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JACK M. WOODWARD

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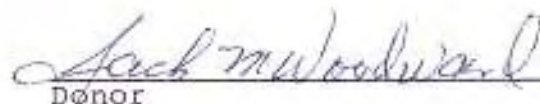
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This is an interview with Jack Woodward of Columbia, California, who was a steward on Columbine I, II, and III. Mr. Woodward is being interviewed at the Eisenhower Library on May 28, 1992, by Herbert Pankratz of the Eisenhower Library staff.

PANKRATZ: When did you first begin serving as a steward for General Eisenhower? And this was actually on the Columbine I, when he was still a General at SHAPE, wasn't it?

WOODWARD: That is correct. It was just before Christmas, and we were ferrying Columbine I over to Paris. And General Eisenhower was going to join us in Paris after the New Year's holiday. So his regular crew stayed back to fly him to Paris after the regular holidays, we were just a ferry crew taking the airplane, getting it ready for him. When he came over after the first of the year, his orderly was sick. He had to be left in London. They were looking for somebody to fill that position to go along on Columbine I to kind of take care of the General and to be the chef, or cook, or steward. And so my name came up. And I overheard a funny conversation, "I don't care if he has two heads as long as he can cook." I guess I am the two headed cook they picked because I have been with the General and President ever since.

PANKRATZ: Okay, and where were you stationed at the time you were serving on the Columbine I?

WOODWARD: Yes, well on the first Columbine we were stationed in Paris at Orly Field.

PANKRATZ: Orly Field. Okay. And what unit were you assigned to while you were stationed in Paris?

WOODWARD: The base unit was the 1254th Air Transport unit, its home base was Washington, DC.

PANKRATZ: Okay. Okay. Do you recall how long you were stationed in Paris working on the Columbine I?

WOODWARD: For two years.

PANKRATZ: Okay. So this is like '51 and '52 or did it start in '50 already?

WOODWARD: Started in '50 I believe.

PANKRATZ: Okay.

WOODWARD: We were there two years and stayed there even after Mr. Eisenhower came back to run for the Presidency. We transferred then over to General Ridgway and flew him while he was NATO Commander.

PANKRATZ: All right, what were some of the countries that you were flying to with General Eisenhower?

WOODWARD: I made the original trip with General Eisenhower to the twelve, original twelve NATO countries.

PANKRATZ: So you have been in them all then.

WOODWARD: Oh yes, many times. One of the nice things that happened on that twelve nation get acquainted tour was that--it was to find out if General Eisenhower was acceptable to the 12 NATO nations because he was mentioned to be the head of NATO. So it was a get

acquainted, good will tour, and he wanted me to go because his orderly took sick, and I had to fill in for his orderly. I was staff sergeant in the Air Force at the time and as we went to these different conferences, and I had to be with him, the European Commanders kind of--there is a feeling between enlisted personnel, and the staff personnel, generals and so forth--most of the countries had their biggest generals there--and Mr. Eisenhower sensed this right away. He put out a memo to the countries we had not been to yet, that Sergeant Woodward would be accompanying him on his tours, on his good will tour, and he wanted his sergeant to be treated the same as him because he was part of his staff. Which made it much easier for me because I was not looked down on after that. I thought that was a very humane gesture.

PANKRATZ: What were your duties on the plane or on the Columbine I?

WOODWARD: Well, my duties on the Columbine I was as a steward, like a steward on a aircraft, except we prepared many of our meals aboard the aircraft. And it was to serve the crew, and the General's staff and so forth. After we got on the ground, I took over as kind of an orderly for the General.

PANKRATZ: Were you the only steward on the Columbine I or were there more?

WOODWARD: No, there were two of us.

PANKRATZ: Okay. Now Eisenhower went on to run for the President and you stayed in Europe for awhile.

WOODWARD: We stayed in Europe and flew for General Ridgway.

PANKRATZ: Was Draper, the pilot? He stayed?

WOODWARD: The whole crew stayed. Mr. Eisenhower could not recall any of the crew until he became President.

PANKRATZ: Right.

WOODWARD: But the understanding was he would request certain members of the crew to come back if he made President. It was up to them to decide whether to come or stay.

PANKRATZ: When were you notified that he was interested or wanted you to come?

WOODWARD: As soon as it was announced that he had won the Presidency, even before he took office, he sent for us. We flew back. Another crew came over to fly for General Ridgway, and we took the Columbine I and came back to the states.

