

INTERVIEW WITH
Nancy Jensen McCarty

by

John E. Wickman
Director

on

October, 1971

for

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library



Gift of Personal Statement

Nancy McCarty

to the

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This is an interview with 1st Lt. Nancy Jensen McCarty in October, 1971. The interviewer is Dr. John Wickman.

DR. WICKMAN: Let's start then with that as the first question--. You want to start with where you were born and all the rest of it.

MRS. McCARTY: I was born in Oakland, California. And do you want my former name?

DR. WICKMAN: Sure, the whole thing.

MRS. McCARTY: Nancy Ann Jensen was my birth name.

DR. WICKMAN: You lived in Oakland until--



MRS. McCARTY: Oh, heavens, my parents moved many times during my youth, about eighteen or twenty times. So we didn't live in Oakland too very long. My father was in the Army and he traveled around with the Army to different states, Texas and Georgia. Then he went overseas. And my mother and I lived with her parents in the state of Washington. And my father came back from overseas. Then we moved to California and he had several different jobs, and we moved around the country.

DR. WICKMAN: When were you born, Nancy?

McCARTY: 1940, December, New Year's Eve.

WICKMAN: New Year's Eve, very good. Where did you go to school then? Where did you go to high school?

McCARTY: Well, my first year of high school was at Redondo Beach.

WICKMAN: Just all over then.

McCARTY: Right. I had three years at three different high schools.

WICKMAN: I see. Well, that gets you through there. You went to high school. College, where?

McCARTY: I went to three colleges also. But I graduated from the University of Washington, in Seattle, Washington.

WICKMAN: With a B.A.?

McCARTY: Right, business administration.

WICKMAN: And then what did you do?


McCARTY: Ah, let's see-- All along, I worked my way through



college, and I worked after high school, and I worked for civil service, as a matter of fact.

WICKMAN: Doing what?

MCCARTY: I worked at different jobs in the summers. I worked for the Veterans' Administration and the Bureau of Indian Affairs and several places. I worked for the Chamber of Commerce in San Mateo. And I worked for a contracting company, the same company that built the arch out here, [St. Louis] Fruin-Colnon, worked for them for about two years. I got my degree in 1966, and at that time I decided to look for a job that wasn't a secretarial job. I was tired of being just a secretary with really no responsibilities, although I had worked for the vice-president of this contracting company and some other people who were managers, and who were really more in the administration end than in the clerical end of a business. So I looked around and I looked everywhere and I found it was awfully hard for me to get a job being an administrative assistant or anything more than a secretary, because I had so much secretarial experience. So I decided that I would go into the Air Force.



WICKMAN: And what was the year when you entered the Air Force?

MCCARTY: That was 1967, in February. And in February I went to their officer training school down in Texas and I graduated from there and was commissioned in April. I went to my first base which was Vandenberg Air Force Base; it was a missile base.

WICKMAN: Vandenberg is out where?

MCCARTY: Near Santa Barbara, California. And I was there until September of the same year '67, when I went to procurement school, which was a course that you must take before you can become a procurement officer, which I was at the time. And while I was at procurement school I got a call from the Personnel Headquarters, Air Force at Randolph Air Force Base; they asked me if I wanted to volunteer for a special assignment.

[Interruption]



WICKMAN: . . . volunteer, for a special assignment.

MCCARTY: I've told this story so many times, and I'm trying to not to forget anything.

WICKMAN: Yes, I could tell you--let me tell you part of the story connected with this. When we knew that Lillian [Rusty' Brown] was going to go, I'm sure I was up at Gettysburg and [Robert L.] Schulz and I talked about what they were going to do. And he wanted me to try to find somebody through GSA and the National Archives, and I said it couldn't be done because there was no way at that time, and even now, there is no way that you could screen these applicants without telling them why you wanted to do it. And I suggested he go to the military, and at first he didn't want to do that because they had not been involved with any military people as far as secretaries were concerned since NATO, and he just didn't want to do it. And so we went around on this little bit and I finally convinced him that that way they could do some screening, you know, and he'd be getting people of good quality, and they would be able to go quite a ways with them because they've got quite a file. And your field checks have been done and you can do more without ever really having to tell anybody you know, if you just were able to get at it. So that's how part of that got started.



MCCARTY: I always wondered how they decided on the military; I really did. And I asked them a couple of times but they didn't tell me that you had suggested it. They just said that they had tried everything and the people that wanted to work with the General would have to travel, and most people just don't want to leave their families and don't want to leave an area.

WICKMAN: Yes, this was the other problem I pointed to them, that they couldn't get anyone, probably for the kind of money they were talking about, to relocate from Washington, especially a woman, who might be married or might not. If you're going to look for quality first, you just can't say she's got to be single, because you might not be able to find what you want. And so that seemed to be the best way to go. Yes, that was very interesting and it came up in about August, I think, of '67 and started working away. Well, go ahead tell the story again.

MCCARTY: Well, at the time, they didn't tell me exactly what I was volunteering for--I believe it was a Colonel Elliott that had called me. I was interested in the Air Force

and I was interested in having a special assignment. It would be very exciting, whatever it would be. Of course, I wanted to know what it was. And at the time, he told me that they had three women, that they would have to decide between us, and that if I was chosen to represent the Air Force on this special assignment, then he would let me know. But was I interested? I was interested doing something new, something different, and I wasn't too interested in procurement, since that wasn't what I had gone into the Air Force to do.

WICKMAN: Now when did you first find out what it was they wanted you to do?

McCARTY: It was the next time that he called back; it couldn't have been more than about two or three days later. He called back and said that I had been chosen to represent the Air Force and I would have to go for an interview for this job. So I asked him what the job was and he told me and I was just stunned--really I just couldn't believe it! And he told me I would have to fly out to Gettysburg and have an interview. So I did.



