

**Kate Thom Kelley Oral History Interview – JFK#1, 09/04/2003**  
Administrative Information

**Creator:** Kate Thom Kelley

**Interviewer:** Vicki Daitch

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**Biographical Note**

Kate Thom Kelley was the wife of Leonard Kelley, a comrade of John F. Kennedy's [JFK] from World War II and JFK's personal friend. This interview focuses on Kelley's personal anecdotes of JFK and the Kennedy family and stories about Kelley's marriages and children, among other topics.

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Kate Thom Kelley– JFK #1

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Oral History Interview

with

KATE THOM KELLEY

September 4, 2003  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania

by Vicki Daitch

For the John F. Kennedy Library

DAITCH: I'm going to just say that I'm Vicki Daitch, and I'm talking with Kate Kelley, who was friends with Jack Kennedy. We're at her home in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. You were telling me this story about how you met your current husband, Hilary [Jay Hilary Kelley].

KELLEY: Yes. Well, Hilary's father [Augustine Bernard Kelly] was in Congress for many years. He was a congressman from Pennsylvania. His office was directly across from Jack Kennedy's. There were times when I would be in the office with Jack when I would look across and see Hilary going in and out of his dad's office. I didn't know who he was. But then when I met him, I put two and two together. When I decided I to marry Hilary, I didn't tell Jack. I usually told him a lot. We'd talk on the phone. Hilary's father told Jack that I was going to marry Hil because Hilary's father knew we were friends. So when he found out, he called me, and he said, "Why didn't you tell me?" And I said, "Oh, I didn't think it would make that much difference." Then he sent me a lovely telegram wishing me a lot of luck. [Pause]

DAITCH: Okay, so I want to know about this meeting Hilary, who is lovely, by the way. Did Jack know him also?

KELLEY: Well, he knew Mr. Kelley, and he knew that Mr. Kelley had all these kids. I don't think he knew him personally, but he saw him going in and out of the office. After Hilary and I were married, we were in Washington. We went to Washington to visit Hilary's parents, who lived in Kenwood. And unbeknownst to me, Congressman Kelly had called his wife and said he was going to bring Jack out for dinner and surprise me.

So I had the two little kids with me: Lenny [Leonard Thom Kelley] was four, and Chrissy [Christine Thom Kelley] was two, and of course Hilary and I were newly married. Mr. Kelley came home, and sure and behold, Jack drove up in a car behind him. I was thrilled to see him. I hadn't seen him for a while. We had a lovely cocktail hour. But just about as we were to sit down for dinner, to his favorite lamb chops and chocolate mousse, he had a very bad coughing and sneezing attack. The Kelleys had a dog, and he was allergic. He was in such agony and discomfort, he left before dinner was served.

DAITCH: Oh, no.

KELLEY: As he was leaving, he asked me to come down to his office the next day and bring the kids, which I did. Of course all the stories will tell you he was unorganized and disorganized, and he could care less how he looks. We were going to walk over to the floor of the Congress, and Chrissy was just two, but I brought a big doll so that it would keep her from acting up and stuff.

Jack--we're walking over to the Congress, and Jack is dressed sloppy with old tennis shoes on. I couldn't believe it. He has Lenny by the hand, he's four years old. I have Chrissy by the hand and I'm carrying her doll. Chrissy started to cry. So Jack took the doll, and I picked up Chrissy and carried Chrissy. And that's the way we went into the Congress. Jack with the doll and Lenny and me with Chrissy in my arms. It was uneventful, but I had to leave because Chrissy, she was only two, was crying.

DAITCH: Yes, too young for that.

KELLEY: That was my first meeting with him after I married Hilary. Then we saw him.... He and Hilary seemed to get along, we went to his wedding together. When Jack, before the inauguration, if Jack was anywhere within this vicinity, like Pittsburgh or something, or when he got a doctorate at St. Vincent's, he called us and asked us if we'd be his guests. We walked in, we said to the usher, "We're the guests of the...." I don't know if he was a senator yet or if he was a congressman; I guess he was a senator. "We're guests of Senator Kennedy's."

He led us down into this big auditorium. The auditorium was full, but there must have been 20 seats that had nobody in them, and they were roped off. We were his only guests. So I don't know what made.... We were sitting in the middle. I don't know what made me say to Hilary, "Let's get up and move over to the end." I was so happy because instead of a procession coming down the middle, they came up the side aisle. As Jack approached where we were sitting, he stopped the whole procession, and he goes, "Boy, am I glad to see you two!"

When it was over, on the way out he stopped again at our seats, and he said, "There's going to be a little reception. I want you to stand in the line with me." We met him afterwards. It was kind of awkward, but we stood in the line with him while he greeted everybody from Greensburg. When it was all over he said to Hil, "Hey, Hil, what are you doing tomorrow?" And Hil said, "Well, I'm free, why?" He said, "Why don't you ride back to Washington with me?" Because he knew Hil's parents lived in Washington. So I came home alone, and Hilary rode back. They started to be good friends. They rode back to Washington together.

DAITCH: Oh, that's nice.

KELLEY: Another time I can remember it was a Sunday afternoon. We were sitting around just.... The kids were all here, and I was probably getting dinner, and the phone rang. I don't know where he was. But he said, "I'm going to be in Pittsburgh tonight. Do you think you could come in?" Of course, Hilary yelled out and said, "Do you think we could get in there?" And I said, "Yes, we could." So I got a babysitter, and we went in. Again, he was just dressed in street clothes. Everybody else was in black tie.

He said to Hil, "I'm not dressed for this." He said, "Can you take me back out to the plane?" So Hil drove him back out to the plane. He dressed in his black tie and ballet shoes, you know, his dancing shoes. He came back and that was the time I think that Stevenson [Adlai Ewing Stevenson] was running for the presidency, and Jack was trying to get on the ticket as the vice president. I'm not sure. But I think that's what it was. He had picked Kefauver [C. Estes Kefauver], and it was a down time for Jack. He was telling us about it, and he seemed very, very depressed.

DAITCH: Really?

KELLEY: Yes, he did. Another time when he came, we met him in Pittsburgh. They always gave him a big suite, we'd go up, and he had all this fruit and a bar set up. He wasn't going to stay very long because he was, you know, in and out, in and out. That was Jack, in and out. So we took him back to the plane after he spoke. As the plane was taxiing, I turned around, and there was a package he'd left on the seat. So I said, "Oh, my God! He left this big package on the seat." So I jumped out of the car. We were out on the tarmac because he was in a private plane.

DAITCH: Oh, right.

KELLEY: I'm waving down the plane, the plane stops, and Jack jumps out, and says, "What's wrong?" And I said, "You left this package in the back of the car." He said, "Oh, that's for Lenny. I brought those for Lenny." It was a gift for Lenny, and they were handmade modeled statues of each president of the United States from the beginning to Truman [Harry S. Truman].

DAITCH: Wow!

KELLEY: And Lenny now has them in his shadow boxes up in Alaska.

DAITCH: Oh, my gosh. That's wonderful.

KELLEY: Yes. You want to start?

DAITCH: Let me ask you about.... I want to go back to when you were saying that you thought he was depressed after the....

KELLEY: Kefauver, yes. He was very.... We were talking about it. We were just standing. I don't know what we were waiting for. But he and Hil were discussing what was going on in Washington, and Kefauver had just been picked as Stevenson's--and I think Jack had been trying to get it.

DAITCH: Yes, and you think he really.... Because I had heard some people say, oh, it was just a political thing to get his name out there. He really might not have wanted the vice presidency.

KELLEY: No, I think it was the first time in his life that he was denied something.

DAITCH: Really?

KELLEY: Don't quote me, but I think it was maybe. Knowing him, he was pretty down.

DAITCH: So he was used to getting his own way all the time?

KELLEY: I think he was never denied anything.

DAITCH: Yes, yes. But I think of a person like that who is never denied anything, and they can sort of afford to be charming; but then I think of a person who is sort of self-involved and self-centered and all that. Was he those things, too?

KELLEY: Jack was.

DAITCH: Was he?

KELLEY: Very self-centered.

DAITCH: But yet he's bringing Lenny this wonderful collection and things like that.

KELLEY: Yes, yes.

DAITCH: Sounds a little different.



KELLEY: Yes.

DAITCH: I mean at the same time he has time to think about this little boy who was how old at that time?

KELLEY: Well, no, Lenny was in high school then.

DAITCH: High school then, yes. But still. I mean he's the son of a friend. It's a nice thing to do. So, okay, so tell me, if he was self-centered, and he never didn't get his way, if I'm saying that right with my double negatives, but if he always got his way and he was self-involved, then what was so likable and charming about him?

KELLEY: Jack was very likable. He was friendly, and he was outgoing. He was sincere. He was a good friend, he was such a good friend. I just know that when Lenny [Leonard Jay Thom] died, he was, of all the PT men, there were several that came around, but Jack was the first, he called me. It wasn't too long after Lenny died, and I was shocked. My father said, "You're wanted on the phone." And I said, "Oh, Daddy, I can't take this call, I can't take any calls." He said, "I think you'll want to take this one." He said, "It's Jack Kennedy." So I said to Jack, "How did you know? How did you find out so quick?" He said one of his fraternity brothers called him from Columbus, Ohio, and it was Phi Delta Theta fraternity brother at Ohio State. Jack said one of his fraternity brothers had called. He said, "I just wanted to tell you I'm on my way."

DAITCH: Wow! That's really nice. That's one of the questions I was going to ask you is how was he? I mean was he there?

KELLEY: He arrived, he came in, and he just--he was so comfortable to be with, so human. We just hugged, and he told me how sorry.... He was teary-eyed, too. I mean he was broken up. He was just there.

DAITCH: Lenny was a good friend of his? I mean I know they were together on the PT boat.

KELLEY: They admired one another. They were what you call men's men, good friends. There was no facade on either of them in their friendship. Lenny admired him, and Jack admired Lenny, I'm sure he did. Everybody said he did.

DAITCH: Yes. Now what do you, about the two of them, what was complementary in terms of the way they....

KELLEY: I think he admired Jack's courage. I think he admired Jack's intellect because Lenny was an intellect. I think he admired the way Jack handled himself, his status in life, that Jack could interact with anyone and make anyone feel

comfortable, the way he treated his men on the boat. Lenny admired that. He treated them all with respect. I heard that over and over again. And I think he admired Lenny for his sports. Lenny was a great athlete. I just think they had a lot in common.

DAITCH: Mm hmmm. That was the first time they met was on the PT boat?

KELLEY: Lenny and Jack? Yes. They had been at Melville, but never at the same time. Melville, Rhode Island. And then Lenny was assigned to the boat.

DAITCH: So Lenny was assigned to Jack's boat. Jack didn't get to choose his crew mates probably.

KELLEY: No, Lenny was assigned.

DAITCH: They were lucky, really. And Lenny was like the second in command.

KELLEY: Executive officer.

DAITCH: Executive officer. So they were friendly from then on. Now after *PT-109* was lost, then did they continue their friendship? Were they serving on the same assignment again?

KELLEY: Jack came home. Jack was sent home. He came home in January or February of '44. Because he called me and introduced himself. That was the first I ever knew of him. He called me on the phone and he, when I picked up the phone, he said, "I want to speak to Kate Holway." I said, "This is she." He said, "You don't know me, but this is Jack Kennedy." Well, I'd heard about him from letters from Lenny. So we talked. Right off the bat he told me that Lenny was fine, he'd be home. Then he said, "Why don't you come down to Palm Beach? Why don't you come down?" Right away, he's always inviting you. Doesn't even know me, and he's saying....

So that's the first I met him. Lenny came home in May, and we were married in June, the 1st. We went to Newport, Rhode Island. Jack was in the hospital. I've heard that they say it was a naval hospital, but Lenny and I visited him in the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital.

DAITCH: Oh, really!

KELLEY: Yes.

DAITCH: In Rhode Island?

KELLEY: That's where we visited him, in Boston.

DAITCH: Oh, okay, and that was...?

KELLEY: Yes, we drove up from Melville. That's the first time I met him because he was lying in a.... He was very sick.

DAITCH: And when was that?

KELLEY: It was in the summer of 1944. The first time we went, we didn't stay long. The nurse said that it was.... But he was delighted to see us. The second time we went back, we went back with, I think, there was Al Webb[?] and Johnny Isles [John Isles] and Joe Atkinson [Joseph Atkinson] and Lenny and I. I remember an enlisted man drove us named McGuire. He was on the boat. The boys had been drinking beer on the way up. Of course by the time they got to the hospital, they were all hail and hearty. Jack was just shocked. It was a nice visit.

DAITCH: Yes. Did he find it amusing that they were all...?

KELLEY: Very amusing. Very amusing. And I know they were lying over the bed and on the bed, and Jack would say, "Don't let the nurse see you're drunk."

DAITCH: What was he in.... I mean was it the Addison's or malaria?

KELLEY: Oh, no, it was his back.

DAITCH: It was his back at that time?

KELLEY: He had been operated on for his back.

DAITCH: Yes, he did have back surgery around that time. But he had so many things going on!

KELLEY: I know, I know.

DAITCH: So how was he to you when you met him? Did he look frail or....

KELLEY: Very. The first time he looked very frail. He wasn't able to be sitting up. He didn't need visitors that first time. But he was glad to see us and delighted that we remembered him and came up to see him. But the second time they, the nurses, got him up and sat him in a chair, and he just was happy to see everybody. But they were acting up, and again it was embarrassing for him.

DAITCH: Do you think he was really embarrassed? Because I didn't think he embarrassed that easily.

KELLEY: Yes, I think he was because these are Navy.... They were loud.

DAITCH: Boisterous. Did anyone else have their wives along, or were you the only one?

KELLEY: No. In fact, Lenny was the only one married at that time. So I was the woman. I can remember when I first went to Rhode Island, to Melville, to Newport. We were in one room in a rooming house. Across the street was Mrs. O'Brien's boarding house where all the guys lived. There must have been 20 guys living there. A room opened up there, so Lenny and I moved over there. I was the only woman in that boarding house. Lenny had to stand outside the door so I could take a shower. I can remember Johnny Isles lost his bridge from his teeth, and we had to go out and empty the garbage. It was found.