PANKRATZ: I see, a number of the members of the crew then came along.

WOODWARD: That is right.

PANKRATZ: Did you feel pretty good about that?

WOODWARD: I felt great about it. I had great respect for General Eisenhower, and when he became President Eisenhower and said, "Jack Woodward I want you to come back and fly for me," you know, it was like seventh heaven. Something that only happens once in a lifetime to very few people.

PANKRATZ: If you are going to be a steward, you might as well be one for the President. Did your duties differ very much on the Columbine II when you were flying with the President than earlier?

WOODWARD: No, they were basically the same, except on Columbine II, it was a better equipped aircraft, and many of our meals were like you get on the airline. They were put aboard fresh, and they were served in these plastic trays like you would have in the airline fleet. For the President and Mrs. Eisenhower and his special guest that would be with him back in the stateroom, we prepared fresh food for them and served it up, of course, on china plates.

PANKRATZ: I have seen the Columbine china. It was special china. Are there certain types of meals that he requested?

WOODWARD: Well, Ike was a great steak lover. And if you had a good steak and a nice green salad and sometimes baked potatoes-he did not care much for french fries-he loved baked potatoes-he was a happy man. Mrs. Eisenhower went along with about the same type of diet, except we gave her much smaller portions.

PANKRATZ: Yes.

WOODWARD: It worked out real fine.

PANKRATZ: After he had his heart attack in '55 did his eating habits change?

WOODWARD: Yes, he had a special diet that he was on, and, of course, his doctor, Dr.

Howard Snyder, was on top of everything. He worked with us, and the White House worked with us. Much of our food on Columbine II we got through the White House--rather than going out and taking a chance on buying something from the local market for reasons of security and so forth.

PANKRATZ: Yes.

WOODWARD: We got all of our fresh supplies out of the White House then we would prepare them aboard Columbine II.

PANKRATZ: Okay. Did Eisenhower have any preference as far as drink that was kept in stock on the Columbine?

WOODWARD: Yes, he loved Scotch.

PANKRATZ: That is what I have read.

WOODWARD: One of his favorite brands of Scotch was Chivas Regal.

PANKRATZ: I see.

WOODWARD: Twelve year old, Chivas Regal.

PANKRATZ: Twelve years old? Okay.

WOODWARD: And Mamie liked Old Fashions. She wanted Old Fashions, and they had to be made with honey rather than sugar, and so forth.

PANKRATZ: Really. So you served as the bartender too then?

WOODWARD: That is right. As steward, bartender, orderly, and whatever else they wanted, they got.

PANKRATZ: Now, what were some of your duties when the Columbine was not flying?

WOODWARD: My duties were to report to the White House by phone. If I wasn't needed at the White House, which was very seldom that I was needed there, I would go back to our base, National Airport in Washington, where we kept the Columbine, and would be there in case I was needed. I would do the normal duties like the rest of the crew-help polish the outside of it, clean the inside of it, get ready for the next trip, and so forth.

PANKRATZ: On some of Eisenhower's trips, you mentioned that when you were staying at a hotel, you would serve as an orderly?

WOODWARD: On all of his trips, after we had landed, it would be my job to go with the motorcade, the presidential motorcade, wherever he was going. Except when he went to a conference somewhere or a hotel to give a talk or a meeting, I would go on to the hotel and take his luggage, hang up his uniforms, lay out his luggage, take care of Mrs. Eisenhower, if she went with us. Just as an orderly or valet, I would take care of them all while he was on the ground. When the motorcade went back to the airbase again, I would get in the motorcade, and then I would take over my steward duties again once we were airborne.

PANKRATZ: I see. So you were a valet. Did you help him get dressed?

WOODWARD: Yes, yes.

PANKRATZ: Because that was John Moaney's job in the White House, so I was wondering if you did this on the trip.

WOODWARD: That is right. I took Moaney's place while he was on trips. Moaney--most of the time stayed in the White House. Moaney made many trips, and we would work together.

PANKRATZ: If he changed clothes, you were there to help him take things on and off, that sort of thing?

WOODWARD: I would be there to lay out his things. He dressed and undressed himself. But I would lay the uniforms out or whatever clothes he was going to wear.

PANKRATZ: Okay, and who told you what to lay out?

WOODWARD: Usually Dr. Snyder, who was his personal physician, and the press secretary, Mr. James Hagerty, decided what Mr. President should wear, and so forth.