WICKMAN: Do you remember what day that was? Or month?

McCARTY: It was the General's birthday.

WICKMAN: October 14, 1967. O.K.

McCARTY: I went to the office that day and I was greeted by MSgt. Noel Stoffel who took me out to be interviewed by General Schulz. And General Schulz was very busy that day because General Eisenhower was having an interview, and it was a big day and there was a lot of commotion going on. But General Schulz had me take some dictation and do some typing to see about my skills, which I did up in the attic there.

WICKMAN: Some from him, from Schulz?

McCARTY: From General Schulz, yes. And I really only met the General, General Eisenhower, himself for about five minutes that day because he was all tied up and everyone was so busy.

WICKMAN: Can you recall that, any reactions?

McCARTY: Yes, I remember. General Schulz took me in and introduced me to General Eisenhower. I didn't know what to



do; I didn't know whether to salute because I had my uniform on or to say "hi" or "hello"--it was just awesome. It's hard to say--what do you say to a President or former President and the General of the Armies? I just can't even remember what I said except that when I left--half-way out of his office I remembered it was his birthday and I turned around and I said, "Oh, yes, sir, I want to remind you, happy birthday." It seemed silly at the time.

WICKMAN: What did he say?



McCARTY: Oh, he just said, "Thank you" and smiled.

WICKMAN: Then what happened--now we got the interview?

McCARTY: Then I went back to Lowry Air Force Base to the procurement school, and I was told by General Schulz that they would let me know if I had been chosen. And it wasn't too very long after that; it was only another two or three days, that I was called and told that I had the job and to hurry up and get there right away. So I did. I made all my arrangements. I flew out to Vandenberg Air Force Base, and had all my things shipped, and got my travel money and flew

back to Lowry and picked up my car, and then drove across the states to Pennsylvania.

WICKMAN: Now you get to Gettysburg. Did you live in Gettysburg while you were there?

MCCARTY: The first month I was there I lived in a little motel across the street.

WICKMAN: You came out in November.

MCCARTY: Right. Because we were just going to be leaving the 28th of November, I believe. We left to go to Palm Desert. So there wasn't really any need to set up any kind of housekeeping and besides, all of my things were being shipped and wouldn't be there until after I arrived in California.

WICKMAN: In November you came on the train going west out to Palm Desert.

MCCARTY: Right.

WICKMAN: O.K. Let's talk a little bit, because the first month that you were there, until you got back from California, that was the only time that you spent at Gettysburg, wasn't it?

You were there and you went to Palm Desert, and you were out there until May and you came back.

MCCARTY: Right. And I stayed there until almost October.

WICKMAN: Yes. Well, let's talk about the office in Gettysburg for a minute, while the General was still active and was still there in that month, if you can. You worked as General Eisenhower's private secretary, right?

MCCARTY: Personal secretary.

WICKMAN: So what did you do as personal secretary?



MCCARTY: Actually the first two weeks I was there, Miss Brown was there. And she was orienting me to the job and bringing in the mail, and telling me just all kinds of things about the General and how his daily schedule worked, and people that I should be aware of that were friends, and a little bit about the staff and some of the things that they would do in relation to what my duties were. And, oh, just various little things that she did as his personal secretary that I would be taking over.

WICKMAN: Let's try for a typical day in that early period if we can, just to see what happens. You got down to the office when?

McCARTY: Eight o'clock. I was always there at eight o'clock.

WICKMAN: O.K., and then what did you do?

McCARTY: And the General was always there at eight o'clock. And I can't remember too well that first month. It seems like I was learning so much; I really don't remember that period as well as I remember Palm Desert when I was there by myself.

WICKMAN: All right, let me ask you this question then. You might want to think about it a minute or two but, in schedule, was there a great deal of difference between Gettysburg and Palm Desert? Do you think it was pretty much the same?

McCARTY: It was pretty much the same.



WICKMAN: Came in at eight and did these certain things.

McCARTY: Right.

WICKMAN: O.K. Let's try this then. Your position in relation to the other staff up at Gettysburg--can you go over that--in other words you were the General's personal secretary, General Schulz was--

MCCARTY: He was what I would call, an executive assistant.

WICKMAN: Which meant that he ran the office?

MCCARTY: Exactly.

WICKMAN: Was there a direct--of course I know part of the answer to this question--

MCCARTY: That's all right.

WICKMAN:--but was there a direct relationship then between General Schulz and you in a kind of a hierarchial sense or not?

MCCARTY: In some ways there was. It depends on what type of duties we were talking about. For instance, if it was scheduling appointments for the General, then I always worked with General Schulz. And General Schulz, that was his line; he always took care of that. And even though the appointments



may come into me first, or through me or someone would contact me instead of General Schulz, I always gave that over to General Schulz to let him decide, because he knew the people, most of the time. And he knew more about the General's desires about participating in some programs, than I knew.

WICKMAN: And Ethel Wetzel was Schulz's secretary?

McCARTY: Right.

WICKMAN: That gets that straightened out. O.K. Now where were the areas of your discretion then, outside of scheduling. We'll put the scheduling aside for a minute, appointments, now what?

McCARTY: Well, that would be exactly what did I do?

WICKMAN: Yes. At what points did you not need Schulz's supervision, is what I'm trying to get at?



McCARTY: Well, let's see.

WICKMAN: If you took a letter from General Eisenhower, O.K., what happened then? You got the letter in dictation.

McCARTY: Then I would just go and type it up.

WICKMAN: You'd type it up, O.K., and you'd send copies out to file?

McCARTY: Oh, yes.

WICKMAN: O.K., and then the letter would go back to the General for signature?

McCARTY: Well, first the letter would go to the General because he might have a change.

WICKMAN: General Eisenhower?