DAITCH: It must have been entertaining.

KELLEY: It was a fun time. It was a fun time, but Lenny was the only one married.

DAITCH: Wow! I can imagine it must have been a little frustrating sometimes.

KELLEY: It was. It was fun.

DAITCH: Yes, it must have been. So were you surprised that Kennedy was sick? Because I'm thinking Kennedy's the commanding officer of this PT boat and all that. And no doubt that he did some sort of heroic things. I would have expected someone else. Were you surprised to find that he was frail, or did you already sort of know that from Lenny?

KELLEY: I knew a little bit because Lenny used to write in his letters that.... He called him "Shafty."

DAITCH: Shafty?

KELLEY: S-H-A-F-T-Y. And I guess he called him Shafty because he said he was shafted one time. I don't know whether that's the time he backed the boat into the pier or not. But that Shafty always had a bad back and wasn't well.

DAITCH: Awww. That just seems so sad to me to be out trying to....

KELLEY: That's what I said. The courage that man had was beyond what you'd think, really.

DAITCH: People say that he didn't talk about his illnesses or his back or anything.

KELLEY: He never did.

DAITCH: How could he not?

KELLEY: He never did. He never did. I never heard him complain. Never. But I saw, especially with the dog at the Kelleys that night, I saw that he was terribly allergic to dogs.

DAITCH: Oh, my gosh. Did we talk about that on the tape, or did we have the tape off when you were talking about it?

KELLEY: I don't really remember. But I do remember you asked me what Lenny wrote home about--and he said, "Well, Shafty got a bill from the Waldorf this morning, and he showed it to me, and you and I could live on it for a year."

DAITCH: I'll bet.

KELLEY: On what his bill was.

DAITCH: I'll bet. So tell me what your impressions were of him, to the extent that you can remember, your immediate impressions when you met him those first few times.

KELLEY: Well, I felt sorry for him. He was so sick. But I saw him gradually become more alive, especially later on in the summer when we went to Hyannis Port for the Labor Day weekend.

DAITCH: Yes? And what was that like?

KELLEY: You know, if I had a vignette of Jack, I would always picture him with old tennis shoes, no socks; khaki pants rolled up almost to below the knee; an old white button-down shirt open at the neck, rolled up at the sleeves; and a big Band-aid across his nose.

DAITCH: What's the Band-aid?

KELLEY: He didn't want his nose to get burned. By this time he'd been home for a month or so because it was Labor Day. And he was probably out sailing, probably out swimming, playing tennis. They had their own courts in the back of the house. He had this big Band-aid. He'd take it off for supper at night. And there'd be Jack with this big white mark of a Band-aid across here [his nose]. But that's the way I would characterize him. He seemed wonderful that weekend. We were there probably four days, and it was a wonderful, wonderful time.

DAITCH: Who else was there?

KELLEY: Well, Kick, his sister Kathleen [Kathleen Kennedy Hartington] had flown home

to be with her parents because Joe [Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.] had been killed three weeks earlier. Kathleen was the last person to see Joe alive. So she came home to tell her parents about Joe. His grandparents, Honey Fitz [John F. "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald] and his grandmother [Mary Hannon Fitzgerald], were there because they were there to comfort their daughter [Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy], who was Jack's mother. Teddy [Edward M. Kennedy] was there. He was only 12 or 13 years old. Bobby [Robert F. Kennedy] was there. He was a midshipman. He was running around in his little sailor suit. Eunice [Eunice Kennedy Shriver] and Pat [Patricia Kennedy Lawford] and Jean [Jean Kennedy Smith]. Barney Ross [George "Barney" Ross], Red Fay [Paul B. "Red" Fay, Jr.], Lenny and I. And Jewel and Jim Reed [James A. Reed]. And, of course, many neighbors coming and going, whom later I met at the wedding.

DAITCH: Oh, yes.

KELLEY: Some of the neighbors that kept coming in, I met them again at the wedding.

DAITCH: Were there any people that you knew of there? Because they had a fancy place up there and sort of big-name people that you would recognize.

KELLEY: No. Well, while I was there, Clare Boothe Luce came in for a few hours, and she was sitting in the living room with Mr. Kennedy [Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr.], and they were talking about something or other. I heard the name James Forrestal [James V. Forrestal] a lot. But I don't seem to think I saw him. I don't know why I heard that name.

DAITCH: Yes. Was Clare Booth Luce beautiful? I'd heard she was very magnetic.

KELLEY: I just saw her sitting in the living room. He did introduce her around, and she was very, very gracious, a very handsome woman. There were just generalities of How do you do? were exchanged, you know.

DAITCH: Right, right.

KELLEY: They were deep in conversation.

DAITCH: So what did you guys do?

KELLEY: In fact, I wasn't going to go because I was just pregnant, and I was so sick.

DAITCH: Oh, no.

KELLEY: I remember Lenny and Red Fay saying you have to go, and they were going through my drawers and trying to pack me a little case. And Lenny, "Don't forget her toothbrush and her toothpaste." And Red's going, "Hand me the

bathrobe.” And they were packing my.... I was just sick. So we went up in Red’s little convertible. We stopped several times so that I could get a sip of Coke or something. I think we stopped for lunch, and Red said.... I can remember him telling the waitress. I was only about a month pregnant. I didn’t even show. He’s going, “She has to eat for two.” And I’m going, Oh, God!

So we arrived early in the evening, I remember, and I was feeling pretty ill. I remember walking in, and there was a lot of confusion. We’re walking into this big family, and everybody’s being introduced. I remember his mother, as you walk in the door, the stairway and there’s a long hall and a vestibule and the stairway coming down. And she was very gracious. She’s very sweet. I was introduced to her, and she said, “You don’t feel well, do you?” And I said, “No.” So she said, “Let me show you to your room.”

So she took me up, and she showed me this room, and I think it was Eunice’s. It was just like one of my kids’ rooms, really. It had twin beds in it, one on each side of the room. Had a dresser, had a sink, I remember. One little window, and it opened out to the back on the tennis court. I can remember I was so impressed because there was Chanel #5 in the soap dish. Chanel #5. It was just nice. I was lying there, and Lenny came up with ice cold [ice cold!] milk. And I did feel better after I drank it.

Later on I knew it was ice cold because the Kennedy children liked their milk ice cold. So they would put it in the freezer. I remember Bobby even taking his and putting it back in ‘til crystals formed on it. But the milk, you know, ice cold; it just tasted so good.

So after a while we were all downstairs in the projection room in the basement. We were going to watch movies. I don’t know how they could ever watch a movie. They were critiquing the movie all through it, talking. It was a fun time. And that’s what I remember about the first night.

I didn’t get up until after Lenny left because that night before we all went to bed plans were made about what they were going to do the next day. It was always like that. The boys are going to do this, the girls will do this and that. But I waited until they left, and I went downstairs, Kick was there, Kathleen. Off the dining room there’s a little alcove right here, and she and I had breakfast, we talked. That’s about it. We just hung around all day and sat out on the patio. That was Saturday, I guess.

The next day was Sunday, the big race. All the men were racing. Mr. Kennedy was giving prizes. Everybody had a boat, and they had to go around the buoy. Don’t ask me. I’m not a sailor. But Eunice didn’t have anybody to be her crew.

DAITCH: Oh, no! And in your condition!

KELLEY: Have you ever been a crew?

DAITCH: No.

KELLEY: And more, I am pregnant. She is yelling, tack this way, tack that way. And then she’d yell, “Move! Move!” You know what? I thought she was going to throw me overboard, and I was hoping she would. Guess what? We won the race.

DAITCH: No! Really?

KELLEY: It was just her way. That's the way she is. Oh, she was so excited. She's hugging me and kissing me and jumping up and down. And here I thought she was angry with me, no, we won the race. There was always something going on. We all went to Mass at St. Francis Xavier's. It wasn't too far from the house because we walked around the back and went through a couple of walks, went in the side door. Because I know that Jack had said and even Kathleen had said, knew I was Catholic: So you'll go to Mass with us in the morning. Suppertime was a big affair, a big, big affair. The dining room table was a block long, formally set. The maids were dressed to the hilt.

DAITCH: Really!

KELLEY: And behind Mrs. Kennedy was her butler.

DAITCH: Wow!

KELLEY: With his white gloves.

DAITCH: Really! Because I'm thinking informal, vacation.

KELLEY: No, no. This is suppertime!

DAITCH: Wow!

KELLEY: And Daddy comes down in his dress jacket and his silk pants. Everybody was dressed to. We were told to dress.

DAITCH: I was going to ask if you if you knew ahead of time.

KELLEY: We were told. Well, thank God Lenny put in a couple of nice dresses. It was fun. That's all we did was eat and play games at the table. Daddy organized everything, programmed everything. I can remember him going, "Jack, eat your vegetables!" "Jack, let your sister speak!" "Bobby, get your elbows off the table!" It was just....

DAITCH: Like they were a bunch of little kids.

KELLEY: Yes. I couldn't believe it. It was a big family, and, as I told you, I grew up in a big family. It wasn't too unlike except we didn't have butlers or maids. Because I know something going.... I shouldn't say this, but the maids even laid the girls' clothes out for them.

DAITCH: Oh, my gosh! Wow! Wow! Well, no wonder Jack was messy. How would he



ever learn to not be messy when he had somebody to do everything?

KELLEY: I know, I know.

DAITCH: Wow!

KELLEY: But it was really.... We had a wonderful.... And I remember at the dinner table, nobody left. The last one to be seated was Mrs. Kennedy. She'd always come in with her little purse and just sit. Mr. Kennedy at the head of the table, she was at the foot. After she was through, she'd always take out her compact and refresh her lipstick. Nobody could leave the table until she left.

DAITCH: Wow! So if it took her a while to do her lipstick, then everybody....

KELLEY: Well, it was funny because I was always told you don't do that in public.

DAITCH: Yes, yes.

KELLEY: But you didn't see much of her. She was very gracious. She was very petite, very gracious, very hospitable. But you could see her in the afternoon after lunch walking--beside the house there was a walkway down near the ocean where there was a little house. That was her little siesta. She would go down there and just get away from it all. I understand just from maids that were gossipy, that she went down there to read and write.

DAITCH: Yes, she may have needed a little time away from that burden.

KELLEY: Yes, I'm sure she did.

DAITCH: You understand that. But I wonder if that time, too, she must have.... Obviously she was still mourning for Joe. That was very fresh.

KELLEY: It was very fresh, it was very fresh. I've read this so many times, but I know I'm the one that told Clay [Clay Drewry Blair, Jr.] and Joan Blair because there weren't too many of us sitting out on that front stoop that night. And I do know that there was Jack and Barney and Red and Lenny and I, and I think a couple of the girls. I know Kathleen was there. But I'm trying to think who else. I didn't see Eunice. We were just having a good time. Barney was acting up, and Red was singing his favorite song, "Hurray for Hollywood." Do you know Red?

DAITCH: No.

KELLEY: Oh, he just thought he was the cat's meow. He could get up there and sing out, belt out that song, "Hurray for Hollywood." While he's singing, Barney's

dancing and upstairs somebody yelled out, “Jack! Have some respect for your dead brother.” (It was his father.)

DAITCH: Oh, really!

KELLEY: Oh, yes. And we just froze.

DAITCH: I’ll bet.

KELLEY: And within minutes we were all gone.

DAITCH: Oh, dear.

KELLEY: But that was the only untoward thing that happened. It was a happy time, you know.

DAITCH: Did you talk to Jack about Joe?

KELLEY: No, not at all. He was never mentioned.

DAITCH: Could you tell if he...?

KELLEY: No.

DAITCH: You wouldn’t have known.

KELLEY: No. In fact the only person I heard it from was Kathleen. And that’s how I knew she flew home on an Army bomber; she told me.

DAITCH: Oh, really! Wow!

KELLEY: Yes. And she hated to leave her husband. You know he was killed three weeks later. God love her.

DAITCH: Yes, that was awful.

KELLEY: I remember I sent Jack a letter and a Mass card. He wrote me back. Of course he thanked me and told me how much Kathleen meant to him, how much she would be missed.

The next night we got caught by Bobby in the kitchen. You won’t believe this, but before supper in that household cocktail hour consisted of one.... It could either be a little bit of scotch or a daiquiri or a Coke or something. And a cracker with cheese on it.

DAITCH: And those were the options.

KELLEY: That was the cocktail hour. So, you know, these guys were just chomping at the bit. Because Mr. Kennedy handled Haig & Haig scotch. He was the big importer of scotch. So we were all in the kitchen, and the guys were all helping themselves. And I do know Kathleen was there. She and I had such a wonderful weekend together. She was just so.... She wasn't into laughing and talking. She was such a lady. We were out in the kitchen, and the guys were all helping themselves to the scotch, and they were having a good time. And the kitchen was away from the bedrooms, up there. Bobby comes in. He's always, "Oh! What if Dad catches you?! What if Dad catches you?!" You know that kind.... And Kathleen goes, "Oh, Bobby, get out of here. Get lost, Bobby. Why are you insulting our guests?" But that was Bobby. Later I got to know him better because he was our neighbor in McLean.

DAITCH: Yes, I want to know more about that.

KELLEY: And he was sweet. Bobby was sweet. He would ride on his horse over. Our kids kept their horse next to their house on the farm in McLean. When we lived in McLean there were no fences; it was just wide open, and everybody was riding their horses. Bobby would come over in the morning, knock on the window. I'd always see him in church, and he'd have the kids with him. Those kids! Oh, my God! They'd go to Mass, it was more like a zoo.

DAITCH: Yes, I'll bet.

KELLEY: Ten of them.

DAITCH: Oh, my God!

KELLEY: Bobby never said a word nor did Ethel to them.

DAITCH: Were they good kids? What were they like?

KELLEY: Well, they probably were wonderful kids. They just were.... They just didn't kneel and pray. They were all over the church.

DAITCH: Well, how could you keep control of 10 of them?