PANKRATZ: So Snyder and Hagerty decided what he would wear, and you would lay it out.

WOODWARD: I think maybe he might have told them what he was going to wear or sometimes--.

PANKRATZ: I was wondering about that, if he always went along with that.

WOODWARD: He was an pretty independent person. Pretty outspoken.

PANKRATZ: Yes.

WOODWARD: He made known what he wanted.

PANKRATZ: Well, I was wondering if he wouldn't. Okay. You mentioned you were in charge of the luggage. How much luggage did the President and Mamie take when both of them were traveling somewhere?

WOODWARD: Well, it is like saying how much luggage would you take if you are going on a one day vacation, or one week. For people of that stature, President and first lady of the United States, they did travel very light on luggage. I was amazed sometimes on how few they took.

PANKRATZ: They did not have huge trunks

WOODWARD: No, suitcases and hanging bags.

PANKRATZ: Suitcases and hanging bags. So maybe from all his moving around as a General he learned to travel light.

WOODWARD: Travel light, yes.

PANKRATZ: Okay, well that is interesting. Now on the Columbine II you had sleeping quarters, the crew had sleeping quarters, up front, right?

WOODWARD: Up front, that is correct.

PANKRATZ: In the front of the aircraft. Were these like seats that made into bunks?

WOODWARD: The lower ones were seats that made into bunks. You had a pull down over head bed like a Pullman train.

PANKRATZ: Oh, okay.

WOODWARD: They were the same throughout the aircraft, except for the stateroom. In the stateroom they had the daytime couches which we made up at night into beds.

PANKRATZ: Okay. I imagine those bunks were pretty snug, I mean there was not a lot of room to move around.

WOODWARD: Once you got into them you'd better be careful, you could fall out. Especially the upper ones.

PANKRATZ: Do you have any recollections on the color scheme that was in the Columbine II or III?

WOODWARD: Both Columbine I and II, which were standard aircraft from Lockheed, were the green interiors. The only changes made in them was the headrest covers were of a tan material with a Presidential Seal on it. Of course, the stateroom was made up in the colors both Ike and Mamie wanted.

PANKRATZ: I see.

WOODWARD: But the rest of the aircraft was a standard Constellation. Dressed up, of course, not like you would get on a passenger line. Good material, it was what you usually called continental green.

PANKRATZ: Continental green. And the Columbine III, now that was a special order wasn't it?

WOODWARD: That is a correct. That was a Super Connie. Which was bigger and really pushed up better. But it still had the continental green colors. The stateroom was much bigger, and behind the stateroom, was an area where they had kind of a dressing room, and their lavatory. And those were bigger to accommodate them and so forth, than just the standard issue of the Constellations.

PANKRATZ: You thought the Columbine III was quite an improvement over I and II?

WOODWARD: Oh, definitely. Yes, yes, it was a lot plusher and faster. Real nice. Much better galley equipment for preparing meals and so forth.

PANKRATZ: Okay, did you ever run into rough weather when you were flying with the President?

WOODWARD: Not very often, because the airlines and weather departments and so forth, would make sure we knew where every storm was. Our navigator, who was a Major Vincent Puglisi, would work us around all these different storms. So there was very few times we had much turbulence whatsoever.

PANKRATZ: So you did not have to worry about spilled meals and spilled drinks on the Columbine?

WOODWARD: Not from weather.

PANKRATZ: Not from weather. You had other spills though.

WOODWARD: Yes.

PANKRATZ: Okay. Did you take some overseas trips with Eisenhower when he was President?

WOODWARD: Yes, yes. Many overseas trips with the President aboard. Then we made many trips without Mr. Eisenhower aboard, when we would go abroad to pick up people, like Queen Elizabeth.

PANKRATZ: Okay.

WOODWARD: We would go abroad and pick up Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. We went abroad to pick up Sukarno of Indonesia.

PANKRATZ: Okay, now to pick up Queen Elizabeth, you went to England and brought her back from there?

WOODWARD: Yes, right.

PANKRATZ: Okay.

WOODWARD: Or actually we went to Bermuda. And she came from England to Bermuda on her yacht.

PANKRATZ: On the royal yacht, of course.

WOODWARD: Yes, we picked her up in Bermuda and flew her into Washington. But, Sukarno we went all the way to Indonesia to pick him up.

PANKRATZ: That was a long flight. That is half way around the world. Did he bring any people back with him, besides himself?