McCARTY: General Eisenhower. I would type everything for him and then put it on his desk and I would keep the copies in my office. And if he changed his mind or if I made a mistake, then I would come back and retype the letter and retype the copies. And when it was signed, then I would send the copies on, usually noting how it was signed. We usually liked to note how the General signed it--his full signature or his initials or whatever.

WICKMAN: Now at this point, now the copy goes to file. Now did General Schulz see those letters before General Eisenhower signed them?

MCCARTY: I don't know if he did in Gettysburg, because a lot of the times he was in the office before I was and he could have gone in the General's office and looked at the letters if he wanted to.

WICKMAN: I just meant as a matter of procedure--I mean this is possible, but as a matter of procedure he didn't.

MCCARTY: Well, no, I don't believe so. In Palm Desert I know he didn't, because all the letters were mailed from California so they were mailed out before he saw them. So at that time I really--it's hard for me to say for those four weeks because I was trying to learn--and Rusty did a lot. But as far as I can remember, I don't believe General Schulz had any say over the General's letters.

WICKMAN: Now how about contact with Mrs. Eisenhower then in this same period? Did you do any work for her? How did they handle her correspondence?

McCARTY: If I remember correctly, I did a few letters for her, but it was a matter of merely just typing a courtesy note or a courtesy letter to individuals that she really didn't know personally, that Miss Brown had done for her in the past. But I had never gone out to the farm and taken any dictation from Mrs. Eisenhower, at that time.

WICKMAN: Did you ever go out to the farm at all before you left for California?

McCARTY: Once I went out to the gate, but I never was inside the farm, never really went out there.

WICKMAN: You mean you went out after hours or something?

McCARTY: Well, on Sunday or sometime, just to see it.

WICKMAN: That's what I meant: they didn't take you to the gate.

McCARTY: Right. I believe one day, the first few days I was there, someone took me out. But it was raining very hard and I didn't go inside; I just sat in the car and someone else went inside. I think it was General Schulz or maybe Miss Brown. But I have never been inside the farm.



WICKMAN: You have never been inside, to this day?

McCARTY: No, to this day.

WICKMAN: That's very interesting. O.K. Let's stick with this typical day for a minute if we can--you've done dictation and typing now. About what time did you break then, or the General, break for lunch?

McCARTY: The General always had a little break about ten to ten-thirty for a snack, which was usually tea and crackers and cheese or cookies. He said that his doctor wanted him to have this break in the morning and in the afternoon to curb his appetite for lunch, and then he would eat a lighter lunch. And the way our usual day went, which is probably what you want to know, is that--eight o'clock the General would come in and we'd have dictation until about ten, and he would have his tea and we'd sit and chat then. That was my favorite time.

WICKMAN: What did you talk about?



McCARTY: Oh, we'd talk about just anything. Usually I liked to listen to him talk about his grandchildren because he

really loved them so much. And he always told little stories about them that were so cute, and he would be so proud and get so tickled by their adventures.

WICKMAN: Was he working on anything at that time? Was he working on a book or anything? Articles? I can't remember.

MCCARTY: Yes, he was working on a book about the Russians. I don't believe it had a title. But he did a lot more work on it when we got out to California--then he would set aside time to work on his book--three or four days a week, we'd spend the afternoon doing that work. And he was working on articles for the Reader's Digest, too; we did several of those.

WICKMAN: All right, so you--

MCCARTY: So at ten-thirty we would have our tea, and then we'd go back to a little dictation. It'd depend. Sometimes General Schulz had things for the General and he would come in or maybe the General would have appointments. Then, during that time, I would go back and type up things that he had given me, and go home for lunch. And he usually would have a nap after lunch and come back about two o'clock. Then he would dictate again. And between that time I would try to



type what he had dictated in the morning, to give to him to see and to sign. He would look them over and sign them or change or whatever. And then in the afternoon, he would either work on more correspondence, but more usually, on articles or his book or some letters that maybe he wanted to write that weren't really in response to any incoming letters, but things that he wanted to say to other people.

WICKMAN: About what time would he quit in the afternoon?

MCCARTY: About five o'clock. In fact, I believe the first day I was there, he told me that I must make him go home at five because if I didn't; he'd sometimes get carried away and forget the time, and that his doctor had told him to maintain an easy schedule.

WICKMAN: Now was this schedule at that time, in the fall of '67, was this five days a week, six days a week, or what?

MCCARTY: In the fall, I believe it was five, but when we got out to California it was five and a half. He liked to work on Saturday mornings.



WICKMAN: Then you had Saturday and Sunday off in Gettysburg, I mean, at the end of the week--

McCARTY: Yes, right.

WICKMAN:--you were, there wasn't anything you had to do on Saturdays and Sundays?

McCARTY: Not that I remember. No, in fact the staff did a lot of work.

WICKMAN: Was the staff there on Saturdays? Was Schulz there?

McCARTY: General Schulz came in at a lot of different times, different hours and different days and he might have been there on some Saturdays to catch up; I don't really remember.

WICKMAN: O.K. So then you went out to California in November and on the train, which must have been something different.

McCARTY: Right. We had one thing that happened on the train that I thought was funny--you know we had the Secret Service waiting at all the little stops to greet the train and to make sure that nothing went wrong I suppose. And when we



came to Abilene two Secret Service men had been expecting the train a little earlier than the time that it arrived--

WICKMAN: I see this is the liquor store robbery, I remember that, yes.

MCCARTY:--Yes, that was so funny I've always gotten a charge out of that.

WICKMAN: It was very funny. Yes, Secret Service apprehending the people that robbed the liquor store. Well, now let's see, George [E.] Allen was on that train too, on that trip as I recall, or at least a part of it.

MCCARTY: That's right, yes, he was, I'd forgotten about that.

WICKMAN: Well, did the General try to maintain a schedule on the train? Did you work on the train--try to get anything done on the train?

