 1941: O'Daniel then announced that he would run on May 19th. Do you know anything about this?

Quill---No, I don't know a thing about that. I doubt that, though.

Pruett---The same author, Howard B. Furer; actually editor of Lyndon B. Johnson, 1908- with Oceana Publications, Inc. makes the following statement in addition to the two previous ones. Lyndon Johnson quit the employee of Congressman Dick Kleberg because of the Congressman's wife. What do you think, or know about this?

Quill---Well, I don't want to discuss any----- He didn't---- Lyndon Johnson-----

END OF SIDE ONE --- TAPE TWO

Quill---Well, I can't discuss that.

Pruett---Do you know John McCormack?

Quill---Yeah.

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 43

Pruett---How would you describe John W. McCormack?

Quill---He was a fine guy. I first met him in Boston, when; at a Post Master's Convention. And he told me; he was a Member of Congress, he wasn't Speaker of the House, and he told me, "I want to introduce you to an up and coming young man that's going to really go someplace in politics." and he introduced me to John Kennedy. He was kind of John Kennedy'd "Daddy" in politics.

Pruett---He was the Sam Rayburn to Kennedy that Mr. Sam had been to Johnson?

Quill---That's right. I think they fell out afterwards.

Pruett---Yeah, over McCormack's nephew, I understand.

Quill---I don't know.

Pruett---What do you think about John McCormack, the man.

Quill---Oh, I just thought that he was wonderful. In later years, he got a little too feeble for the job, I think. He declined; I don't know if it was the pressures of that office or what.

Pruett---Well, he's past eighty-five and, too the death of his wife. A remarkable couple.

Quill---Yeah, that's right----the death of his wife.

One of "my boys", Porter Loring here. He's our largest undertaker and his father was a railroad man in Illinois and someone had molded a little

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 44

Quill-----con't.

Irishman, a little Irish statue about two feet high and it shows him with his sleeves rolled up and a red shirt on. You know, the Irishmen, they built the railroads. And this guy's got pipe in his hat and an Irish mug. Of course, my Dad was born in Cork Ireland.

I had a mechanic in my Post Office----oh, this Porter Loring gave me that little Irisman. In those days, nobody identified themselves with the Democrats very much. Specially people in business and he wanted to give it to me. He was always giving me things and he wanted to give me this little Irishman. And I asked my man, that was real artistic, "Could you make a mold of this?" and he told me, "Yeah." He made a mold and then m ade about ten of those things.

We had a fellow here who used to be Attorney General, who was going up to Washington; fellow by the name of Bobbit. He said, "I'm going to see the President while I'm up there, what shall I tell him?" You want to send him a word?" "Well, just wish him good health, that's the main thing." I told him. Then, I said, "Hey, I'm getting some Irishmen made, and I want to send him an Irishman." Tom Connally took this fellow over to the White House to see President Roosevelt and he took this statue to him and told him, "The Post Master at San Antonio sent you this little gift. What do you think about it?" They told him, "This is the guy that built all the railroads in the country." and that I had said to tell him this. Roosevelt said, "You darn right. That fellow knows his history. I love that thing." Some assistant came in to take it off of the President's desk and he said, "No, no, leave it right there; I want to look at it for awhile." I saw it in the Library at Hyde Park when I was up there, one time.

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Pruett 45

Quill-----con't.

I sent one to John McCormack and it tickled him to death. He told me, "I didn't keep that in my office. I have it in my home, in the living room so I can enjoy it."

I wrote him later and said that I wanted to send one to Kennedy. They had "fallen out" by then. He wrote me that it would be put in a warehouse and he'd never get it.

Pruett---He's a great guy, isn't he?

Quill---You darn right.

Pruett---Did Johnson think a lot of him?

Quill---Yes, sir. Johnson was one of his boys.

Pruett---Where were you on November 22, 1963, the day of the Kennedy assassination?

Quill---I was in the Gunter Hotel, here in San Antonio, having lunch and had a hundred dollar ticket to attend the Dinner in Austin that night. I was on the mezzanine floor when a fellow from the Stock Market ran up to me and told me what had happened.

Pruett---Did Johnson ever talk to you about the assassination?

Quill---Oh, I'm sure that we talked about it, but I don't remember anything in particular. That was something that he wanted to forget. It was a horrible thing

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 46

Quill-----con't.

that he went through. You can't realize; your President, your country----
that really affected him.

Pruett---Elaborate on that, just what you are saying, as you know it.

Quill---Well, he was so horrified; I guess he was in a trance. I don't know. So
many things had happened around him.

I'll tell you one thing. I asked him, "How did you ever think about getting
Judge Hughes to swear you in?" You know that Judge Hughes----we were all Young
Democrats together. ~~S Sara was one of our good friends.~~ I said, "How did you
ever think to ask Sara?" He told me that someone asked him, "Do you know a
Federal Judge in Dallas?" and he told me that he said, "I know Sara Hughes".
He told me that he thought that was all he ever said. So, she came out there
and gave that Oath of Office----out to that air plane.

But, you know, there was Mrs. Kennedy; blood all over her. That's a hard
thing to describe, you know it?

I've got the last picture ever taken of John Kennedy. Taken just at the time
he was shot.

Pruett---Any particular comments, as you remember, made by Johnson?

Quill---I don't know. Of course, you can't tell what went through his mind. It was
utter confusion, utter confusion.

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 47

Pruett---Did he ever discuss whether he thought Oswald had acted alone, or did he make any comments?

Quill---No. He never liked to talk about that thing.

Pruett---When did you first see him after November 22, the day of the assassination?

Quill---I don't know.

Pruett---Did you know Johnson in 1941 when he went to the Southwest Pacific? Did he ever discuss that with you? His meeting MacArthur and receiving the Silver Star?

Quill---Yeah.

Pruett---I have little to go with these two pictures of Johnson; one of him boarding a plane in the Alutian Islands, the other in MacArthur's Headquarter in the Pacific on the day that he received the Silver Star. Did he discuss this period of his life with you?

Quill---I don't know much about it.

Pruett---What about Admiral Nimitz, when he came to Texas? This was right after World War II.

Quill---Yeah, I knew Nimitz pretty good.

Pruett---This photo taken in 1945 at Austin: Johnson and Nimitz. Do you know anything about this?

Dan Quill
August 4, 1976
Pruett

Page 48

Quill---They went to Fredricksburg. They had some kind of program up there. I don't remember much about it. That's thirty years ago.

Pruett---Is there anything, now, that you feel should be elaborated on at this time; that we haven't discussed?

Quill---I've told you about all that I know.

Pruett---And, I appreciate it, too.

Quill---Are you going to write a book?

Pruett---I hope to. That is with help and if I'm smart enough to.

Can we look at those letters, now?

Quill---It'll take all day. I'll get them.

END OF INTERVIEW WITH DAN QUILL IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

August 4, 1976

Julie
9/3/1977