KELLEY: So that's how I got to know him better. When he was running for the presidency, we were living in Philadelphia. Bill Brady [William J. Brady, Jr.], whom he went to school with, was a lawyer who lived in our neighborhood. And, of course, he knew that we knew the Kennedys. And so he asked Hil and me to be on his committee for Bobby. We did. We went to several cocktail parties and made sure people donated money. Then I worked downtown in Bobby's office. At the time, in the sixties, the dresses were real short, remember?

DAITCH: Mm hmmm.

KELLEY: And Bobby had his standard uniform. It was his picture on the front and his picture on the back. It was a jumper. We wore them. That's what we wore in the office. As I can remember, I would bring home these big posters; I'd put them up outside the house. Across the street was the Chestnut Hill Hospital. I put those posters up, and every morning they'd be torn down. I'd put the thing up in our yard, every morning it'd be torn. Bobby died, he was shot, and I had put the poster up. The poster was up a month later, through all kinds of weather. Nobody had touched it.

DAITCH: Yes, not after that.

KELLEY: I don't know why, but that night when I went home from Bobby's office downtown, I wore my dress home. I don't know why I did. Lenny has it now in his shadow box. But the next day.... That night he was shot. We all collected down at the office the next morning. It was a very sad time.

DAITCH: Oh, yes.

KELLEY: Bill Brady and a couple of the others had gone in. I wanted to get another dress or two, you know, and some stuff. They had burned everything.

DAITCH: Really!

KELLEY: Yes, burned everything. Burned *everything*! Every poster, everything. They just burned it. I guess they were given the word to burn it, destroy everything.

DAITCH: Wow! Does that seem a little.... I mean I don't know that much....

KELLEY: I don't know why. I would like to know why they burned everything. But I kept the dress, and Lenny has it. Lenny has everything. I have given him like the book, the *PT-109*. It was signed by Bob Donovan [Robert J. Donovan] and Barney. And Jack wrote a nice *As We Remember Joe*. He sent us that book, and he autographed that. I gave all that stuff to Lenny. And the Blairs autographed their book. Those were the only people I talked to, and you. And of course Doris [Doris Kearns Goodwin] was a friend. But nobody else like Horowitz [David Horowitz] and who else? Then Reeves [Richard Reeves and Thomas C. Reeves], they've all called on us.

DAITCH: I think it's hard to talk about these things when you're not sure what people are going to....

KELLEY: Well, since you're from the Library, I know you're bona fide. And I'm not going to say anything that I don't know anything about.

DAITCH: Right. But these are some wonderful stories that you're telling that are nice snapshots of the family and of Jack as an individual. These are the things that I think help make--as a historian, it helps make John Kennedy human to me; and if someone else can use this to help make him human to somebody, that's a good thing.

KELLEY: Well, you know, after I married Hilary, I thought, oh, for sure now our friendship is going to.... It won't, you know.... And I couldn't believe it when I got the invitation to the wedding and the inauguration. I'd just had another baby, and you don't have money to be running from Greensburg up to Newport. Hilary was working for Westinghouse at the time, and he had an assignment in Nashua, New Hampshire.

DAITCH: Oh, not so far.

KELLEY: So I could go with him, and then on the way back we stopped at the wedding. We stayed at the Viking. And, of course, Hilary's mother and dad were there because they were good friends. I can remember sitting around at the Viking Hotel dining room, and there were many senators and congressmen, and they were all with their R.S.V.P.s. They were extended so you could get in and find where your seat was. I didn't have that. I'm going, "What!? Gonna have to have a seat and all this stuff?" And I didn't have it. I even said to Hilary, "Maybe we shouldn't even go." And he said, "Well, we're going down there."

It was at St. Mary's Church where I always went to Mass when I lived there on Spring Street. Walked up, walked in, and I knew all those ushers, and it was just like old home week. So the church was filled up by that time. So Red took us up, Paul Fay. We went up the side aisle, right up to the front.

DAITCH: Really!

KELLEY: Right in the pew behind the Kennedys, and the sanctuary was right there. We got there a couple of minutes before the Mass started, before everything started. Peeking out would be Jack, and then peeking out would be Bobby, to see who was there, you know. Jack spied us sitting there, and he was going....

DAITCH: Waving.

KELLEY: Oh, yes. It was so cute. And I can remember it was a beautiful day, it was a beautiful fall day. The windows were open. All the little kids from the neighborhood, black and white, red and yellow, were all up in the windows. They'd climbed up, and they were looking in. It was so sweet.

DAITCH: Oh, wow. Isn't that sweet. Now what did you know about, did you know anything about Jacqueline? Had you met her?

[END SIDE 1, TAPE 1]

[BEGIN SIDE 2, TAPE1]

KELLEY: No, I hadn't met her.

DAITCH: Let me change the tape.

KELLEY: Oh, you're asking me all this and I haven't talked about this, not to anybody.

DAITCH: Well, I'm glad you're doing it now. This is great.

KELLEY: Well, I know, but we were late getting there. We were late getting to the reception, and I don't know why we were late. But all the ushers were sitting out on the porch. And Red yells, "Where have you been? Jack's worried that you're not going to come." We went in, and there was the receiving line. There was Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Auchincloss [Janet Lee Bouvier Auchincloss], Jack and then Jackie [Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis]. Of course we couldn't help, we just hugged one another, Jack and I, you know, because it was a big thing in his life, and I was so happy for him. And he turned and he said, "Jackie, this is Kate."

DAITCH: And she knew who you were?

KELLEY: Shhhh. I don't know. She just.... Did you ever know her?

DAITCH: I never met her.

KELLEY: I never saw the expression on her face change ever, even when she was dancing. Even when she was sitting at the table. I never saw, like a bride is.... I never saw that.

DAITCH: Really!

KELLEY: We were going to leave early because my husband had had a little too much to drink, and I wanted to get him out of there because I didn't want all my old friends to see this, so as I was leaving, Mr. Kennedy said, "Kate, where are you going?" I said, "Oh, we have to go." He said, "No. No, you have to wait 'til they leave. It's not good luck for you to go out that door. You have to wait until they come down." So I went back over, and I saw her throw the bouquet, and I can't even remember who caught it. But she had on a pillbox hat and a little suit and little gloves. That expression never changed.

DAITCH: How weird!

KELLEY: Never changed. She walked out with the.... You'd be.... Have you ever seen

someone that just.... That face is just glued on you. I never saw....

DAITCH: Yes. They almost sound sad to me. This is supposed to be the happiest day.

KELLEY: Well, maybe it was. Maybe it was. You don't know what's in people's hearts or minds. I remember it was such a nice wedding. The only person that got to sit down and eat--you go through the house, and then there was this big porch out back where the band was. Lester Lanin playing, singing "Keep it gay, keep it gay." I'll never forget that song. Then there was a stairway that went down onto the lawn that went out to Narragansett Bay. At the bottom of the stairway there was a long table, and that's where the bridal party was but nobody else. They had little tents set up around the yard where there were hors d'oeuvres, and that's probably why.... Because the champagne was being poured here and there and very little to eat.

DAITCH: Yes, too easy to get another and grab another.

KELLEY: And very little to eat. But I do know, anybody who knows me, I had to go upstairs and see the gifts. Of course I was looking for mine. I sent a sterling silver cigarette urn with the four little ashtrays with "K" on it.

DAITCH: Oh, that's nice.

KELLEY: I couldn't find it. But I saw some nice gifts from all the different senators, different congressmen, but nothing, you know.... And you want to know something? Remember the big auction?

DAITCH: Yes.

KELLEY: Mike Bell told me my wedding gift, which I probably paid \$100 for....

DAITCH: Back then.

KELLEY: Sold at the auction for \$27,000.

DAITCH: Oh! Wow! Yikes! Oh, my gosh! Do you know who has it?

KELLEY: I asked Mike. I said, "Mike, did you...?" Mike said, No, they wouldn't tell who bought it, who bought anything.

DAITCH: Oh, my gosh!

KELLEY: I said, "Mike, how do you know?" He said, "Well, it was a sterling silver urn and the ashtrays."

DAITCH: Yes? Wow! That is amazing. So at least you know they had it.

KELLEY: Oh, yes. Oh, she smoked.

DAITCH: Yes. Well, now that was the thing, too. Now, did he? I've seen him with the cigar in pictures once in a while.

KELLEY: He smoked, it was for show. Show.

DAITCH: He wasn't a real smoker?

KELLEY: No, no. I never, no.

DAITCH: Never saw him?

KELLEY: I never saw him with a cigarette, but I did see him with a cigar. But I always thought he was just showing off.

DAITCH: Yeah, being a manly man.

KELLEY: Yes.

DAITCH: That's funny. But she smoked, which is weird. I guess now that seems odd to me. But at the time everybody smoked practically.

KELLEY: Yes. But I can remember Senator Keogh [Eugene J. Keogh] from New York insisted we ride home with him, and I don't know why. But he couldn't find his wife. I think three times he went up to that door and knocked, and her mother, Mrs. Auchincloss, was so.... I don't know if she was rude or not but she wasn't very cordial. "No, she's not here! There's nobody in this house." She wanted everybody out of that house.

DAITCH: Oh! It was over when it was over, I guess.

KELLEY: It was over when it was over. And Keogh never did find his wife. She went home with somebody else.

DAITCH: I was going to say, to this day he never found her?

KELLEY: I don't know. But the poor thing, he's dead and gone now. But he was so furious.

DAITCH: Oh, that's terrible! That's scary.

KELLEY: Oh, and now I have to tell you the rest. When we got back to the hotel, I got out



of the car to see if I could get Hil in the front door. On the porch was Dad Kelly with all his senator and congressmen friends. He said, "Where's Hil?" I said, "He's not feeling too good." He said, "Kate, don't let that boy embarrass me." So guess what? I didn't know what to do. When I was going out with Jack, we would stop off at the Shoreham Hotel for a nightcap. Here again, he never wanted to be seen, he couldn't be seen going in. Somebody might see him. We went around the back, and there was an elevator there, a service elevator. It took us up, and you'd get off, and you'd go around and get into the bar where it was dimly lit, and nobody could see you.

So I'm thinking there must be a service elevator at this Viking Hotel. And Hilary would not.... I had a terrible time. I had to commandeer one of the busboys to help me, get him around the back, and get him on this service elevator.

DAITCH: It was that bad.

KELLEY: Thank God I remembered that I could get him.... I got him on the elevator, and I got him upstairs. We got into the room, and I said, "If you don't behave yourself, I'm going to get your mother." She was in the next room.

DAITCH: Useful things you've learned from Jack Kennedy: all about service elevators.

KELLEY: Well, I did know. Thank God. He'd still be out in the parking lot.

DAITCH: Oh, well. Hopefully he doesn't do that too often. But that's fun. It sounds like a fun evening anyway.

KELLEY: Well, we left the next morning to go to Portsmouth, and a lot of the PT boys were staying there at the hotel. I was able to see them once again.

DAITCH: Oh, that's fun.

KELLEY: We haven't seen them since.

DAITCH: Oh, none of them? Oh, yeah, that's too bad.

KELLEY: I haven't even see Bill Battle [William C. Battle], but I've heard from Bill Battle. I've heard from Johnny Iles, I've heard from Joe. Haven't heard from Al Webb[?]. I had a drink with Fred Rosen[?]. Then we came home.

DAITCH: Yes. You were describing a little bit about what Jacqueline was like. What was Jack like at the wedding?

KELLEY: I don't know what she was like.

DAITCH: No, I mean how did he appear just superficially?

KELLEY: Oh, he was just like himself.

DAITCH: Was he?

KELLEY: Always, always, always.

DAITCH: Because I wondered about, you know, it's a wedding, it's a serious thing. It's scary, it's, you know, whatever. It's thrilling. All of these things.

KELLEY: Yes. You would have loved him.

DAITCH: Yes, I think I would have.

KELLEY: He was just like your brother or your best friend. I always felt so comfortable around him. I always knew that we shared a lot of persona, his persona, my persona, our backgrounds. And we'd both loved Lenny. It was just so nice.

DAITCH: It sounds like a genuine friendship.

KELLEY: And then the first time I saw him in the White House, we went in, and I was in the Cabinet Room, and I'm looking out the window, and I see him come out the door. I knocked on the window. And he goes! [Waving] He couldn't get in. He tried to get in, and the door was locked. He came around. Hil was there. It was just an intense, really good friendship.

DAITCH: It really sounds like it.

KELLEY: You say you have a few good friends and you're a millionaire. I was a billionaire because he was such a nice friend. So he came in, and we passed our hellos and how have you been and all this. Then we went over to the office, and he's sitting in the rocking chair. He goes, "Hey, Hil, how much you making these days?" And Hilary said, I think he said, "Twenty-one thousand." It was back in 1961. And Jack said, "How in the hell can you raise nine kids on \$21,000?" And Hilary goes, "Well, it's not easy." So Jack said, "Why don't you come to work for me?"

DAITCH: There you go. Did he?

KELLEY: Hil said.... Well, Hil had a great background, a great resume and all that stuff, and he had to send it in. But Hil said, "Work for you doing what?" So he called over to the Science Office with Dr. Wiesner [Jerome B. Wiesner]. Do you remember Dr. Wiesner?

DAITCH: Yes, Jerome Wiesner. Sure.

KELLEY: Did you know him?

DAITCH: I haven't met him, but I know....

KELLEY: He's dead. He died. He was a very nice man. Anyhow, whatever Jack said to him, I don't know. But Hil went over and met him, and within days Hil was in Washington.

DAITCH: Oh, my gosh! Wow! Did it all work out? I mean was that what you wanted?

KELLEY: Well, he was gone. He went right away. But his parents lived there. But leaving me with all these kids....

DAITCH: Now were you here by then?

KELLEY: Right here.

DAITCH: Here in this house.

KELLEY: So I just, I'm the type of person I'm going down there, and I'm going to find a place to live. So I looked in McLean, and I got myself a realtor. I got myself two; one of them turned out to be Hilary's cousin.

DAITCH: Everything is so weird.