MCCARTY: Yes, we wrote about ten or fifteen thank-you notes for things that people had given the General when he left, bon voyage gifts and things like that. Candy and flowers and fruit, but that's all; we didn't really do any work.



WICKMAN: Was it single car--you were all housed in a single car or two cars or what? Do you remember?

MCCARTY: I believe that we had two cars. The General had his car with the dining room and the kitchen all in one and the bedroom, all theirs. And we were all in the next car.

WICKMAN: And when you say "we," who--

MCCARTY: Oh, the Secret Service and General Schulz and myself and Delores and Moaney. [Sgt. and Mrs. John Moaney]

WICKMAN: Now, Schulz went out on this trip with him?

MCCARTY: Yes, all the way.

WICKMAN: And anybody else besides Delores and Moaney?

MCCARTY: The train nurse stayed with us occasionally but she just rather visited and was close to the General, and particularly the time that we went over the mountains, the highest part of the mountains she stayed right near the General. I believe Mr. Allen did come but I believe he stayed in their train, their section.



WICKMAN: O.K. So you went out and you did some work on the train but mostly rode.

MCCARTY: Right, mostly rode.

WICKMAN: Was the General ill on that trip, on the way out?

MCCARTY: No, no, not at all. I believe the height of the mountains made him tired, a little tired. But that's about all.

WICKMAN: What kind of a schedule did they maintain on the train? Just get up for breakfast, lunch, do that kind of thing?

MCCARTY: Well, it was just a meal schedule, really, and I think, if I remember right, one day I took some dictation from Mrs. Eisenhower on some thank-you notes and it was about ten-thirty; it was very relaxed. We didn't really do much of anything.

WICKMAN: Then we get you out to California on that thing-- now what have we got? Give me your reactions, impressions of this when you were finally off the train.



MCCARTY: I was really surprised when we got off the train that all those people were there. I just hadn't expected it, I guess, because when we left--

WICKMAN: This is the first contact you had had with the public image.

MCCARTY: Right, I was just--

WICKMAN: So you got off and then what did you do?

MCCARTY: Well, then we had to make some arrangements about who was going in whose car to drive to Palm Desert. And I went with the Secret Service agents. Freeman Gosden, I believe, had come to greet the General, and I can't remember anyone else.

WICKMAN: That's O.K. We can dig that; that comes out of correspondence we have, you know, there are notes and things and whatnot, and pictures and newspaper stories that actually cover the arrival. But what I'm more interested in is what did you do then? I mean now I've got you in a car; I've got you headed towards Palm Desert; where did you go?

MCCARTY: Well, I went to the ranch.

WICKMAN: You went right to the ranch. O.K.



McCARTY: Well, I went to the ranch.

WICKMAN: You went right to the ranch, O.K.

McCARTY: Right.

WICKMAN: And Schulz set up the office probably.

McCARTY: Yes. I met Jackie [Jacqueline] Cochran and Mr. [Floyd B.] Odlum and this staff there. They showed me where my room was, which was right next to the office. And they had the office pretty well set up. I had my typewriter which I had taken out on the train. Well, we had several typewriters, the one we had taken out on the train with us, of course. Then there was a man from General Services who came out to make sure that the office was just what we needed.

WICKMAN: Probably Charley Ratchford. [Ed. Note - Ratchford - Gettysburg GSA?]



McCARTY: Right. I've been trying to think of his name for so many days here. Anyway, he came out and I believe we ordered some lights and maybe some little things; I can't remember exactly.

WICKMAN: How did the ranch strike you? How did Jackie Cochran strike you as far as that goes?

McCARTY: Well, I had never lived or been around people that are so affluent. And I can't just--could never imagine myself being around people who live on such vast estates with grapefruit groves and their own golf course and all this--it was really interesting. The whole thing was just like a movie or, you know, a dream, really. In fact my whole experience with General Eisenhower now seems like a dream; it seems like it didn't really happen at all. It's just something--

WICKMAN: Well, it was short. Well, now you got to set up a schedule of work there; I assume that you just simply fell into the General's schedule--

McCARTY: Right.



WICKMAN:--got up every morning. Did you go to the house for breakfast? You did not, did you?

McCARTY: No, I'm not a breakfast person. I found however, when we first got there, that I started getting behind because I wasn't--well, the staff wasn't there, and I wasn't accustomed

to opening the mail and knowing--first of all I wasn't accustomed to this volume of mail that suddenly appeared at our doorstep because the staff had taken care of that in Gettysburg. And that just overwhelmed me right at the start. But one of those Secret Service agents came with the General, and he opened the mail for me, and he was able to help me a lot in discerning whose letters are letters from friends and letters that should be answered personally.

WICKMAN: And you didn't have the Kardex out there, did you?

MCCARTY: Yes, I had brought that. But it took a long time--in fact he had to use the Kardex too. After all, there were thousands of names in that file. We both always had to check and see if this was the same person with the same name or a different person, maybe someone that the General didn't know. But that was really a shock. I never realized how many letters--it's so easy to say that a hundred people write in, but when you see one hundred letters actually lying there all stamped and sealed and ready for opening; it's overwhelming.

WICKMAN: Then the hundred will be there tomorrow too.



MCCARTY: That's right, and it just never let up.

WICKMAN: Now they did get a lady in to help you, didn't they?

MCCARTY: She helped me with General Eisenhower's book.

WICKMAN: What was her name; do you remember? She'll probably show up in the records, on the personnel records that I got from Schulz.

MCCARTY: Oh, she was the nicest lady; I wish I could remember her name. She worked so hard for me and was a nice addition to the office.