WOODWARD: Well, he had his regular staff with him. Same as when the President traveled, he had his staff, Sukarno had his staff along with him. One of the things I remember about the Sukarno trip was that President Sukarno liked duck eggs, but they had to be 100 years old. How they would do that they would take a duck egg, take it when it was raw and bury it in a special type of sand that is found in Indonesia. It would stay there for 100 years. Then they would bring it back out, and they would cook it just like you would boil an egg for ourselves.

PANKRATZ: Uh-huh.

WOODWARD: It would be like a regular chicken egg except it was much bigger, of course, much older than any one of us serving it. It was a delicacy. So those are the types of things it was my job to find out before we would go and pick up any royalty--what their favorite meals were.

PANKRATZ: I see.

WOODWARD: And try and get that meal for them. We tried to make life aboard the Columbine as if they were on their yacht or on their own Presidential compounds. That was one of the odd things I had run across in the years of traveling. We had a little trouble finding them, but once we got to Indonesia, we got it and served it. He was real pleased with it. He did not think he would see that for awhile.

PANKRATZ: So you found 100 year old duck eggs.

WOODWARD: Yes.

PANKRATZ: And served them. My goodness. You mentioned I think that you went to Saudi Arabia?

WOODWARD: Yes, we went to Saudi Arabia to pick up King Saud. He had a young son, who had some type of disease, but it was a disease that could not be treated over there in Arabia. The only place they had real competent people was at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC. We picked up King Saud and his entourage, and his son, and brought them into Washington. His son was treated, and we flew him back to Saudi Arabia after the treatments.

PANKRATZ: You said he brought some body guards along with him?

WOODWARD: He had two Gurkha's, guards. They were huge men. Big barrel-chested men, and they were dressed in their Arabian uniforms with the head wraps.

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Mecca. So I would go back and say, "Sir, east is this way this time", or something like that, so he would know what way to kneel and pray.

PANKRATZ: Did he have any special kind of foods that you had to prepare?

WOODWARD: No, he was satisfied with the American food we would serve. Steaks, mostly steaks, most of our passengers were satisfied with steaks or regular American food.

PANKRATZ: I see.

WOODWARD: Sukarno was the only one that we had any problem with-- finding something special.

PANKRATZ: Yeah, 100 year old duck eggs I imagine would be kind of rare. Do you recall being on the flight from Bermuda to New York in December of '53? Eisenhower had gone to Bermuda for a conference, I believe it was with Churchill.

WOODWARD: Yeah.

PANKRATZ: And a French leader who I do not recall right now. On the flight from Bermuda to New York, he supposedly wrote his Atoms for Peace Speech. I was just wondering if you recall that particular flight?

WOODWARD: There was not a trip that either General Eisenhower as Supreme Commander of NATO or Mr. Eisenhower as President went that I was not there. I made every one.

PANKRATZ: So you would have been on that flight?

WOODWARD: Yes.

PANKRATZ: Okay, I was just wondering.

WOODWARD: I also made all of the trips that the Columbine or Air Force I, after we got the new jet, made when they went to pick up visitors to bring them back in to visit the President. My job was always with the aircraft unless I was called to the White House which was very seldom. So no matter where Columbine went or Air Force I, I was also there.

PANKRATZ: Now you say, "Air Force I", that is what they started calling the jet when that was used?

WOODWARD: That is right. Somebody up there in charge of making big decisions decided it was about time we got a way from private named aircraft, such as we had the Sacred Cow for Truman. I mean Independence for Truman, Sacred Cow for Roosevelt, then three Columbines. They decided well, from now on everything is going to be called Air Force I. All of them were designated Air Force I from the very beginning, yet they had their own private name which a lot of people referred to.

PANKRATZ: I see. So the Columbines were considered Air Force I.

WOODWARD: That is correct.

PANKRATZ: Any time the President was flying in them.

WOODWARD: That is right.

PANKRATZ: Okay, now this was a Boeing 707, is that the first jet?

WOODWARD: Air Force I was the first jet, the Boeing 707.

PANKRATZ: He used that on some international trips, didn't he?

WOODWARD: Yes, in fact Columbine III was retired, and Airforce I was the only one he used when he went anywhere after that.

PANKRATZ: This was like '59 and '60,

WOODWARD: That should be about right.

PANKRATZ: When he starts using the jet.