KELLEY: Bob Groom [Robert Groom], who lived in Arlington. We found this lovely new house. It was just built. It didn't have a finished basement, so I said to the builder, "If you can make me a beautiful playroom down there and a laundry room and a maid's room...." I went on and on and on. He said, "I can do that. I can do that." And he did. So we moved down there on Melrose Drive. I loved it. I just loved it.

DAITCH: How long were you there?

KELLEY: Well, 'til he died. And then a year afterwards Hil stayed on.

DAITCH: Oh, my gosh! There are so many things, these stories like that, where he--he had friends, and his friends were capable people; I don't want to say that he just brought friends into the government.

KELLEY: He did, too. He did do that. I'm not talking about Hilary because Hilary would have never been in the Science Office if he didn't have the qualifications.

DAITCH: Right. Exactly. Well, and you can just see from spending two minutes with him

that he's a bright man.

KELLEY: But the kids went to St. Luke's. Kitty started high school there, and Lenny graduated from McLean High. Chrissy went to Bishop O'Connell's out in Arlington. It was just a wonderful time. And then he died.

DAITCH: It brought so many lives to....

KELLEY: Then he said, you know, you have to bring the kids.

DAITCH: He loved kids, didn't he?

KELLEY: Yes. So I took the kids twice. And he says, "You're kidding me. These aren't all yours." I have a picture of us. You've seen it.

DAITCH: No, I want to see it. Shall we stop for a minute?

KELLEY: Well, I'll just show you the picture. I have it in the frame he gave me for my wedding gift.

DAITCH: Oh, let's go see. I want to see. [Pause]

KELLEY: Well, as you know, the note that Lenny sent is the one that rescued them.

DAITCH: So the coconut thing never.... But I thought he had the coconut.

KELLEY: He had the coconut, and nobody knew. He didn't tell anybody about the other note. I have to tell you something else. Is that on?

DAITCH: Yes. Go ahead. If you want.

KELLEY: No, take it off, and then if you want to tell it, you can. [Pause]

DAITCH: So we were talking about this letter which is in the Clay Blair book that....

KELLEY: It's the Blair book.

DAITCH: Clay and Joan Blair.

KELLEY: *The Search for JFK.*

DAITCH: Yes, and that's just another side of the....

KELLEY: I think Bob Donovan might have. I don't know. I can't remember.

DAITCH: He might have it, too. I think that's important, and I'll take this copy home for the Library because I think that's important to have. It's probably.... You'd think it would be in there somewhere. If not, now it is.

KELLEY: There's something else. The last time I saw.... No, was it the last time I saw Jack? When I took the kids in.... When they were rescued by these men, Lenny was--this one man made Lenny these knives, and they were about this long. They were made out of teak wood in the form of a fish. The knife, the blade of the knife, slid into the body of the fish. And it had a cat's eye--I mean one of those.... There were two of them. I wrapped it up real nice, and I said, "Here, I brought you a gift." He opened it, and he looked at me real funny. He said, "Where'd you get this?" I said, "It was Lenny's. He got it from the men that rescued you." And it's not like Jack. He didn't thank me.

DAITCH: Really?

KELLEY: To this day he didn't thank me. And they can't find it in the Library. They can't find it among his things.

DAITCH: What do you make of that?

KELLEY: It's another mystery.

DAITCH: So did he already have one? I mean did they make two and give one to....

KELLEY: Lenny has one. My Lenny, my son the lawyer, he's Lenny's biological son.

DAITCH: So Lenny your husband had two of them.

KELLEY: Two.

DAITCH: I see. Okay.

KELLEY: I wrapped one up real nice. I handed it to Jack, and I said, "You've been so good to the kids." He opened it right there, and he looked at it. He went, "Where'd you get this?" I said, "It was Lenny's. The men who rescued you gave it to him." He never wrote me a note. And that's unlike him.

DAITCH: That's weird, isn't it.

KELLEY: Yes, to this day I'm wondering what happened. Why did he act that way? Nobody can find that knife.

DAITCH: It's just odd. I don't know what to make of it unless maybe they had given him

one, and he thought that was the only one, or....

KELLEY: Vicki, I don't even try to guess. I can't imagine why. He just seemed to.... That look came over his face that I've seen maybe once or twice. He goes, "Where'd you get this?" I said, "It was Lenny's. The men who rescued you gave it to him." And I said, "I want you to have it." And nothing.

DAITCH: What was the look that came across his face? Was he angry, was he...?

KELLEY: Shock. Disbelief.

DAITCH: It's just odd. Now this was like a native-made kind of....

KELLEY: Yes. It was carved out of teak wood. There were two of them.

DAITCH: That's weird. Well, another little mystery. And you've never.... And Lenny your son still has the other one?

KELLEY: His. But Mike Bell tried to find it in the Library. You should have met Mike, great big, huge guy. History buff.

DAITCH: I'll have to look him up. I mean I don't get down there very much myself. So if he's in and out. I may have met him in passing, and it's not sticking with me right now. But I'm going to make a note that I need to look him up. Is he a Library employee?

KELLEY: No, he's just a historian. He sends me postcards. He was in Hyannis Port not too long ago, and he was taking pictures of the house from the beach. Bobby Kennedy came out and ran him off and just yelled at him.

DAITCH: Well, you know, a little privacy goes a long way. I can't blame the Kennedys for getting frustrated when people are....

KELLEY: You see the grandchildren are the ones. The others weren't like that.

DAITCH: Are they really nasty about it?

KELLEY: I think the grandchildren are.

DAITCH: Yes? No kidding. Well, I guess....

KELLEY: I don't know. Mike just told me that he got the feeling that he was intruding.

DAITCH: Well, the older generation were public figures. That's what they did.

KELLEY: Well, they were really good kids. I can't say anything about any of them. They were all so great, really.

DAITCH: I want to just sort of try to find out a little bit more about Lenny and how you had first met Jack and all of that.

KELLEY: Oh, I met Lenny in college. He was at Ohio State, and I was at St. Mary's.

DAITCH: Okay. So you were dating when you were in college? Because you said when he came back from the war, you got married right away?

KELLEY: Well, I went to St. Mary's, and I even had all that written up years ago. I lived in the dorm. Another girlfriend that lived next to me in the dorm, Jean Helmick, lived in Bexley, Ohio. And Lenny was the big man on campus.

DAITCH: Was he?

KELLEY: He was president of his fraternity, president of the Hellenic Council, big football star, All-American. Gorgeous. You know how your first love is. I had been dying to just meet him. So she came from a wealthy family, and she was having this big party. I can remember they were playing Michigan this Saturday, but she's having this big party. He played, Ohio State playing Michigan, and they won. He came in very late, this great big, huge hunk. I know he stood by the fireplace with a pipe, and I could tell he was a.... The party was so we could meet. We were sitting on the couch, and I got up to excuse myself, wanted to go see if I had enough lipstick or something. I came back. He was fast asleep. So I thought I was boring the hell out of him.

DAITCH: Yes, you just missed your chance.

KELLEY: So, yes. So the party's over, everybody goes home. He gets up, and he was very nice. He thanked Jean. And I thought, boy, I really bombed that. So the next morning at seven o'clock, the phone rang, and it was Lenny. He said, "Would you like to go horseback riding?" I said, "Oh, I'd love to, but I haven't been to Mass yet." He said, "Well, we can delay it, maybe noon?" Well, I could get Mass in, see. So I said, "Sure." So we rode all Sunday afternoon. It was so nice. It was such a beautiful day. And it went from there. I was in this girls' school where you couldn't get out at night.

I invited him to the prom, and he came. Then one weekend he called and said that the fraternity boys had been invited to this girl's country estate, and they were all taking dates, and would I like to go? So I asked sister, and she said, "Well, you're going to have to have a note from your parents." I got the note, and he picked me up, and went to Van Wert, Ohio. We arrived late. There was another couple in the car with us, and all the other kids were at the country club. The parents of this girl told us where the country club was. We had a wonderful weekend. Again we rode horses, and it was just....

Then from then on.... When I went home that summer, he came to Youngstown to work--a fraternity brother lived near--and he worked digging ditches and stuff like that. And that's how it was. It went from there.

DAITCH: Oh, that's so romantic.

KELLEY: When he came home, we were married, and I went to live in Melville. Where else did I go? I went to live in Melville. We went down to New York when the boats were commissioned. I saw a lot of Jack then, but he was in New York a lot. We couldn't find housing. We were out in Jackson Heights. The boats were commissioned. Then they went down to Florida on shakedown, and again he was at his parents home in Palm Beach, and we were over in Coral Gables. But the boats were right down on the shore at Miami. The boats were docked down there, and they had their runs every day. We'd watch them go out. And I tell you this, if he didn't have a back problem before, I could see where he had one afterwards. [Signaled the boats pounding in the waves.]

DAITCH: Oh, wow! Yes, I'll bet.

KELLEY: And I know when Lenny came home, he had to sleep on the floor.

DAITCH: Lenny did?

KELLEY: Yes, because the mattress was just too soft.

DAITCH: Oh, my gosh!

KELLEY: His back, you know.

DAITCH: Yes. Well, yes, and he's a big strapping guy compared to Jack. I mean that gives you an idea.

KELLEY: So everything was going along fine. He went back out, Lenny went back out, and he was going for the invasion of Japan. The bomb was dropped. When was the bomb, September? He got home maybe the next February. And Jack was running for Congress, and, of course, the phone: Can you help? My dad talked Lenny out of being a professional football player because the Chicago Bears wanted to sign him.

DAITCH: Really!

KELLEY: Oh, yes.

DAITCH: Wow!

KELLEY: Hey, a thousand dollars to sign and \$500 a game.



DAITCH: Compared to what they get now.

KELLEY: Lenny went back to school. We had just bought a house, but we couldn't get into the house. I don't know what held it up. I was up with my parents that weekend, and he was coming home. He'd called me. It was Friday night, and he called me. He said, "I'm just out of class. I'll be there." We were all going to a football game. He said, "You go. I'll find you." During the intermission I saw my mother running around the track. My mother! I'm thinking, what's she doing out there? I heard my father being paged. And I knew something bad, something was wrong, so I left. They told me there'd been a bad accident.

DAITCH: Oh, no....

KELLEY: I got to the hospital, and my brother was one of the boys in the car, and another friend, Maurice Giroux[?]. They were in a room together. I said, "Well, where is the other one?" And they said, "Are you related to him?" I said, "Yes, I'm his wife." My best friend had run down the hall ahead of me, and I saw her come out of this room. And you know how you slink down against a wall? She was sitting there like this. My dad sent for the doctors from Cleveland to come. They got there in the morning. Chest specialist. Because the visor had gone through his head, and his chest was crushed. He died. And that was that. And my dad used to say, you know, you can hear about it, and it's never going to happen to you. But he said, "You always have to be prepared." I could never be prepared.

DAITCH: How could you? There is no preparation for that. And you were so young with two little kids. How was your brother?

KELLEY: He recovered. He was seriously, critically injured. But he just died a year or so ago from colon cancer. He made it through. I'll never forget. They couldn't tell him for a while because he was too ill, too seriously injured. And when I walked into his hospital room to tell him that Lenny had died, his face went from a normal color to this white, and he said, "My God! I was sitting right next to him." But Lenny was the only one conscious when they got to the car.

DAITCH: Really!

KELLEY: And he was so big they had a hard time getting him out of the car. He kept saying, "Don't worry about me. Take care of the other guys." "Don't worry about me. Take care of the other guys." And guess what? When they pulled him out of the car, the people around knew who he was.

DAITCH: Really! Because of his well-known football playing?

KELLEY: Mm hmmm.

DAITCH: Oh, wow.

KELLEY: And there were two ambulances there, and they were fighting over whether they could take him here or take him there. If they had just put their hand in his pocket, there would have been money. They were quibbling over who was going to pay for it.

DAITCH: Oh, you're kidding!

KELLEY: Uh uh.

DAITCH: Oh, geez. It probably wouldn't have made any difference, though, would it?

KELLEY: You never know. I think if it had happened today in this day and age, he probably would have lived.

DAITCH: Really?

KELLEY: We have intensive care, and they keep them on until they can cure the wounds in the chest. I don't know. I never question.

DAITCH: Yes, things happen. But, oh, my God!

KELLEY: No, he's buried in Youngstown. I have Chrissy. I cremated Chrissy, and I put her right on top of him. There's a little vase there. It's really sweet. It's made of brass, and it has her name on it. I can put flowers in it or leave notes or something.

DAITCH: Oh, that's nice. Just for the tape I'm going to say that's Chrissy, your daughter. No, I wanted this because I think it's part of the story. You know, your friendship with Jack and....

KELLEY: Well, that's when he knew so soon, I said, "How did you know?"

DAITCH: Yes. Oh, my gosh.

KELLEY: A fraternity brother called him.

DAITCH: Well, now, how did the fraternity brother know to call Jack?

KELLEY: Because Lenny was a Phi Delta Theta. He was going to school. He was getting his master's degree. And who knows? Back then news traveled, and Lenny

Thom.

DAITCH: Yes, and people knew that he had served in the Navy with him.

KELLEY: Oh, it was all over the papers. It was all over the radio, the television. It was all over the radio and the newspapers.

DAITCH: Oh, just an awful thing. So you told me that Jack called you as soon as he found out?

KELLEY: Yes, he said, Daddy said, "The phone's for you," and I said, "I can't talk, Daddy." He said, "Oh, you'll want to take this one. It's from Jack Kennedy." And then I said, "How'd you know? How do you know?" And he said, "A fraternity brother called me. And I'm coming." That's what he said: "I'm coming."

DAITCH: Oh, yes. That's really.... You guys must have developed, you and Jack, I mean because it's hard enough for him, his friend died, and he's going to want to be there. But it sounds as much like he's coming for you. You must have developed quite a friendship.

KELLEY: We were a very.... I thought he was just.... We were together so much, but Lenny was always there. But it was just a camaraderie. It was just, you meet people, and you don't feel comfortable with them. But you meet other people, and you just fit right in like a glove. And it was always that way. And I've told you when he became president, I couldn't believe it. But he hadn't changed.