WICKMAN: Now this was the book that he didn't finish. This was the book on the--I think that temporarily they called it The Coalitions, didn't they, or some such thing? But anyway he didn't finish it; that's the point. O.K. So you got in there; you opened the mail; now you ran just about the same schedule you had at Gettysburg. The General came down at about the--

MCCARTY: There was one little difference here in that now I saw the mail when it came in, and prior to that time General Schulz took all the incoming mail into the General. So that



in October when I went in to take dictation I had no idea what the letter was about. I didn't know what he was answering or who he was writing to. But now it was a different story-- now I saw the letter and read it and knew what the man was asking for or what they were speaking about, and then I gave it to the General. And I would try to give it to him in importance, either by friend or by topic. So it was a little different. But what I started to say was--I got behind because Christmas came. It was 1 December when we got there and Christmas came along, and all these gifts came in plus a lot of letters and a lot of cards and things. And my day didn't start at eight o'clock after a while; my day started about five. And I tried to get up and beat the General to his office, you know, by typing and having all my things that I had taken the day before all typed up and ready to go, and all the mail laid out. So it wouldn't take him so long, and then I wouldn't get behind.

WICKMAN: So now we still have him coming in around eight and then you have dictation; you run roughly the same schedule as Gettysburg.



MCCARTY: Right. We had our tea at ten to ten-thirty, and the General would go home for lunch around twelve. And the only difference was that sometimes in the afternoon he wouldn't come back; he'd play golf, or spend the afternoon with Mr. Gosden, or relax at home.

WICKMAN: Then what did you do in the afternoon?

MCCARTY: I typed like crazy. And then some days he would come back in the afternoon, and we'd work on the book until about five or five-thirty.

WICKMAN: And then at five-thirty what did you do?

MCCARTY: Five-thirty, I usually tried to finish typing. It sounds like I was awfully slow; I guess I was, but I tried never to make a mistake in a letter; I tried to make it letter perfect. So several times I would wind up typing the same letter about twenty-five times.

WICKMAN: What about dinner?



MCCARTY: Oh, Miss Cochran had dinner. She always arranged dinner at seven o'clock, and I would go up at seven o'clock and eat with them every day, except on the weekends. And

oftentimes they had visitors there. For one month they had [Col. Charles E.] Chuck Yeager, he's a general now. He's a test pilot and a good friend of Miss Cochran's. And Dr. [Edward] Teller was at dinner one time, inventor of the atom bomb, and a lot of really interesting people. I was really--just sat there in awe a lot of times because they were intelligent, affluent, and just out of my class.

WICKMAN: Did you find this confining? We got you working from five A.M. in the morning till you know--

McCARTY: Well, I found it tiring because I would get exhausted. But I found it so interesting, all these things that are just history to me, we would write about. The General would write some letters; he was helping his son write his book on the Battle of the Bulge, and he would write some things that he remembered. He had a phenomenal memory, he could remember where he was on a certain day at a specific time, and sometimes he even remembered what he had for lunch that day.

WICKMAN: What did you do about the scheduling of appointments out in California? When you were back in Gettysburg Schulz took care of that.



McCARTY: Well, in California it was a lot, lot more relaxed. He didn't really do as much work as in the way of interviews and television--I don't know what you call it--television interviews and things like that. But oftentimes people would contact General Schulz, and they had set up one television short, I guess you call it, for population control, and I didn't really know too much about it. General Schulz just called me and said the General had agreed on it, on such and such a day that they would come out and film this.

WICKMAN: Well, this is really the burden of my question. How did you set up a schedule for him--people contact you or did General Eisenhower say, "I've got so and so coming at nine", or what actually happened there; can you remember?

McCARTY: Well, mostly they contacted me but I just worked personally--I worked with personal friends, and I knew that the General wanted to see them and I would ask him, "Can you see--?" "Would you like to see--?" whoever was coming.

WICKMAN: So you set up the schedule?



McCARTY: Mostly. But when they weren't personal friends,

oftentimes I would be told by General Schulz that people were coming through like the King of Denmark, I believe, came one day and I didn't really know too much about it. All I knew was to put it on his schedule for a certain day. So it was sort of a half and half.

WICKMAN: Right. Did you get over to the house in Palm Desert? Over to the Eldorado?

MCCARTY: Yes, there were some days that I would go over and take dictation from Mrs. Eisenhower. I started doing a lot of her work, and it was mostly after Christmas. Christmas was really--a lot of gifts came in and a lot of thank-yous went out, and it was really too much for either one of them to do by themselves. So I went over and that's when--I believe the lady's name was Mrs. Hix--that's when Mrs. Hix came a little after that, because I started getting bogged down trying to do hers and his too.

WICKMAN: Now what did she do, primarily? She just worked on the manuscript of the book--Mrs. Hix?

MCCARTY: She did Mrs. Eisenhower's letters. And we took



appointments for Mrs. Eisenhower too. People wanted her to go and speak at different luncheons or go to different meetings and things--the governor came one day, and they were having a dinner, and they wanted Mrs. Eisenhower to be there and the General.

WICKMAN: When you worked with General Eisenhower on the book-- how did he work? Did you start with a pencil draft or an ink draft or what?

MCCARTY: That's where Mrs. Hix came in awfully handy--she typed and typed and typed. I'd take dictation, and then I would type it up for her to retype later.

WICKMAN: He would dictate the book?

MCCARTY: Right. And there were some times when he quoted from various books, and I would type, maybe, two or three lines from a book. Then we'd give it to the General; it'd be two or three pages, double-space typed. And if he corrected on those pages, then Mrs. Hix would retype it for me; so I didn't have to bother with that. But I would do the original typing where his first creative thoughts were, because I had taken the dictation.



WICKMAN: And then you simply would redraft.

McCARTY: Redraft and redraft.

WICKMAN: He did a lot of redrafting.