WOODWARD: So long ago, my memory leaves me. We made two trips with Queen Elizabeth. One time we went to Bermuda to pick her up. One time she came to visit with the President, we flew her around the United States, kind of a good will tour. On another trip we made we went to pick up King Frederik and Queen Ingrid of Denmark. We brought them into the United States, and took them on a tour of the United States, to the big cities. That was the time--you made the reference the other day to a citation. I couldn't think about it, but that was a citation, I got a citation from the King of Denmark.

PANKRATZ: Oh, really.

WOODWARD: When he landed in Washington and went up on the podium to be with the President, after he gave his introduction speech and so forth, he turned to the President and says, "I have just decorated your steward." He handed me this little white box with a medal in it.

He said, "I have given him this medal as a citation." It was probably the second highest award given by the Danish Government. It can only be given by the King, just like our Congressional Medal of Honor. The only problem with that is it has never been approved by Congress, therefore, I could never wear it on my uniform.

PANKRATZ: Oh, okay.

WOODWARD: So I still have the medal and the certificates and all that it came with, but, it is still not recognized. So I can't do anything with it, other than just show it to people once in awhile, and say, "This is it."

PANKRATZ: I see. So a foreign decoration has to be approved by Congress before you can

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WOODWARD: Before you can wear it on a uniform. That is correct.

PANKRATZ: Okay. I have heard that Mamie Eisenhower was not real fond of flying.

WOODWARD: No, she had a little phobia about flying, although she had great confidence in Colonel Draper and his crew, but she still was a little bit skittish about flying. One of my main jobs was to make her comfortable and keep her entertained.

PANKRATZ: How did you keep her entertained?

WOODWARD: Well, she was very easy to get along with. You could talk to Mrs. Eisenhower, you could talk about the grandchildren, or something that has happened to her, or

something that she is going to visit. Kind of keep her talking, keep her mind off flying. Then the trip would be successful as far as what she was concerned or the President was concerned. We did not give her time to worry about what was going to happen. We kept her busy, talking and so forth. I was good at that, I talked about a lot of things.

PANKRATZ: Yes. Did you ever play cards?

WOODWARD: Not with the Eisenhower's, no. You have a certain walk in life. I exceeded my walk in life many times in the course of my duties, but it was the right place at the right time.

PANKRATZ: The other day you mentioned something about the time when Eisenhower introduced you to Queen Elizabeth?

WOODWARD: Oh yes, this was after the second tour with Queen Elizabeth, we had gotten to know each other real well. Because one of my mainstays in greeting and talking to heads of states and dignitaries was that I would find out about their children or grandchildren or maybe their hobbies. Then I would go back and I would talk to them on a level like you and I are talking right now. So it would get their mind off the affairs of state, and things would come out. We never talked about things like—they were going to meet the President, you should do this or that and so forth. It was just general conversation to kind of break down the walls and to make them feel at home. So I got fairly well acquainted with the Queen. In fact, it got to the point on our second trip where we were swapping. I was giving her Eisenhower matches and Columbine matches, she was giving me matches from her yacht and so forth. We were

talking about our children and her children. And we made this trip to England, and we were staying at her castle there. I went along as the valet part to the President, and he introduced his staff. He had John Eisenhower with him at the time with Barbara. He introduced John and Barbara, he introduced General Snyder, his physician. Then he went to introduce me, and he said, "Your majesty, I would like to have you meet, ah," couple "ah's" came out, every time he said, "ah," his face got a little redder. He finally says, "Damm it, his name is Woody." The Queen, very graciously says, "Yes, Mr. President, Sergeant Woodward and I have met before", and smoothed it all over. But the "Woody" came from when I first started with Mr. Eisenhower as general in NATO. It was "sergeant", just "sergeant", because I was a staff sergeant at the time. Before we left France before he came back to run for the Presidency, he promoted me up to a tech sergeant which is the next step up. He got tired of saying "sergeant," "Sergeant Woodward", so he found out I had a nickname of Woody. So everything after that was, "Woody, would you do this, Woody, would you do that." When we came back and he ran for President then and promoted me to master sergeant and then senior master sergeant. Which is the rank of retirement.

PANKRATZ: I see.

WOODWARD: So "Woody" got to be the nickname. A lot of times you can think of the nickname, and you can't think of their real name.

PANKRATZ: As well as other heads of state, you occasionally would haul some of our own government dignitaries around, didn't you? Even when the President was not flying?