DAITCH: Same guy you knew. Did you talk...? This is getting a little bit off the subject because we had this story thing going. But he hadn't changed, but he's the president. I mean did you always talk politics and stuff with him?

KELLEY: Oh, he became more sophisticated. He became better dressed.

DAITCH: Well, at least. [Laughter]

KELLEY: He recognized his place in history and his place in Washington. I have to tell you something: He would have never abused it. Never, never, never. His integrity was such that he would never abuse that office. As far as I'm concerned and how I knew him. Never.

DAITCH: Yes, yes. He certainly worked very hard when he was in office.

KELLEY: I don't think he would have ever done anything to.... They say they should have impeached him.

DAITCH: About the politics, did you talk politics? I mean because I would think the guy sort of...

KELLEY: Never.

DAITCH: ...lived and breathed politics. But you didn't.

KELLEY: No, never.

DAITCH: I mean even just when you were--in the normal fashion that you would.

KELLEY: No. I don't know that. I know that weekend in New York, he was very discreet. His family had a place at the Waldorf. He put me in the, it was called the New Westin. It was right catty-corner. It's not even there now. It was demolished.

DAITCH: Now, when you were visiting him, when you went to New York....

KELLEY: I didn't go so much. I went....

DAITCH: I mean I'm thinking about Washington. You were going back and forth to his office sometimes.

KELLEY: Oh, yes.

DAITCH: Was that just still the friendship thing, or did you date some?

KELLEY: I never called them dates. I didn't.

DAITCH: Yes. You didn't think of it that way.

KELLEY: We went to see *Oklahoma!* together, we went to see the ballet *La Sylphide* together. I had dinner at his house many times. Billy Sutton [William J. Sutton] always picked me up at school. Did you know Billy Sutton?

DAITCH: Oh, he was one of his assistants, a long time friend?

KELLEY: Billy was his man Friday, I guess.

DAITCH: Now, was he all along from the time he was in Congress?

KELLEY: I don't know. I just know that Billy died recently, and Mike Bell went to the funeral.

DAITCH: Oh, he did.

KELLEY: And sent me all the clippings. I have stuff of Billy's. I'm sure the Library must have it.

DAITCH: I'm sure of it. Hopefully. Another thing to check into.

KELLEY: I have it, I think. I'm going to go get it for you, if I can find it. Because this is all current.

DAITCH: Yes. [Pause] Again, because you were in school?

KELLEY: At Catholic U.

DAITCH: At Catholic U. in Washington.

KELLEY: Yes.

DAITCH: And so that's why you were in Washington.

KELLEY: That was me getting back.... No, Lenny died in October. Chrissy was born New Year's Eve.

DAITCH: Oh, my God! You were pregnant?

KELLEY: When Lenny died, I was seven months pregnant.

DAITCH: Oh!

KELLEY: I think that's the other reason Jack came. I'm not sure about that. But I think so. Knew I was alone except for my parents. Anyhow, he was the one who said I had to get--I had to live again. I needed to go back to school. I just did. But the first weekend at Catholic U. I knew it was a mistake.

DAITCH: Really!

KELLEY: The babies.

DAITCH: Yes, that's hard.

KELLEY: My mom and then a maid was taking care of them. Every time anything would happen, my mother would call. After a couple of weeks, I just knew it was the wrong choice, and then I left.

DAITCH: Oh, so that wasn't long.

KELLEY: It was just a semester. I enrolled at Duquesne and finished what I was doing there. And then I married Hilary.

DAITCH: Was it during that period that you met Hilary?

KELLEY: No, no. No, no. I saw him, but I didn't know him.

DAITCH: So you had, from time to time when you were in Washington, you were alone in Washington except for Jack?

KELLEY: I lived at the dorm.

DAITCH: You lived at the dorm.

KELLEY: But I had some friends there.

DAITCH: Yes. So I guess Jack was one of them, though.

KELLEY: Oh, he was a very good friend.

DAITCH: Yes, that was nice to have that. So then you went to Duquesne? So when did you actually meet Hilary?

KELLEY: Well, I met Hilary the following January.

DAITCH: Now you had been seeing him at Jack's office. You met him....

KELLEY: The following January. I didn't know him when I was seeing Jack. I did not know him.

DAITCH: So how did you actually meet him then, in the same building?

KELLEY: It was a blind date.

DAITCH: You're kidding!

KELLEY: No, my sister, my younger sister, was at Seton Hill.

DAITCH: Oh, right, right. You were telling me in the car.

KELLEY: And her big sister, you know, she's a freshman, and her big sister's probably a junior.

DAITCH: Her sorority big sister.

KELLEY: Well, no, they just had big sisters. Because at Seton Hill, which is a Catholic girls' school....

DAITCH: Oh, that kind of a thing. Okay.

KELLEY: She said to me one day, she came home, and she said, "You know, my big sister's dating somebody that you would just like." I said, "Really?" She said, "I don't know how I can do it because my big sister," who was Carolyn Schmidt, Schmidt Bakeries in Philadelphia....

DAITCH: Oh, really!

KELLEY: My older sister was a good friend of her sister's, Marie. This is a small world. So she said, "But I don't know how I can get around her because she really likes him." And then she just said, "Kate, you'll have to come down next weekend, and you'll have to meet him." Because he was going to Penn State. He was working on his doctorate. So she fixed up this date, a blind date. And then she was scared to death because she didn't want her big sister to find out about it. And guess what?

DAITCH: You married him.

KELLEY: He asked me to marry him on the first date.

DAITCH: No way!

KELLEY: And I said, "You don't know me. There's three of us."

DAITCH: Three?

KELLEY: My babies.

DAITCH: Oh, that's right. He didn't know about them?

KELLEY: I don't know. And he said, "Why are you on the defensive?" And I said, "I'm not on the defensive. I just want you to know offhand that there's three of us." So I thought he was crazy anyhow. You don't ask somebody to marry you on the first date. Then he was going to be a priest. Oh, yes.

DAITCH: Oh, that wouldn't have worked.

KELLEY: And he was going to school at Penn State, and I'm living out in Ohio. And he's making that trip back and forth, back and forth. So then we had a falling out. I

told him when he decided if he was going to be a priest or not, let me know. But don't take up my time. So about a week or so later, he called me and invited me to a fraternity dance at Penn State. My dad said, "Oh, you should go." Daddy was.... He just wanted me to live again, I'm sure.

So I went, and he said, we were dancing at the fraternity house, and he said, "Will you marry me?" I said, "When?" And he said, "Next Monday." That was a week from Monday, a week from next Monday. He said, "I have to go to a coal show in Cleveland." He's a mining engineer. "I have to go a coal show in Cleveland, and I have three days off."

DAITCH: Don't tell me you did.

KELLEY: I married him Tuesday. [Laughter]

DAITCH: Oh, my gosh!

KELLEY: Yeah, and it was a nice wedding! We married where we had a summer home, and there was a little chapel with a pot-bellied stove. The organist was about 150. A couple of little pews. And his father had to come from Canada because he was attending something up in Canada. There weren't that many people there. And we went to the coal show. And the guys threw coal dust on me. I still see those guys today. So that's how it is. And here I am with two babies. He's in school. We lived in a Quonset hut on the campus. You went in the front door and fell out the back door. The only beds in the house were two little youth beds and a pull-out couch, a card table and a couple of old chairs. But it was fun.

DAITCH: Yeah. Oh, it sounds like just a really....

KELLEY: So that's how it happened, and it's 55 years later.

DAITCH: Wow! Oh, you guys are just such a beautiful couple. I think he's....

KELLEY: Well, you see.

DAITCH: He's gorgeous.

KELLEY: He's a nice guy. Everybody thinks he's so quiet, and he is. He's like that guy at the Library.

DAITCH: Quiet, but I bet he has a lot to say if you....

KELLEY: Well, you have to listen.

DAITCH: I like that. I'm looking forward to dinner with him.



KELLEY: Oh, yes.

DAITCH: So as far as you know, Jack had.... Maybe he met him in passing or something because he was....

KELLEY: I don't think he knew him until we were married. Hil's dad told him all about it.

DAITCH: So his dad was a congressman? Or was Augustine already a senator at that time?

KELLEY: No, he was a congressman then. I don't know when he became a senator. Hil's dad died in '56 or '57.

DAITCH: Oh, he did? That was soon after. Was he young? He must have been.

KELLEY: Seventy-four.

DAITCH: Oh, he was?

KELLEY: Yes. Well, I'm 83.

DAITCH: Oh, and you look great! You're so beautiful.

KELLEY: Oh, stop it, Vicki! Stop that. Well, let me tell you something. It's been a long life, and I want to tell you I've made novena after novena that I would live to raise all my kids. I didn't want anybody else doing it or breaking them up. And my prayers were answered. So, everything's free from here on in.

DAITCH: They look like a wonderful group, all bright, well educated, successful. That's really nice. Do you think about, well, you must because that's what I'm thinking right now. I'm thinking about Lenny, and I'm thinking about Jack Kennedy.

KELLEY: There isn't a day goes by that I don't think about Lenny. I pray for both of them all the time. And I know they're together. They're having a great time.

DAITCH: Probably.

KELLEY: Because I heard my brother, my brother who picked Jack up at the airport and was with him for three days, called me last night. I said somebody's coming from the Library. He said, "I want to tell you something. Kate, there was a real gentleman." And just met him and was with him for three days.

[END SIDE 2, TAPE 1]

[BEGIN SIDE 1, TAPE 2]

DAITCH: It seems funny that some people say that he was a real gentleman, but other people I've heard say that he could be pretty rowdy.

KELLEY: Well, he could be. But I mean he knew that there's a time and a place for everything.

DAITCH: Yes, yes.

KELLEY: And Jack grew up in a family where he knew his time and his place. I don't think he ever overstepped the boundary. Vicki, you have to understand I'm only telling you what *I* know. Nobody's telling me this. This is what *I* experienced and observed. As far as I'm concerned, he never overstepped, never. And I saw one big disappointment. My sister was in Philadelphia at the time. This is another one, Marie. He always said, this is the truth, he said, "You're just like my sisters. I love you like one of my sisters." He would say that. And then he'd say, "Do you have any more? Are there any more?" And I'd say, "Yes, I have a sister Marie." He said, "How about fixing me up with her?"

DAITCH: Did you?

KELLEY: She stood him up.

DAITCH: No!

KELLEY: She stood him up.

DAITCH: Come on! Your sister stood up Congressman Kennedy, the future president of the United States?

KELLEY: Stood him up. And today she'll say she didn't know what she was thinking. Hey, at the time I was humiliated, embarrassed. He came down. He came out to Jackson Heights. She called and said she wasn't going to make it. There was nothing we could do. Well, I think we went to a movie at eight, and he went back into New York.

DAITCH: Oh, my gosh!

KELLEY: He was disappointed. I was humiliated.

DAITCH: Yes. Oh, I would have been. Did you have words with your sister?

KELLEY: No. Because she was in Philadelphia, and I didn't.... When she called and said she wasn't coming, I think I said, "How could you?" And she might have said, "I'm sorry, but I had other commitments I forgot about," or something. I don't know. But she's darling, she's dear. She said, "I blew it." But it happened.

DAITCH: What are you going to do? Things happen. Actually it's funny that you brought that up because that was a question I was going to ask you. If you're a married couple and you're both good friends with a single person, male or female, it's just kind of natural to want to set them up with somebody, your other single friends, or this or that. I wondered if you had ever done that.

KELLEY: I have to tell you honestly, Vicki, I never saw him with another woman.

DAITCH: I was curious about that, too. You never like double-dated?

KELLEY: I never. Hey, we went to dinner parties, we went to cocktail parties. In Miami we were always, every night when those guys were off, we were always somewhere having dinner at the bar. Those guys were rough and tumble some of them. He *never* had a date.

DAITCH: Isn't that weird!?

KELLEY: I never saw him with one. But he'd always get the guys in one group, you know. Never. Mmmm mmm.

DAITCH: That is so funny because he has this reputation of being--even from way back when.

KELLEY: I know that.

DAITCH: Were you surprised, though? I think of him now, and I think, oh, he was so charismatic, and he was beautiful. I mean he was such a handsome guy. Was he from your perspective? You tell me. You're a woman.

KELLEY: Can I tell you something? Probably to some he was very desirable. But don't forget I was married to Lenny Thom.

DAITCH: Yes, yes. It doesn't get much better than that from a woman's perspective, does it.

KELLEY: Well, Vicki, you don't even think about that. You don't. It never crosses your mind. Never. But if I would see him, it was just like, oh, I care.... He was a friend.

DAITCH: Like your brother.

KELLEY: He was a friend.

DAITCH: Yes, yes. Well, okay, you didn't think about him that way.

KELLEY: No.

DAITCH: What about other women? I mean your girlfriends or something, if someone met him, did you hear anybody saying, "Oh, John Kennedy's so wonderful" blah blah blah? What did women really think about him?

KELLEY: Can I tell you something? The guys that were married, and I knew three or four of them, their wives, they were always upset with him because he was trying to, he'd always get the guys in a corner.

DAITCH: He'd do the single guy stuff, yeah.

KELLEY: Have the guys do something. Let the girls.... He was always going into the kitchen with the guys and talking.

DAITCH: Yeah, guy talk.

KELLEY: No, I never heard anybody say anything.

DAITCH: Now you hear about.... I mean there are these various things. In fact there was a chapter in here. I just noticed it when I was looking at the table of contents, the Blair book, there was a chapter about Inga [Inga Arvad], the woman he called Inga Binga.

KELLEY: I never heard about that until late in life.

DAITCH: Yes. Isn't that weird?

KELLEY: Yes.

DAITCH: Actually I suppose he technically dated her before he ever met you or Lenny, but....

KELLEY: I don't know. I never saw her. I never heard her name mentioned.

DAITCH: And you never saw him on a date with anybody.

KELLEY: No.

DAITCH: It's just weird that you would be going out with your married friends or friends who were dating, and you don't bring a date.