McCARTY: Well, sometimes he would rearrange his thoughts, and change what he wanted to say, and I think it would give him new ideas--he'd think of a whole new line of thought on maybe one paragraph that he'd said that he hadn't thought of. Then he'd dictate maybe another two pages developing this thought more. Then we would scratch out all the rest and redraft and insert what he had written into wherever he wanted it to belong.

WICKMAN: We've gone through a fairly typical day in California and got the situation set up where you were living at Jackie Cochran's ranch. You were out there from November, December, January, February, March, April--you apparently had no social life at all.

McCARTY: No, actually I did. I had met some people out there that I used to see on weekends.



WICKMAN: Oh, friends that you had before you with General Eisenhower?

MCCARTY: No, I met one man through a fellow that worked in office equipment where Mr. Ratchford and we all went down, and General Schulz--we went down to this equipment store--stationery store and office equipment--we had bought some things down there, and also we opened an account so that I could have my supplies and glue and pencils. And that man felt that I might like to meet some nice young men in the neighborhood so he invited me over to his home one time, and I met a nice young man. The Secret Service also had little get-togethers, and we were all learning to play the guitar. We'd get together and play our guitars and chit chat.

WICKMAN: This is fairly important--I know about this--but it's fairly important because it is a question later on about you know what kind of social life can you possibly maintain in this rather unusual setting, because I'm sure you found that there were a lot of people in Palm Desert or Indio who would have been delighted to have you over all the time because you're General Eisenhower's secretary, right?



MCCARTY: Oh, yes. I had a lot of people call me. I had couple of magazines call me and ask me to have interviews and write articles and all that sort of business, and I just wasn't interested at all. Getting back to what my day was and how I felt about that, and was I tired and was it a lot of work and all that--I remember thinking when the General had his heart attack, thinking about all the work that we had done from December to April. And all that time, the time went so fast because everything was so interesting; it wasn't the drudgery kind of secretarial work that I was trying to get away from when I had joined the Air Force. It was just an entirely different, different way of working even though it was the same type of work; it's so hard to describe. It's just that all the events that we were writing about, and all the things that occurred were so important--they were so important to the world, really, and important to today. But my day went so fast I didn't have time to think about whether I was tired or whether I was not going to go out or, you know, think about myself.

WICKMAN: Yes, I see. But anyway we have established that you

did have some kind of social life of your own so you were able to get out.

McCARTY: Yes. And the secretary for Miss Cochran and Mr. Odlum also lived the same type of life that I--

WICKMAN: Which one was this?

McCARTY: Amy Low. She and I had the same, almost exact same type of life. We worked almost the same hours.

WICKMAN: Did you ever get together with Amy? Did you ever see her?

McCARTY: Always. We became good friends. We'd go and have lunch together; a lot of times I'd be prone to skip lunch to try to type that last letter or you know, try to keep up with the work.

WICKMAN: Where would you go for lunch?

McCARTY: We'd go down to the corner about a mile away. There was an Italian restaurant and we'd go in there sometimes and have lasagna or we'd go to the chicken place there and have fried chicken. And she and I often went out on Saturdays and Sundays. We'd



go together and take the car and go up to the mountains or go sightseeing. She was a terrific person and a good friend. Sometimes she would even help me work.

WICKMAN: Before General Eisenhower had his heart attack, that sequence, he was fairly busy, if I remember correctly. He had a lot of things scheduled. I know he was at the golf tournament [Bob Hope Desert Classic] they had out there.

MCCARTY: Right.

WICKMAN: And one of the things I was just going to ask you-- before he had that heart attack did he seem to be wearing down at all?

MCCARTY: No, not to me. Well, so many things had happened that year that were so wonderful--he had been nominated in the Gallop Poll as the most popular man which was really--we were just thrilled.

WICKMAN: How did he feel about that?

MCCARTY: Oh, he never was very, oh, I don't know what to say, egotistical or something; he just didn't have that quality. He was very humble and just--I don't have any words to really



describe how he was. I can't remember his exact comments, but I remember saying to him--everything always excited me because I was just, you know--

WICKMAN: You were there, and he was different, and you were young.

McCARTY: That's right. Everything to me was just so important and so exciting and I would always go in to him and say, "Oh, look, what happened! You've been nominated this and that!" He was very pleased, very pleased inside, but he wasn't overly enthused to the point where he was egotistical. He just would say that was awfully nice and pleased that some people have thought that much of him and this and that. And of course I would just still be in my own little world of excitement, just beaming away. And he also had a way of smiling that I always thought of as a beam. You say a person is beaming, like their whole face is smiling, he would do that too, occasionally when something good happened like that. And the other thing that happened that was so wonderful was this hole-in-one. Oh, he was thrilled about that! So the whole time that we were out there he had very few off days.



WICKMAN: If I remember correctly at that time any painting he did, he did at home, didn't he?

McCARTY: Yes.

WICKMAN: He had the easel set up at home.

McCARTY: Yes, he did his painting.

WICKMAN: Well, can you reconstruct the--

[Interruption]

McCARTY: . . . another thing I did was I monitored telephone calls, and made a log of all the conversations and telephone calls.

WICKMAN: Oh, you monitored the phone calls, and that is fairly important as a procedural matter. Were you on another phone?

McCARTY: Yes, an extension phone where I could listen without being heard on the line.

WICKMAN: Did you do that at Gettysburg or just Palm Desert?

McCARTY: Both places.



WICKMAN: Did you make notes or just verbatim or what?

McCARTY: It depended on the subject. Sometimes I heard a lot of things about the Vietnam War that I didn't think really should be revealed, so I just made sketchy notes about troop movements and unimportant things.

WICKMAN: What did you do with the transcription of those?

McCARTY: Well, I typed them up at night, every night, and I kept a log. I did it by time also, by date and time. And I wrote--

WICKMAN: Then where did it go?