WOODWARD: Right. We made one trip similar to this. We took General Ridgway. Let me retract that. It was not General Ridgway. Well, we made a trip to the Philippines. The general in the Philippines, our American general, I cannot think of his name. . .

PANKRATZ: I don't think I can recall it either.

WOODWARD: He went as a good will Ambassador, as Mr. Eisenhower's representative to the celebration of the election of the new Philippine government.

PANKRATZ: I see.

WOODWARD: We were over there, and we were staying there in Manila. It was Marcos, President Marcos was elected as the head of the Philippine government. We went over as Mr. Eisenhower's representative, and took the General along, and stayed at Marcos' palace. All I had was uniforms, and that night we had a big soiree with the dancing, with the big meals and so forth. President Marcos and Imelda Marcos made sure that I had the Philippine dress shirt which is a beautiful dress shirt of lace and everything else on it. I got three of them before I left there. I still have them, I still wear them once in awhile. They went out and bought the dress pants and dress shirt and all that. So I was out of uniform for awhile, or in uniform whatever the case may be, for the big soiree that they had for MacArthur.

PANKRATZ: Oh, oh! It was MacArthur.

WOODWARD: Yes.

PANKRATZ: Oh, okay, all right.

WOODWARD: See, if I think long enough, it will come back.

PANKRATZ: But I imagine there were times when you also ferried White House officials around, just around the country.

WOODWARD: Yes, they hopefully got the same treatment that the President would get, they were the VIP's.

PANKRATZ: On the Columbine you normally had two stewards as well, then?

WOODWARD: That is right. We had two stewards on Air Force I as well.

PANKRATZ: Do you have any flight in particular while Eisenhower was President that stands out as the most memorable one or most significant to you?

WOODWARD: Not really.

PANKRATZ: You made so many.

WOODWARD: Well, every flight was significant, regardless if we had Mr. Eisenhower aboard or a representing body of Mr. Eisenhower, or if we went somewhere to pick up some dignitaries. To me they were all great, because I had the chance of meeting face to face with all the great people of the world. That is something, I can sit back and look at it now and say, "Very few people have ever done this."

PANKRATZ: When you were serving the President on any of these flights, did you ever hear him discussing serious matters with other people, while you were serving?

WOODWARD: Oh yes. As I told you the other day, when I first started when Mr. Eisenhower, when he was General, and we went to the NATO conferences and so forth, 12 original NATO countries. I heard all the things that were being talked about, NATO defense and all that. Even after he came back and was President, many things were discussed in the stateroom, or in hotels where we stayed, it was one of my duties to be within earshot of the President in case he needed me. I heard many of these. They found out that all I had was an interim Top Secret clearance, they immediately got the wheels rolling and got me a Cosmic Top Secret clearance. Of course, by that time, well, I had heard many secrets. I guess I did not blab them because I am still alive.

PANKRATZ: Yes, did you sort of train yourself to not pick up on these things?

WOODWARD: I trained myself to let it go in one ear and out the other, like when your wife talks to you and you do not want to listen.

PANKRATZ: So what you were really listened for was the President's call to you?

WOODWARD: In case he needed me.

PANKRATZ: In case he needed you, and you kind of let the other stuff go.

WOODWARD: That is right.

PANKRATZ: Were the President and Mamie fairly informal with the crew once you were all on the plane?

WOODWARD: Yes, they were. They went out of their way to make it easy for the entire crew to feel at home with them. That was one of the great things I admired about the Eisenhower's was that they took care of the people who worked for them. They were very down to earth, and so forth. A kind of funny story happened one time when he was NATO Commander. We were flying somewhere, and he called me back to the stateroom, he wanted something. I went back. Just outside the stateroom sat a two-star general, he was part of the staff, new on the staff. He said, "Sergeant." I said, "I will be right with you, sir." I went to find out what General Eisenhower wanted and went back up to the galley to get the coffee he wanted and so forth, and brought it back. This general stopped me again, and said, "Sergeant, I want something." I ignored him and walked on into the stateroom. As I went back to do something else, this general said, "Sergeant, I told you I wanted something." About that time, Mr. Eisenhower spoke up and said, "Woody, would you come back here a minute." "Yes sir." "Would you have General," so and so, "come back with you." So I told the general that General Eisenhower wanted to see him. We get back in the stateroom, and he turns to this two-star general, he says, called him by name, "Now I know you are new on my staff, but I want you to remember one thing, Woody is my valet, my sergeant, and my steward." He said, "Woody does what I want him to do. Now if you have some complaint against Woody," he said, "you come to me, and if I think he needs to speak with you I will talk to him. I want you to remember that." That is the kind of man he was. He made sure that you had one master, and you were accepted and

treated by all the staff, regardless what your rank was, as an equal. Of course, this general went back to his seat, after that, in fact, we got to be friends. That was Mr. Eisenhower's way of saying "hands off" and make you feel at home.