KELLEY: But, you know, my friendship with Jack was in '43, '44, '45, '46, '47. Not much in '48 because I was back home, and I don't know where he was. We talked on the phone a couple of times. I know that when Chrissy was born he called me. That's when he said, "I'll call you later when you're feeling better," or something like that. I was just devastated then. And then I did go down to Washington, and that was a mistake. I was worried all the time about the kids.

DAITCH: Oh, sure. Yes, that would have been hard.

KELLEY: And we did have some fun times. He tried to make it a happy time, really.

DAITCH: Well, that's very nice.

KELLEY: Very happy times, you know, he showed me a good time.

DAITCH: But you're thinking more like a brother? I mean do you think he was interested in you in that way?

KELLEY: Maybe. I don't know. I don't think so. He might have been. Because on the last night in New York, we had a long talk. We were sitting there, and it just was too great to be such good friends. And I...

DAITCH: Didn't want anything else?

KELLEY: No, it wasn't that. I don't know if you've ever had a really, somebody that you thought was just a good friend, a wonderful friend.

DAITCH: Yes, yes. And that's perfect, just like it is.

KELLEY: I know that Eunice said to me one time, she said, "Oh, wouldn't it be great if you and Jack became a twosome?" And I'm going that was the first time that was put in my mind. Oh, no, it can't be. It just wouldn't be. Mmmm mmm. After talking to me and seeing me, you know that wasn't my.... I enjoyed his company. It was wonderful.

DAITCH: I mean I didn't know him. What about him and his future, and his plans for himself and who he was wouldn't have fit with you?

KELLEY: Well, he wanted me to go back to Hyannis Port with him, and he was going on the train. He was going to work the train.

DAITCH: Oh, not your idea of a good time.

KELLEY: Well, that isn't even my idea.

DAITCH: Yes. Well, that's a politician, though. That's the job, I guess. And not something that you cared about?

KELLEY: Well, I don't know. I experienced it with my own husband when he ran for Congress, and it's a very.... It's expensive, it's time-consuming. There's ups and there's downs, and then there's defeat. I can remember when he lost, and our son was in high school. He said, "Well, Mom, if Dad can go to work, I guess I can go to school."

DAITCH: Clever boy.

KELLEY: Yes.

DAITCH: It's tough. It's a very difficult business. But what else? I mean you.... What about Jack was wonderful for a friend but not maybe wonderful for....

KELLEY: Well, you know what? In my writings there, you know, even Jackie wasn't his type.

DAITCH: Well, who was his type?

KELLEY: I don't know who would be. Certainly not Marilyn Monroe.

DAITCH: No, I don't even see that. But I never knew either one of them.

KELLEY: I don't know. You read all this stuff, and I say, who wrote it? Who wrote it? Where'd you get your information? They had two beautiful children, and she had other pregnancies. They must have had some lovely times together.

DAITCH: Well, you would think so, yes.

KELLEY: I did meet her. I did meet a very good friend of hers that went to Holton Arms with her, and I did meet some of her teachers at a cocktail party in Washington. And I did meet another girl who her father, Auchincloss [Hugh D. Auchincloss], her stepfather, was her godfather. And they all had the same kind of negative impression.

DAITCH: Really? I've heard that she was just a very shy, reserved person.

KELLEY: Maybe she was.

DAITCH: So that you might not get any kind of real impression. But it's just that I also, in fact, I think maybe it was in Paris....

KELLEY: I think it would be most difficult to live in a fishbowl. Almost impossible. So you can't put yourself there or say anything until you walk in their shoes.

DAITCH: Right, right. All of that must have been really hard. But talking about what kind of woman that Jackie.... And again, we're sort of speculating, and I know you didn't want to go down this path too much....

KELLEY: Because I don't know, Vicki.

DAITCH: Right. I was just trying to figure out from what you did know him when he was young, he was single. Who did the guy date? Who did he....

KELLEY: I never saw him with anybody. When he was with Lenny, when I say with Lenny, there was everybody around. There was Al, there was Joe, there was Johnny, there was Bill. Now, I saw Bill Battle with--in fact, her name was Mary Lou Heffernen, Heffie. And Bill later told me, "You know, Kate, my son ran into her daughter at a wedding."

DAITCH: Really!

KELLEY: And they were like this in Newport and around. And I saw Mary Lou O'Connell with a couple of them. And I saw Joe Atkinson. They always.... Some of them had dates. Never once did I see him.

DAITCH: Isn't that odd.

KELLEY: So I can't say.

DAITCH: Did you get any feeling about, oh, my gosh, as you know, you just read all these different things about him: He was....

KELLEY: I don't read a lot about him, but I hear a lot. You know, people will say, "Hey, have you heard about your friend this?" "Did you hear about your friend?" What a rake he was and all this stuff. I hate that.

DAITCH: Yes. Well, the thing, just about him as a person, who he was, you know, I've heard everything from he was just very, especially as he got older, he was very smooth with women and very debonair and all this stuff, to he was really shy and awkward. What's the truth of all that?

KELLEY: I think he was shy and awkward.

DAITCH: Do you think?

KELLEY: I think he was.

DAITCH: So just kind of he felt more comfortable with the group than he did....

KELLEY: I think he was, he tended to be that way.

DAITCH: Yes. It's just so....

KELLEY: And I don't know what it was. He came from this big family, this big wonderful family. But he had a very domineering father.

DAITCH: Well, and an older brother.

KELLEY: And I don't think that's more or less a minus because I had a domineering father, but I adored him.

DAITCH: Yes. It might be easier to be a girl.

KELLEY: Maybe.

DAITCH: Under those circumstances.

KELLEY: But I think his father must have been proud of him.

DAITCH: Oh, sure.

KELLEY: And I saw his mother, I met his mother. She was like an enigma. She was here, and then she wasn't. She was there, and then she wasn't. She wasn't a presence.

DAITCH: Did he ever talk about his family like that?

KELLEY: Oh, no, not really.

DAITCH: Just more in passing? Because I again have read that he didn't.... He loved his family. He was closer to his father, but I've read that he was distant from his mother for various reasons. And again, I read that. I don't know that.

KELLEY: Yes.



DAITCH: It seems to be something that has been said about him.

KELLEY: Well, I saw that. They were all that way with her.

DAITCH: Really? Yeah. Did you see her on other occasions aside from the time right after Joe was killed?

KELLEY: Mmmm mmm.

DAITCH: Because you could wonder whether maybe that was the normal....

KELLEY: No, I never saw her. Because when I saw Jack, it was at his house in Georgetown, it was in.... As I say, when Lenny was living, different places.

DAITCH: So tell me what it was like to be, again, I'm sort of zipping around a little bit. But we're going to the house in Georgetown and then that other house in Washington where he lived, the big white one.

KELLEY: Oh, yes.

DAITCH: What was that like to be there with Hilary? You're like working for the administration, you're friends with the president. I'm sure you couldn't hang out because he was very busy. But what was it like to be in Washington during those years?

KELLEY: It was freedom. I mean you could go anywhere. Today if you go to Washington, it's blocked off. Hilary's office was in the Executive Office Building, but he was over back and forth to the White House. Well, of course, the guards got to know me because I was down there quite a bit, especially with Hilary. The Sunday night we went to the White House, after the assassination, we walked right in. Hilary had a White House pass, but nobody stopped, nobody even asked him for it.

DAITCH: Oh, my gosh.

KELLEY: We only had this one car. Hilary would get on the bus and be down in his office in 19 minutes from McLean. I would go down and pick him up. I had this big Econoline bus.

DAITCH: For all those kids.

KELLEY: For all those kids. I probably had been playing tennis or something, and they were in the back of the car. You have to picture this: I'm going down by the White House and I've lost my way. The back door has flown open, the balls are all over the road. A cop comes up and says, "You again? You again!" I mean that's what it

was like. Even the cops knew. But I used to go to pick him up, and I could just drive right in there.

DAITCH: Wow.

KELLEY: Nobody stopped me.

DAITCH: Oh, it's amazing. It's so different.

KELLEY: Oh, I know.

DAITCH: Unbelievable. I was there just the other day, and I mean whole blocks are cordoned off all the way around the Executive Office Building and the White House and all that. It's just....

KELLEY: I know. Hilary belongs to the Cosmos Club. It's right up the street from the White House. Have you been there?

DAITCH: No, I haven't. It's very famous, though.

KELLEY: And it's very nice. So we are there a lot. I do walk down around the park, Lafayette Park, and it's not like it used to be.

DAITCH: Oh, yes, yes. Not at all. I walked through Lafayette Park the other day, just sort of accidentally, to tell you the truth. I was just wandering. And I didn't recognize it for a minute. I didn't recognize where I was because there was all this mess, all this blocking off and all these police people. It's just scary. It's weird. And that's only very recent.

KELLEY: I know. It's a big change.

DAITCH: But I suppose things changed after Kennedy was assassinated, too. I mean I'm sure there was....

KELLEY: You know what, though? As I told you, we were not invited to the funeral.

DAITCH: Oh, you weren't!

KELLEY: No, we were not. So I went down anyhow to Hil's office. And I told you about the gurney coming up the hall?

DAITCH: No.

KELLEY: Yes, I did. Well, they're getting ready to walk to church, and I felt bad because

a lot of those guys knew that we were close friends, who made out the list.

DAITCH: Yes, yes.

KELLEY: And I heard this clatter clatter clatter. It must have been about nine o'clock. Everybody's getting ready to go to church. So I went out in the hall. Coming up the hall on a gurney, two black guys, two porters, I mean I shouldn't say black guys, but two porters, with this big gurney, and on the gurney was his rocking chair, his flag, and all his memorabilia, had been taken out of the office, was being moved back into a storage room down the hall. I said, "Where are you going to take it?" They said, "We have to take it down to the storage room."

DAITCH: Oh, wow.

KELLEY: And then that night, right after everybody had gone, Hil and I went out to the cemetery. Still, he had his White House pass on. But there wasn't a soul there. There was no traffic, no people, just a couple of guards. The eternal flame was lit. And we were able to be by the grave that night, the night he was buried. Now you would have thought that there would have been humongous crowds. Nobody.

DAITCH: Is that right. I wonder if people just didn't think about it.

KELLEY: I don't know. I was delighted.

DAITCH: Yes. I would have been, too. Oh, my God. That must have been an awful time for you.

KELLEY: Well, it was shocking. It was shocking for everybody. I still don't know who called me to tell me he'd been shot.

DAITCH: A lot of people said they saw it on television because they were reporting the president--or on the radio.

KELLEY: No, I didn't see it. Somebody called me on the telephone.

DAITCH: And you don't remember who.

KELLEY: I don't know if it was Hilary's secretary. It was somebody who said, "Do you have your TV on?" I said, "No." Oh, dear. But, you know, I had a premonition that it was going to be her.

DAITCH: Really! Why?

KELLEY: I don't know. I think about that a lot. I don't know.

DAITCH: Now, what do you mean, it was going to be her?

KELLEY: Something was going to happen to her.

DAITCH: Yeah. Wow. Well, I guess it almost just as easily could have been because she was there, you know, that sort of thing. But, oh, who would have thought? The other thing that's crossed my mind, you saw him from time to time in those years. I wondered if his health was suffering from all the stress of being in the White House.

KELLEY: Only what you read. About that Dr. Feelgood [Max Jacobson]?

DAITCH: Yes.

KELLEY: Only what you read. I don't know. He looked pretty healthy.

DAITCH: He looked okay, as far as you know? Now, how often did you see him when you were in Washington?

KELLEY: We saw him.... We went to several parties. We went to the art parties. And I can remember we had a table right here. And then he was sitting at this table. We could make eye contact and wave and stuff like that. And we were in the White House. I took the children twice. Hilary and I went a couple of times. But don't forget Hilary was an employee.

DAITCH: Yes, in the big scheme of things. Working for Jerome Wiesner is not....

KELLEY: Jerry.

DAITCH: That's not.... That's pretty big for the average person. It might be a peon in Washington, but....

KELLEY: Well, you know what? They lived very frugally, he and his wife. We went there for dinner several times.

DAITCH: Really?

KELLEY: Uh huh. But when he left, I had a party for him. Then he was honored at the Cosmos Club. I don't know why. They give honorary degrees or something at the Cosmos Club. The last one I was at with Barbara Tuchman [Barbara W. Tuchman] and the senator who just died from New York, Pat.... He's a big Irishman. Manahan?

DAITCH: Oh, Patrick Moynihan [Daniel Patrick Moynihan].

KELLEY: And Jerry Wiesner received it, so we were invited, and we went. And it was lovely.

DAITCH: Oh, yes.

KELLEY: It was lovely to see him again after all those years.

DAITCH: Oh, that would have been nice.

KELLEY: They don't change much.

DAITCH: I mean actually, I'm going to stop the tapes for a minute. [Pause] You know, maybe a little free association. But you've been frustrated with what people are writing about him, people that didn't know him. But if I told you right now, okay, I'm going to write yet another biography of John Kennedy, what would be some of the things that you would want me to be able to say and maybe to have anecdotes to back it up? What's the essential John Kennedy for you?

KELLEY: He was first a friend, a very good friend. I had lots of friends, but I thought he was a good friend. He popped up at times when I really needed somebody, and there weren't many people that did that, that knew Lenny. And I'm sure it was in deference to Lenny, a lot of his, towards me, his feeling towards me. Lenny would have wanted him to be that way. Because Jack saw us together. He knew it was a deep, deep love affair. And he was taken so sudden. I was just left with one baby and another one on the way, and I just think.... I don't think he felt sorry for me. I think that he thought Lenny would want him to be a good friend to me.

DAITCH: Yes.

KELLEY: That's the way I looked at it. I allowed it to foster, and I'm not sorry.

DAITCH: Yes. Oh, sure.

KELLEY: I'm not sorry. He never, never once overstepped a line. Never once and we were together a lot. But, I met Hilary and married Hilary, who is much like him.

DAITCH: Really?

KELLEY: Wait 'til you see.

DAITCH: No kidding!

KELLEY: Everybody's always said that.

DAITCH: Much like Lenny or much like Kennedy?

KELLEY: No, he's not anything like Lenny.

DAITCH: So you think he's like Kennedy?

KELLEY: Other people say that.