McCARTY: I kept it in a book, I believe.




WICKMAN: You kept it in a book, but where did the book go then?

McCARTY: Don't you have it?

WICKMAN: Yes, but that's the reason for the question, yes, I have it, but the importance of the question is that you know we're kind of establishing here that what you kept is

what I've got. And so that's why I asked you where it went. In other words, did you turn this in to General Eisenhower? Did he have this book; you just kept it.

McCARTY: No, he never looked at it; to my knowledge he never looked at it. It was just something that came with the duties of the office. When I arrived it was something that Miss Brown did--she told me that I would do. And I did and we did it every day, kept a log of all the calls and the conversations. And it just stayed with the office, really. As far as I was concerned when I left, it stayed there. Another thing was his diary. He told me that his doctors wanted him to start a diary so that it would be a record of his medications. But actually, it became a little diary of his thoughts of the day sometimes and things that had happened that were interesting to him. So I kept that until he had his heart attack. That was new as far as I was concerned. Miss Brown hadn't done that or if she had, I didn't know of it, because it was only about the first week I was there, just he and I, that he said, "Oh, yes, there's something that I want to start and that's a diary."



WICKMAN: Let's reconstruct the day again of this heart attack business--how did you find out the General had a heart attack? Where were you? Were you in your apartment at the ranch?

McCARTY: Let me think now--

WICKMAN: Was 1968.

McCARTY: I can't remember for sure, but I think the General might have been not feeling well the night before or tired. Sometimes the Secret Service agents would clue me if the General wasn't feeling well or was angry about something.

WICKMAN: I think he was at home when he had it, if I remember right.

McCARTY: Oh, it's coming back to me a little bit now. The General was sick out there one time; he had the flu. He had the flu for about two or three days and that was before his heart attack; was it January, February, might have been in March; I can't remember exactly. And I remember going out there and taking some of his letters to be signed. He had



sort of a cold, flu-cold kind of thing a couple of days. Now I get that confused with the day that he had his heart attack.

WICKMAN: Well, that was in May. That was further on. You can't remember that?

MCCARTY: I'd have to really think about it.

WICKMAN: Yes, well, that's one we can pick up next time. You can think about that a little bit; we can always go back to it. When he had his heart attack, he was taken to March Field Air Force Base?

MCCARTY: Yes.



WICKMAN: Do you remember if it was right away? Remember that? Did they take him right over to March?

MCCARTY: No, it was several hours because they had sent a helicopter over.

WICKMAN: Yes. General Schulz came out at that point or not? Probably not, he probably got over to March before Schulz could get out.

MCCARTY: I believe he did. I believe the General was home for

an afternoon after his attack. I think he was home that entire day, and then he had his heart attack in the afternoon and the doctor had come--and it didn't go away that's all I--I remember thinking that it didn't just go away--he wasn't getting better.

WICKMAN: You say the doctor came; was it an army doctor, or private physician?

MCCARTY: I believe it was a private physician.

WICKMAN: I'm sure it will show someplace else. All right, after he had the heart attack and went to March, when was the next time you saw him? Did you see him in the hospital at March Air Force Base or not? I'm trying to establish where you were during this period of time?

MCCARTY: I don't believe--



WICKMAN: You didn't see him at March at all?

MCCARTY: I don't believe I saw him at all--in fact I believe there were only about two people that could see him in the hospital.

WICKMAN: When was the next time you did see him?

MCCARTY: I saw him at Walter Reed [Army Hospital].

WICKMAN: O.K., he went to March, and from March he went to Walter Reed, and you didn't see him again until he was in Walter Reed?

MCCARTY: That's right.

WICKMAN: About how long was that?

MCCARTY: Oh, gee, let me think.

WICKMAN: Two weeks, three weeks, a month? I think he was transferred sometime--

MCCARTY: It was the fifteenth of May that he flew because we had planned our trip; Mrs. Eisenhower had planned her train trip so that she would arrive there on the day that he would arrive. And our train trip was about three days.

WICKMAN: So what were you doing in that time; you were getting that train trip organized then probably, was that right?

MCCARTY: Actually, I believe General Schulz did the transportation arrangements; he made all those arrangements and we just got on the train.



WICKMAN: But you can't remember what you did in this, after the General--

MCCARTY: What I did between the time that he died?

WICKMAN: No, what I meant is--what you did between the time that he was at March and you saw him?

MCCARTY: When he had his heart attack--well, for one thing we had to close the office up. When the General left, at first when the General left for March AFB--it didn't--it was hard to know whether he was coming back or how serious it was, and we stayed at the office for about five days. And then General Schulz decided we better close the office up because tons of mail was coming in to the hospital at March. So we closed up the office. And I went up to March and I stayed there where the Secret Service stayed in the BOQs [Bachelor Officer's Quarters]. I had a little office in the hospital and I did my work in there and I also did work for Mrs. Eisenhower. And the way it seemed to work was, we had a lot of letters going out to people acknowledging their messages of condolence and so on. And a lot of people were writing to Mrs. Eisenhower, to get to the General, sort of, you know, and so I would go in and take

dictation from her and do her letters and also letters that had come in for her. So I spent all day every day just doing that type of work, typing and things like that.

WICKMAN: I see. All right, so you close down the office and you all head back East. Did you go back to Gettysburg? Or go right to Walter Reed?

MCCARTY: I went to Gettysburg.

WICKMAN: All right, and what did you do there?



MCCARTY: Oh, then I got an apartment and got all my furniture and everything settled in there. And Mrs. Eisenhower was at Walter Reed. She had a room there. Let me see how we started exactly well, there were different periods between the General's heart attacks. There were some periods when he was very--seemed very well, and he liked to do his letters, to dictate I should say.

WICKMAN: You went down then to Walter Reed from Gettysburg?