PANKRATZ: So they weren't all pulling rank on you.

WOODWARD: That is right.

PANKRATZ: Do you know if Eisenhower ever went up to the cockpit on any of the Columbines?

WOODWARD: Yes, he would go up many times. He would talk to Colonel Draper, Colonel Thomas, and Major Puglisi, our navigator, or talk to the two engineers. He kind of liked it up there.

PANKRATZ: Did he ever sit in the seat, the pilot seat.

WOODWARD: Yes.

PANKRATZ: They did not ever let him take the controls though?

WOODWARD: He took the controls on the co-pilot seat. Colonel Draper would maintain control, but he would turn the controls over to the General and so forth. Of course, it was like when my dad would let me drive the car, he still had control over the power of the mechanisms and so forth.

PANKRATZ: So Draper still had his hands on the controls, but Eisenhower could kind of get the feel . . .

WOODWARD: Get the feel of things.

PANKRATZ: Get the feel of the plane because he had been a small plane pilot at one time.

WOODWARD: Yes, I guess he was during the Philippines.

PANKRATZ: Philippines.

WOODWARD: The General or the President went up there many times. And Mamie would go up there.

PANKRATZ: Oh, Mamie went up to the cockpit.

WOODWARD: Oh, yeah. Because it was a way for Colonel Draper to make her feel good about a flight. She could see the operations and see what was going on. Now she never sat in the pilot, or co-pilot seat.

PANKRATZ: Okay.

WOODWARD: She would stand there and watch what was going on, and they would explain the different panels and instruments and so forth to her.

PANKRATZ: I see. Now that is interesting.

WOODWARD: They enjoyed it. They felt like we were all part of a big family.

PANKRATZ: Now, after Eisenhower left the Presidency, in January 61, did you stay with the Air Force there?

WOODWARD: I stayed with the Air Force there and flew a couple of missions with the new President, John F. Kennedy, to train his stewards about decorum and so forth. I made two trips with Mr. Kennedy. I then went back to normal duties. Then the Secret Service called and wanted to know if I could be assigned to Vice President Johnson. Vice-President Johnson was going on a six week tour around the world. Mr. Johnson was a very hard man to keep tract of. He would try to sneak away from Secret Service. He did not like the Secret Service, and he would try and sneak away from them. They wanted somebody along to keep--kind of be an interim spy, to keep the Secret Service aware when Mr. Johnson would sneak off somewhere. So they wanted to know if I would take over the same duties with Mr. Johnson as I did with Mr. Kennedy, and of course, our President Eisenhower. Sure I will be glad to, because it gave me a job to do. I made the round the world tour with Mr. Johnson, and I did the same things for him that I would do for the President--laid out his clothing and so forth. He was a difficult man. We went around the world, we hit places like Bangkok, and so forth, just before the monsoon season would hit. It was bitterly hot and sweaty over there, and Mr. Johnson has a problem when he perspires, he gets a skin poisoning.

PANKRATZ: Oh, really.

WOODWARD: They did not pack enough clothes for him to take care of this kind of thing. Because he had to have a complete change of clothes, sometimes two or three times a day.

PANKRATZ: Uh-huh.

WOODWARD: So one of the things I did, I would get on what we call singleside band, which is a communication devise on the aircraft. I would call the next military air base we were going into and order a complete change of clothes for the Vice-President. Give them sizes and what I needed and so forth. So when we landed there would be a suitcase full of clothes, and a hanging bag with suits and all that. I kept him supplied all the way around the world with clean clothes without having to wash any. We got back into Bermuda where they stop, and they threw a big soiree for the crew that went with him, and the press plane and so forth. He called each person up there, each newsman and so forth and gave a little talk about him. He said, "Thank you for taking us. . ." and all this. I was informed by his chief of staff that I would be the last one called. Fine with me, so when I was called, he said, "Now I want to have you meet a man, Master Sergeant, Senior Master Sergeant, Jack Woodward who I just now found out brought me back 15 suitcases full of clothes, and I started out with six. And how he took care of me all during the trip". He made a nice big speech and so forth. Patted me on the back, and everytime he would pat you on the back you would almost go to your knees because he was such a big man. Powerful, and he gave a nice long talk about me and all that, and so forth. He made me feel real good and presented me with a watch. On this watch, and the face of it had the initials, "LBJ", but around the circumference of the watch it said, "Do onto others as you would have them do onto you".