DAITCH: Really. I mean I think, just a glance, he's tall, he's handsome like Kennedy, but what else?

KELLEY: He's an intellect, he's quiet, he's introspective, he's kind, he loves his family. He'll go out of his way to do nice things, like write me a big check for my birthday and date it a month ahead, way ahead, so that I don't put it in the bank 'til he gets the money.

DAITCH: Good boy.

KELLEY: You know, just things like that. And he's forgetful. Somebody once said of him he'll never have a lot of money, but he'll always have the respect of the community. And I felt that way about Jack until he became president and all these things were said. I always thought people would love him and respect him. And I do think a lot of people do.

DAITCH: Oh, I think so, too.

KELLEY: But a lot of people are jealous, a lot of people resent him. He knew he had privilege. My God, he knew he had privilege. I'll never forget the night we were at the ballet. He's got to leave because he can't stand those "queers jumping around in those tight suits." He leans over and says, "Let's get out of here." He forgets his damned hat. We get all the way back. He forgets his hat. We get back, and then he has no money for the cab. I can't remember. I think we walked back to the hotel because when we pooled our money, we didn't have enough for the cab. He never had any money.

DAITCH: That's what I've heard.

KELLEY: Oh, my God! He never had any money.

DAITCH: I heard he never wore a hat either. How did he leave his hat at the...? He carried it?

KELLEY: He had the hat that night. No, the hat was.... That was the night it was raining so

hard, and he came down from Boston. Didn't I tell you this? Okay. We were to meet in the bar at six. About five-thirty the phone rang, and it was the manager from the Waldorf. He said, "Ms. Holway?" And I said, "Yes?" He introduced himself, and he said, "I'm calling for Jack Kennedy. He just called me. The planes have all been grounded in Boston for New York. But he has a friend that's flying him down. He'll be rather late, but he'll be there."

DAITCH: So he had somebody fly him down.

KELLEY: Yes. It wasn't late--it was kind of late. About seven o'clock the phone rang, and he said he was in the lobby. So that's when we went out. He had the hat on. I remember.

DAITCH: Well, no wonder he forgot it if he's not used to wearing a hat.

KELLEY: I know. I know.

DAITCH: So you ended up walking because neither one of you had a dime between you.

KELLEY: And guess what? It had rained, and I had toeless shoes on; I remember that. My socks were wet, and I had high heels on.

DAITCH: Oh, my gosh.

KELLEY: And I can remember how he loved the music from *Oklahoma!*. Gordon MacRae was singing. It was just.... And I think that's why I remember *Oklahoma!*, you know, because he loved it.

DAITCH: What else did he love that you knew of?

KELLEY: He loved *Finnian's Rainbow*.

DAITCH: Oh, he did?

KELLEY: He talked about it a lot.

DAITCH: Really!

KELLEY: He did. And guess what? I know the music from it, but you don't hear it often.

DAITCH: Yes, you don't.

KELLEY: Do you know it?

DAITCH: I don't. It's the kind of thing that I would probably recognize if I heard it, but I wouldn't know where it came from.

KELLEY: Look, we're going to have more rain.

[A pause in the interview. Interview picks up on the same tape but the interview has moved to a different location.]

KELLEY: But Teddy was young. At that time Jack was 26 and Teddy was 12. But when Jack died, Teddy must have been 30-some. But I don't understand why they don't. Of course the family's biased, too, but I'm sure they would be very honest.

DAITCH: Yes. I think some of it is, too, that.... Well, it's hard to say. But some of it may be true, some of it may not. Maybe they don't know. I mean I'm sure that whatever Jack did in his personal life, he probably didn't share it with everyone in his family. So if he was having infidelities, he probably wouldn't have discussed it with Eunice, for example. So she wouldn't maybe honestly know one way or the other. So maybe the best policy is to just ignore it.

KELLEY: Yes. It doesn't exist, didn't exist.

DAITCH: It's difficult. I mean, you know, the question that someone like Bob Dallek [Robert Dallek] asked, whether it affected the presidency...

KELLEY: What's his background, Dallek?

DAITCH: He's good. He's a very well-known historian.

KELLEY: Is his book in the Library?

DAITCH: Mm hmmm.

KELLEY: Dallek?

DAITCH: D-A-L-L-E-K.

KELLEY: And what's the name of the book?

DAITCH: *An Unfinished Life*. It's balanced. I mean, you know, he does....

KELLEY: Where'd he get his information?

DAITCH: He did a lot of research in the Library. He's an historian, he's a well-known



historian. He's done biographies of Johnson [Lyndon B. Johnson]. You know, very well respected in the field. He's not some fly-by-night journalist who's just trying to make trouble. I met him at the Library, and....

KELLEY: You were impressed.

DAITCH: I was impressed. The thing is no historian, no legitimate historian who wants their book to come out that they've been working on for five or ten years, and the only thing anybody sees in it is, oh, he had an affair with an intern. You know, that's not what you want. You want the whole book to be taken as a whole. His thought was, look, there's been all this talk about Kennedy's health and about his alleged promiscuity. So he said, okay, the question as an historian I want to ask is even if all that's true, did it affect his presidency, did it affect the decisions that he made, did it affect his...?

KELLEY: How does he feel about it? How does he feel about the decisions, especially towards the end when there was so much about his health and about that Dr. Jacobson that traveled with him and gave him shots.

DAITCH: He said the astounding thing is that he can't tell that it did. He tried to put the timing side by side as best he could have of the events and decisions that he had to make as president and his physical ups and downs as best he could. He, you know, said it was an amazing thing how little it seemed to impair his judgment.

KELLEY: Well, you know, Vicki, the only comparison I can make is with my Chrissy, who worked with newborn babies in pediatrics. And when she developed Tic douloureux, if the doctors wanted to prescribe medication, they told her that it would interfere with her judgment, her time, her actions. So she elected to go through the surgery rather than take the medication. Because if she was taking the medication, she would have had to quit her job. So I do know that Chrissy went through that period of should I do this or should I do that?

DAITCH: I don't know how much he knew about it, I don't know how much his doctors knew about the drugs. Some of it was experimental. But, you know, the only thing that we can say is that so far there is no evidence that it interfered with his judgment. He certainly lived through and was president during some of the most frightening moments in recent history. And he did a profoundly good job. I mean that's my personal opinion. In the Cuban Missile Crisis there were so many people urging him to do things that would have been disastrous, and he thought for himself, and he held back, and took a more even-handed, level-headed approach. It was very impressive. And again, for a younger man to, you know, his older, wiser people giving him all this advice which now looks bad, and he stuck to his own beliefs.

KELLEY: Did you ever interview Dr. John Walsh [John Walter Walsh]?

DAITCH: No.

KELLEY: Well, he was Jackie's doctor, and he also was my doctor.

DAITCH: Really!

KELLEY: Yes, it was just by a fluke, it's just a small world, that when we went to Washington, I was pregnant. But I lost the baby. But while I was pregnant, a woman by the name of Anne Ress, who was a very good friend of Mother Kelly's, I didn't have an obstetrician, and she said, "Oh, John Walsh is a good friend of mine." So she called Dr. Walsh, and Dr. Walsh saw me. And he took care of me. In fact, when I had the miscarriage, he did the surgery. And when I moved over to the beach, he sent a letter over to the doctor over there. But he did know a lot. He was Jackie's doctor. But he was so discreet. He was very discreet.

DAITCH: What was his first name?

KELLEY: John Walsh. In fact, he was a good friend, he was not only my doctor, he became a very good friend of ours. It's funny how in Washington you meet people like I met Jackie's roommate from Holton Arms. And one of the girls who Auchincloss was her godfather. And several of her teachers, which I told you about. It's funny how you just run into people that know one another.

DAITCH: Yes, in the most unsuspected places, where you wouldn't imagine it would happen. I want to ask you some things that I've got. These are wonderful, and I really appreciate these copies of the notes that you took. They're so vivid.

KELLEY: Can I tell you something? Hilary said, "Do you really want to give her all that?" I said, "Why?" He said, "Well, your children have been urging you to tell your side of the story." I said, "I did. I'm telling it." And he said, "No, in other ways." This was just this morning. I said, "No, I'm telling it to Vicki, letting Vicki, and let it go into the Library. That's the only way I want it."

DAITCH: Good. I think that will be good.

KELLEY: But he was a little dubious that I was giving away too much.

DAITCH: The thing is, other people will have access to it. But so will you. It's still your story.

KELLEY: Oh, yes.

DAITCH: It's not like probably there are people lining up waiting for every new interview that comes in. So it ultimately.... I think as an historian, I don't think of it as

taking away other people's stories. I think of it as using them to build a story of my own with that.

KELLEY: Yes. Then you must realize it's only a very, very teensy small part of his life.

DAITCH: Right. That's your piece of your story...

KELLEY: Very, very small.

DAITCH: ...wherever it meshed with his.

KELLEY: Very, very small.

DAITCH: I am amazed at how warmly you thought about him and how close you two were, even after Lenny died and even after you remarried.

KELLEY: I thought we were close when Lenny died. I really did. The only thing is, you know, Lenny and Jack, they had a lot to be together about. But there were a lot of other guys around, too. It just happened that Lenny happened to be the one person that was in that crowd who was married. And I can tell you who it was: It was Al Webb, Bill Battle, Johnny Isles, Joe Atkinson, Lenny, and Red Fay was around. But most of the guys, they didn't like Red.

DAITCH: Really! Why?

KELLEY: I don't know. And he doesn't know, I don't know. I liked Red. Red was.... I don't know. Red was what you'd call a climber.

DAITCH: Oh, really. Yes.

KELLEY: He was always trying to do you one better. But I liked him.

DAITCH: But you did say in one of these things that you had written up that he was the one person who didn't call you when Lenny was killed.

KELLEY: I know. Since then I heard from him.

DAITCH: Really?

KELLEY: Yes, when Chrissy died.

DAITCH: Oh, really?

KELLEY: Yes, I did. And you know what? He said to me, in a letter, and I sent it to

Lenny, he said, “Kate, we haven’t seen one another, but I was reviewing some of the film I took at the wedding, and there you are, and I hope you’re just about the same as you were then.” He said, “But you looked so wonderful then, and I hope you’re well and looking....” I would love to get hold of that film. And I don’t know how to go about doing it.

DAITCH: At the wedding?

KELLEY: No, Red has it. Red Fay has a film of the wedding.

DAITCH: Of your wedding?

KELLEY: Jack’s wedding.

DAITCH: Oh, really!

KELLEY: Yes.

DAITCH: You think that was like an informal film that he just took?

KELLEY: He must have been just taking film, he must have been taking....

DAITCH: Oh, neat. I don’t know. It could even be that we have a copy of that.

KELLEY: Why don’t you ask him? Paul Fay. You can even say that I said. Because you know what? Since I didn’t hear from him when Lenny died and I haven’t heard from him over the years, except when Chrissy died, I was so hesitant to ask him if I could have a copy of that film. It’s almost getting too late now because Chrissy’s been dead three years. She died in July three years ago.

DAITCH: I’ll see what I can find out.

KELLEY: If you ever get it, may I have a copy?

DAITCH: Sure. I don’t know. Again, it depends on when the Library takes things and saying that Red had given a copy to the Library, when we take it in, whether there are stipulations or not. You can say anybody can access it. Or he could say I don’t want anybody, they can look at it, but I don’t want anybody to have a copy of that. So it just depends.

KELLEY: Okay. Well, that just happened to come to my mind.

DAITCH: It must have been a fond memory, the wedding, and seeing sort of old friends.

KELLEY: Yes, a lot of the PT boys were there.

DAITCH: You were talking a little bit at breakfast about the inauguration. Tell me about that. I can't believe you had a front row seat.

KELLEY: Well, all the men from the PT boat. Al Cluster [Alvin P. Cluster], you've heard that name. Al sat right next to me. He was their squadron commander. Like up here Jack was taking the oath, and we're sitting right down here.

DAITCH: Wow!

KELLEY: Yes, and during the parade, Jack's sitting right center, you know, watching the parade, and right to the side of him was, what do you call that thing they set up where you sit on, right next to there were all.... Well, the men were riding the boat. But his close friends were all sitting right there. And I can remember we were offered sandwiches and hot chocolate. It was just such a cold day.

DAITCH: I know. I heard it was really cold.

KELLEY: Yes.

DAITCH: But it was fun? It must have been thrilling!

[END SIDE 1, TAPE 2]

[BEGIN SIDE 2, TAPE 2]

KELLEY: It was thrilling. We only went to the one inaugural party. Again, you had to have something to tell you where to go, you know. You had to find where you were seated. It was right below the presidential box. It was a lovely. We were served champagne and all kinds of hors d'oeuvres. Everything was planned, and it was very nice.

DAITCH: Oh, it sounds wonderful. Aside from the PT people, did you recognize other people? Were there other friends that you knew who were sort of, you know, in that crowd that got to seat close to the new president and all that?

KELLEY: No. All I can think of is Al Cluster sitting there next to me. No. I can remember a bunch of the men from the boat at the inaugural ball, but that was about it.

DAITCH: Did you get to know, during the presidency, did you get to know people like Dave Powers [David F. Powers] and Kenny O'Donnell [Kenneth P. O'Donnell]?

KELLEY: I had met Dave Powers, and I had met Kenny O'Donnell, and I had met Ted Sorensen [Theodore C. Sorensen].

DAITCH: Did they seem to be good friends? What did you think of them?

KELLEY: Honestly, Vicki, you know, I didn't give it much thought. But I told you we almost bought Sorensen's house, so I got to interact with him when we were looking at the house.

DAITCH: You had said that his wife left almost immediately after they got to Washington. I was thinking that I don't know if it had anything to do with Kennedy [Inaudible].

KELLEY: I don't either.

DAITCH: But I was thinking about what you told me about the guys, the married couples, of some of his friends had girlfriends, how some of the women sort of resented that the guys all clustered around Jack and went off somewhere, and the women were left.

KELLEY: The men always congregated in the kitchen or someplace off, and the women were left.

DAITCH: Do you think.... I mean sometimes that just happens in any groups of men and women.

