

Oral History Interview  
Abram Forney  
May 13, 1964

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MR. BARBASH: Mr. Forney, would you please identify yourself and tell us your relationship to Dwight Eisenhower?

MR. FORNEY: My relationship with Dwight Eisenhower dates back many years. We were both near the same age, as I am two years and two days older than Dwight and my early remembrance of him was being in the same Sunday school class. During my school vacation at the age of twelve, I worked at the [Belle Springs] Creamery in the east section of Abilene. It was Dwight's job to come to the Creamery each day, either on foot or horseback, bring a gallon can in which he took home a gallon of buttermilk. Dwight's father was the engineer and, also, in charge of the milk receiving department, and on occasions substituted as butter-maker.

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MR. FORNEY: Nearly all the Creamery employees, having sons able to do the work, hired them during school vacations to work in the creamery. I remember one such school vacation in 1906 where Dwight and I were employees on the same job. He had the night shift, which didn't require quite as much as work on the day shift. Dwight was receiving \$32.50 a month and the company paid me \$35.00 a month because the day shift had considerably more work to do serving the delivery—ice delivery wagons and the neighboring towns who purchased ice there, transferring it to their own locations.

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MR. BARBASH: Mr. Forney, could you, please, tell us under what circumstances you became—you went to work at the Belle Springs Creamery?

MR. FORNEY: This dates back to about 1904 where I was in High School at the time. I chose to leave High School in my sophomore year and took a position with the creamery with about a year's work in the different capacities in the butter room, the engine room, and the ice room, when I was given a job in the office as shipping clerk. Of course, in today's category that job would have been called sort of a traffic manager. I had charged of all the shipments of butter both local, express, and carload.