PANKRATZ: Oh, really.

WOODWARD: I still have the watch. It does not run anymore, I have never taken it back and had it fixed. He, at that time, wanted me to go live with him in Washington. He wanted me

to go out to his house in Washington and be his valet and be with him constantly, twenty-four hours a day. And I made the remark, "Well, Mr. Johnson, I have a family and home in Washington." And typical L.B. Johnson, he said, "I don't give a damn what you've got. I want you to come out and live with me."

PANKRATZ: Oh really!

WOODWARD: And I started the old noggin working then and went a number of times out there. I made a couple of other trips with him, but I worked a young airman in that was real anxious to get somewhere in the Air Force. I kept shoving him into taking care of Mr. Johnson as a valet, and I put in for retirement. I was going to be a thirty-year man, I got out with twenty-five. When my retirement came up I was always afraid that Johnson would do something about it to stop it, but he didn't. He'd taken a liking to this other young man and that was my scapegoat, and I got out of the service.

PANKRATZ: Okay. You didn't have the same relationship with Johnson then that you had developed with Eisenhower?

WOODWARD: No, no. I was very respectable of Mr. Johnson and so forth and did everything he wanted. In fact, probably did it too good, that's why he wanted me to go up and live in his house with him, which just wasn't my cup of tea. Lady Bird was a very nice person, she was a lot like Mrs. Eisenhower. She was genteel, and quiet . . .

[Interruption]

PANKRATZ: Did you participate in moving any of Eisenhower's things out to Abilene after he left office in '61?

WOODWARD: Well, part of my job once we went to a hotel or anyplace like that, other than normal routine jobs I did, was to find out what gifts were coming in and make sure after they were presented to the President and so forth, that they would come to me. And I would catalog them along with the staff. I had my own records and the staff had their records, but we would always coordinate to make sure we got the right name, the right people, the right place. When everything got back into Washington, why then we would get together at the White House and compare notes, and then gifts and so forth would be shipped out here to Abilene.

PANKRATZ: I see.

WOODWARD: So I would follow that all the way from the time of the acceptance of the gift until it was shipped out here.

PANKRATZ: Okay. And so some of the things came out here, some of the things stayed at the White House.

WOODWARD: That's right.

PANKRATZ: Or with the President. You didn't ever make any of the trips out to Abilene though?

WOODWARD: No, I never made any of the trips out to Abilene.

PANKRATZ: Now when Khrushchev visited in '59, was he flown on the Columbine at any time?

WOODWARD: Yes, yes.

PANKRATZ: When he made his trip to the West Coast were you with him?

WOODWARD: Yes, I was.

PANKRATZ: How was he to serve?

WOODWARD: Well, I liked the gentlemen. I can't say there was really one person I ever disliked. But I didn't cotton to Johnson because of his bull-in-the-china-cabinet type of carrying-ons. He wanted everybody to know who he was, and what he was. But, Khrushchev was a little bit like Johnson. Khrushchev would really take off his shoe and pound it on the table when he wanted some attention and that was even aboard the Columbine.

PANKRATZ: On the plane?

WOODWARD: He would do that. He would be getting into conferences with his staff, and so forth, and if someone disagreed with him, the first thing to come off was his shoe, and he would pound the table with the heel.

PANKRATZ: So that was a typical way of expressing himself, then?

WOODWARD: That was a typical Khrushchev maneuver. Instead of him beating his fist on the table, he would beat a shoe on the table.

PANKRATZ: I see.

WOODWARD: But he was a likeable type of guy. He was like a bull-in-the-china cabinet, a big man, but he was likeable, he was very jovial. He took me by surprise, because I never expected Russians to be that way. I figured that they were like big Russian bears, and growled all the time, but he was real nice.

PANKRATZ: Did you serve him just regular, standard American food?

WOODWARD: Yes. He enjoyed the Kansas steaks and so forth. The best steaks and so forth. That is what he wanted.

PANKRATZ: That is what he wanted.

WOODWARD: It is universal, everyone you flew would enjoy a good steak dinner.

[END]