MCCARTY: Right.

WICKMAN: On an irregular basis, first?

MCCARTY: There were times when I went down for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, all the time. Then there was a period when I was down there for several weeks at a time; it was after General Eisenhower had another one of his heart attacks, and we started getting all the mail down there. General Schulz set up an office in Walter Reed.

WICKMAN: Right, in the annex.

MCCARTY: Right. In a way, I came and went as I pleased; in a way I didn't; it depended on how the General felt. When the General was ill and couldn't see anyone; well, there wasn't really too much work to do, although I would take Mrs. Eisenhower's dictation.

WICKMAN: This business about having the two offices is somewhat interesting. In this period of time you were half the time working with Mrs. Eisenhower's correspondence.

MCCARTY: I'd say more than half.

WICKMAN: --and then the rest of it you were still doing whatever the General could do, when he could do it. Did anyone else handle his dictation in this period of time?



MCCARTY: Well, oftentimes General Schulz took notes and he would give them to Mrs. Wetzel, and it was rather like dictation. The General would say, "Don't forget, Bob, send a note to so and so about this and that," and then he'd come back, and Mrs. Wetzel would make up a letter and they'd send it out. And I believe on a couple of occasions he came down to me and said the General would like to send a letter to so and so, and I'd just make up a letter.

WICKMAN: So we've got you going down three days a week or whatever, at some periods of time. Did you ever stay all the time down at the hospital?



MCCARTY: The Secret Service had some apartments across the street from the hospital there. And there was a period of about a month to six weeks, that was right in October, there, in September and October, that I stayed down there because the General had had his later, about four heart attacks, I believe, by that time. And there was just an awful lot of mail and a lot of people who wanted to contact the General and who tried to do so by writing to Mrs. Eisenhower. And so she took almost his full load. In fact I'd say she had all

of his correspondence because now everyone was writing to her, and she was trying to answer back. So I stayed there for about a month.

WICKMAN: For about a month down at Walter Reed?

McCARTY: It was about a month or six weeks in the same building that the Secret Service were in.

WICKMAN: When did you leave the staff?

McCARTY: I left in October.

WICKMAN: October of '68? I thought it was later than that.

McCARTY: No, it must have been '6--, was that '68?



WICKMAN: Yes, because he had his heart attack in '68.

McCARTY: That's right, it was a year; I was with them a year. One year.

WICKMAN: Just a year? And left in October.

McCARTY: Yes.

WICKMAN: Now when you left--let's try to establish that too--

did you leave voluntarily or were you reassigned or how did they handle it? It wasn't a tour of duty; that's the point. It's got to be terminated some way; the question is how was it terminated?

MCCARTY: You sure you want to have this on tape?

WICKMAN: When you left, you left in October of '68 and then now what was the assignment you went to?

MCCARTY: Then I went right to personnel school in Biloxi, and my assignment was actually to Travis Air Force Base where I was to work in the personnel career field. Actually I became the WAF Squadron Commander, after I was there a couple of weeks, because the former commander had left and they needed a replacement. But I did get into personnel eventually.

WICKMAN: And how long were you at Travis?

MCCARTY: I was there about two years.

WICKMAN: And that's where you met your husband.

MCCARTY: Right.



WICKMAN: You got married when?

McCARTY: November 15 in '70.

WICKMAN: Let's go back then to one other thing--the schedule in the hospital. On the days that the General was up to it--what was this about two or three hours of dictation spread over a day, a half hour or what?

McCARTY: It was hardly even that; it was about a half an hour a day maybe an hour at the most.

WICKMAN: Did you take your work back to Gettysburg or do it over in the annex?

McCARTY: I did it in the annex.



WICKMAN: And then had it ready for his signature.

McCARTY: Right. I always tried to do it as fast as I could.

WICKMAN: And that didn't vary much till you left.

McCARTY: I can't remember; there were some times that no one saw the General for several days, long period of time--

WICKMAN: What did you do then when you--

MCCARTY: Then I took Mrs. Eisenhower's dictation; I spent a lot of time with Mrs. Eisenhower. And like I say, she took his whole correspondence load. After while, everybody wrote to her, just everybody, because they knew that the General wasn't answering correspondence. So they would write to her. And occasionally she would take the letters in or she would take word in to him, that people had expressed their concern and whatever they wrote about, some little interesting things that he might be interested to know about.

WICKMAN: What kind of impressions do you have left of how she reacted to suddenly having all this dumped on her?

MCCARTY: Oh, she's a trooper, if you want to use the word. She just took it all and just did it. We just did it, as much as we could. She did; she worked hard at it all and--

WICKMAN: That's very interesting 'cause you know--even you know for the year you were there, and as I know for a longer period of time she was fairly well in the background for most of their married life. And not in the sense that she



was out of sight; she wasn't, but correspondence and things of this kind was just something she didn't really have to get in to, and it's kind of interesting to see her rise to this whole thing. Did you meet John at all down there at the hospital?

MCCARTY: I had met him one day they came to say good-bye, I believe, to the General and Mrs. Eisenhower when they left to go to Palm Desert. And I believe I had met them for the first time that day, he and the children. Then I did see--it was Julie Nixon and David Eisenhower and Tricia Nixon along on one of the later days in the summer there at Walter Reed, when they had come to visit the General when he was feeling well.

WICKMAN: You were there for part of the political campaign of that year in Washington; was there an increase in activity?

MCCARTY: Well, I can't remember. It seemed like there were so many campaigns along during the year that people had asked the General to support them if they were, you know, in the party--that they would ask him to endorse the party in their state or their congressional district or whatever it was that



they were running for--it seemed just constant. I didn't really notice any surge. But it seemed that when people knew the General was so very ill, they did try to be concerned and they really did try to not tax him with any of these burdens.

WICKMAN: Good.