KELLEY: But it always happened when he was around.

DAITCH: Really? You know, people talk about his leadership qualities and whatnot, and I wonder if.... I mean was he that kind of guy that he sort of was magnetic?

KELLEY: No.

DAITCH: How did that happen?

KELLEY: No, I did not see that. No.

DAITCH: Why do you think that it happened that way? I mean how did it happen that...?

KELLEY: Well, everybody sees something different. I didn't see that, no.

DAITCH: It's just funny that you didn't because I've heard so many people say how magnetic he was. You didn't see that?

KELLEY: Mmmm mmm. No, I didn't see that.

DAITCH: Any magnetism or charisma or whatever you want to call it.

KELLEY: He had a lot of charisma, but I don't think he drew people to him like that.

DAITCH: It's just funny.

KELLEY: In fact, as I say, it was almost like certain people were drawn to him, and certain people weren't. It was his attitude that would tell you if you're going to be friends or not, or that he wanted to. He was very impatient at times. He didn't have a lot of patience with small talk or just dilly-dallying. I don't know if you understand what I'm saying.

DAITCH: Yes. He always wanted to be moving, doing something.

KELLEY: Well, not in fact doing something, but he didn't want to waste his time. That was my impression.

DAITCH: I wonder if that was because he had been sick so much.

KELLEY: I'm sure that might have been.

DAITCH: And just a personality thing. The family was sort of driven.

KELLEY: I didn't see him driven like I saw Eunice.

DAITCH: Really?

KELLEY: Just take, for an example.... No. You know, Patricia was laid back, Jean was kind of.... Kathleen certainly was. But Eunice was driven. I didn't see that in Jack. I saw it in Bobby. But Teddy was too young.

DAITCH: Yes. I mean Jack had this drive to always be doing something constructive in terms of whether it was just a conversation or I don't know. The thing that you said about him being impatient with small talk: It can't just be small talk. It has to be a real conversation. Is that...?

KELLEY: My impression was he didn't want to waste his time on mundane things.

DAITCH: Like money, having cash in his pocket?

KELLEY: He never had. I heard that story, but I saw it for myself.

DAITCH: That would have been frustrating.

KELLEY: Yes. I saw for myself that he was such a picky eater. It used to.... If you were eating with him, it was kind of annoying.

DAITCH: Really? So he would go to a restaurant and have to....

KELLEY: Well, wherever he was. It wasn't really at a restaurant. We always ate at his house. But that night at the Waldorf, he was just shoving things around and picking, you know.

DAITCH: And he did that a lot whenever you would have dinner with him?

KELLEY: He was a very picky eater, that's all I can say. He liked his mousse, his chocolate mousse. He liked clam chowder.

DAITCH: I wonder, that may have had something to do with his stomach, too.

KELLEY: Oh, sure it did.

DAITCH: So you ate at Georgetown?

KELLEY: In that little house, yes, on N Street. He had a cook. Her name was Margaret.

DAITCH: Oh, well, that would have been helpful. So maybe she could cook whatever he wanted. What was the street? I'm sure we know that, but....

KELLEY: What?

DAITCH: The street that the townhouse was on?

KELLEY: I think it was on N Street.

DAITCH: N Street. Yes, I know that....

KELLEY: I can tell you that you walked in, and it had several floors to it because the living room was on the second floor. The dining room was on the first floor.

DAITCH: Then the bedrooms and that must have been on the...

KELLEY: Must have been on the third floor.

DAITCH: So Eunice was living with him there at the time?



KELLEY: I don't know if she was living with him or not. I saw her occasionally there, but I didn't see her every time.

DAITCH: Were you friends with her or just friendly?

KELLEY: I got to know her when I was at Hyannis Port and then when I would see her at Jack's, and she was very friendly. She called me to ask me to have lunch with her. I went to her office. She was very friendly.

DAITCH: Yes. The whole clan was somewhat friendly.

KELLEY: Not that friendly.

DAITCH: Really?

KELLEY: I thought Kathleen was friendly, very nice. But Patricia was very.... Well, she was young, and Jean was young. I liked Jean. Patricia was.... You just couldn't get to know her.

DAITCH: Different personalities, I guess. But you were friendly with Eunice.

KELLEY: Yes.

DAITCH: Do you remember, or were you around any when Kathleen died?

KELLEY: I had told you that when she died, I sent him a letter and a Mass card, and he responded and told me he felt badly, he told me how much she would be missed. That it was friends like me that kept him going in times of sorrow.

DAITCH: I mean I couldn't remember if you saw him any time then?

KELLEY: No, I did not see him then.

DAITCH: That must have hit him hard.

KELLEY: Well, I can imagine it did. If you've ever suffered the loss of somebody, especially so sudden.

DAITCH: Yes, yes. And they were pretty--were they pretty close?

KELLEY: I understand they were. She admired him, and I'm sure he loved her. It was a close family. They were all very close, very camaraderie.

DAITCH: Do you think that.... And again, I'm asking you to speculate a little bit just

based on....

KELLEY: It's hard for me to speculate, but go ahead and ask.

DAITCH: You can't. But, you know, I was thinking about the fact that your family that you came from was much like his; you described all the kids that you met. Sort of a strong father figure, lots of kids. Everybody does their part. And, you know, it's just a loving family. And then I thought, well, your family was the same way. Even after you lost Lenny, that was traumatic and things could have gone differently, but ultimately you ended up with a very similar kind of family.

KELLEY: Absolutely, with Hilary.

DAITCH: And I wonder if he sort of idealized that because it was his, maybe what he wanted for himself, too? Did you get the feeling that he would have liked to have had a big group of children of his own?

KELLEY: I always had got the feeling that he loved a big family. Because, you know, when you have a big family, you don't need outsiders so much, you have so much inside.

DAITCH: It certainly appears that he did.

KELLEY: I know when you do, you kind of make your brothers' and sisters' friends your friends.

DAITCH: Right.

KELLEY: Really, that's the way it works. And that's kind of what I saw.

DAITCH: Yes, yes. I just wondered about that. Then when Hilary was talking about--and I hope I can talk to Hilary a little bit more about this--but when he mentioned, you know, how Jack had talked to him about the miscarriages, that Jacqueline had, I just wondered if it was particularly sad for him because he had hoped for a big family and all that kind of thing.

KELLEY: But how would Hil know that?

DAITCH: Oh, exactly. He only knows what Jack told him and what they discussed.

KELLEY: Yes, yes.

DAITCH: But just the fact that he mentioned it, you know. I'm trying to sort of put together what all that might have meant to him.

KELLEY: It was probably very traumatic to have a baby boy born and live a few days.

DAITCH: It must have been.

KELLEY: Here he was the most powerful man in the world. You can almost do anything, but you can't make your child live.

DAITCH: Yes, that must have been awful. Did you ever talk to him about any of those things?

KELLEY: No. We talked a little bit about religion because I was making sure I was always able to get to Mass. Lenny was not a Catholic. When he died, they thought he was a Catholic because there were Rosary beads in his pocket and some medals that I had given him. And they called a priest. When I arrived, there was a priest. They thought he was Catholic.

DAITCH: Would he have been offended by that? Or he wouldn't have cared.

KELLEY: No. In fact, when he died, some of the fraternity boys told me that he was seriously going to be a Catholic.

DAITCH: Really! He hadn't mentioned that to you?

KELLEY: No. And I don't know if the boys told me that to make me feel better. But that wouldn't have made me feel better because he was such a good person.

DAITCH: Yes. It wouldn't have mattered. So what did you and Jack talk about, about religion?

KELLEY: Well, he wasn't as intense about his religion as I was and about how his mother was and some of his sisters. He really thought that it hadn't come into the 20th century. I know that was one of his thoughts. It was too Old World.

DAITCH: What kinds of ways? Any examples of his...?

KELLEY: Well, probably birth control, priests marrying, confessions, things like that. We didn't go into it in depth. I just knew that he wasn't intense about it as I was.

DAITCH: Did he sort of give you some gentle kidding about that, or was it just...?

KELLEY: No. No, it was just conversation.

DAITCH: Just discussion. Yes. I suppose he could probably be a bit of a teaser.

KELLEY: Don't forget he was married right there in St. Mary's. And that's another thing. The people that profess to have know him so well, like George Smathers [George Armistead Smathers], they'd be on *Larry King*, and they'd say, "Well, where was he married?" "I know uh maybe New York? Boston? Hyannis Port?" He was married in Newport at St. Mary's on Spring Street.

DAITCH: Now you're familiar with that church.

KELLEY: Yes.

DAITCH: That's where you went when you lived in Melville?

KELLEY: Yes.

DAITCH: Is that the one you told me you knew all the ushers?

KELLEY: Well, yes. Well, they were in the back of the church.

DAITCH: That's nice. It was fun for you then. You were going home.

KELLEY: But it was nice for me to walk in and see the ones I knew because I didn't have a seat. Everybody had a place to sit.

DAITCH: That must have been such a fun day. To me things like that are fun occasions. You see people you haven't seen....

KELLEY: It was such a beautiful fall day. The sun was out, it was brisk.

DAITCH: Nice memories. Now you said you never really knew Jackie that well. Was there ever a time....

KELLEY: Absolutely not. I did not know her that well. Only what I heard; and, as I say, one very, very dear friend here in Greensburg went to school with her. They went to school in New York, and her sister Mimi that lives in Belgium now was a very good friend of hers. I asked her.... I don't know where I was when I asked her. In fact, I may not have even asked her, but I said I did to these girls, just not to hurt their feelings.

DAITCH: That they had said the same thing, that she was reserved?

KELLEY: Well, that she didn't have many close friends and that she was aloof. And that's the same thing the girls at Holton Arms said. But you can go through life and just have a few good friends. You don't have to have a bevy of them.

DAITCH: Sure. Right.

KELLEY: People that are going to stand around and admire you.

DAITCH: Right. That may have just been her style.

KELLEY: Yes. It's all in the eye of the beholder really.

DAITCH: Do you think.... I mean getting back to Jack, speaking of a few good friends, he had all these people around him all the time. It seems there was a constant flow of people. Part of it may have been his job in that he's a political man and has to do these things. But good friends?

KELLEY: I have no idea. I don't see it that way. I see that the time I said to him, "I can't believe we're still friends, and you're the president of the United States." And he said, "Kate, I just work with these people. My old friends will always be my friends. I have a job to do." That's what he said. He was surrounded by people that he probably wanted to be surrounded by.

DAITCH: Well, people that he admired certainly.

KELLEY: They were people that had a lot of intelligence, had smarts, and he used them.

DAITCH: Mmmm hmmm. Oh, yes. Well, which is the right thing to do. You know, if you're the president, you need to get the brightest minds you can.

KELLEY: That's right.

DAITCH: And he liked smart people. I wondered about women because I've read that he liked women who were not just beautiful but smart. Now, that I've met you, I think about it that way with you. Beautiful and smart.

KELLEY: What's the question?

DAITCH: You said you didn't see him around many women.

KELLEY: No, not any. Mmmm mmmm.

DAITCH: I just wondered about that sort of.... You know, he liked you because you were....

KELLEY: He liked me because I was married to Lenny. He liked me because I was probably kind and sweet, easy to know and friendly. And accepted him on all his own terms. I was never judgmental about any.... I don't think I was.

DAITCH: Yes. What was it? Oh, I know, it's something you said that shocked you when he made this comment about, something about leaving the ballet because he didn't like watching the "queers in tights."

KELLEY: Well, you know, I do like ballet. And I think that's one of the reasons he chose that for the evening. Do you go to ballet much?

DAITCH: I don't. I wish I did.

KELLEY: Well, you know, the men do wear these tight....

DAITCH: Well, they're beautiful.

KELLEY: He didn't like watching those guys jumping, "those queers," he said, "jumping around."

DAITCH: But they're very athletic.

KELLEY: Absolutely.

DAITCH: And he appreciated athleticism.

KELLEY: Listen, he didn't become that kind of a cultural icon until after he married Jackie.

DAITCH: Did you see that as a good thing for him?

KELLEY: Yes, I do. I think you have to be well balanced in your life if you're going to be that powerful, you know.

DAITCH: But he wasn't then.

KELLEY: Balanced.

DAITCH: Balance is a good thing, I guess. It's interesting to watch him. I've heard people say.... I mean he was so young. And when he was elected president....

KELLEY: But you know what? No matter how old you are, you don't think you're so young.

DAITCH: Right, right. Yes.

KELLEY: Because I look back and think, gee, I was young. But now I am old--had all

these kids.

DAITCH: Yes. The level of responsibility, I suppose. But I mean I think of him being elected president when he was somewhere around my age. And wow! President of the wealthiest, most powerful country in the world.

KELLEY: I think it was a big shock to him.

DAITCH: Really?

KELLEY: I do. I think he was in awe of himself. Really. [Laughter]

DAITCH: Really?

KELLEY: In awe of himself.

DAITCH: But you get the feeling that he took it very seriously.

KELLEY: Oh, absolutely. Oh, absolutely. That's why I can't think that he would do anything, *anything!* that would take away the dignity of that office. I just can't. I can't even think of one reason. He had that presence. He had presidential presence when he was president.

DAITCH: But not before? Not to you?

KELLEY: Well, no. I have to say I remember I never saw him as president. I'm delighted he was.

DAITCH: Did he ever talk to you about the.... I mean I know he had so little time to just chat with a friend. But after he was elected, did you ever get to say, Wow, you're president?

KELLEY: That's what I did say to him.

DAITCH: And what did he say?

KELLEY: I told you. He said that we're friends. He said to me, "Kate, my old friends will always be my friends. These people that I'm surrounded with, I work with them. I have a job to do." And I thought that was profound.

DAITCH: It is profound. It is. Especially for you, being a friend.

KELLEY: He was more or less, when he made that statement that he was in awe. He was in awe because all these kids were milling around. "This is yours? I can't

believe it, you know.” You know.

DAITCH: It must have been an amazing thing for him. But he comes from a family like that.

KELLEY: And the kids were excited to see him, and he was so sweet. He kept sitting there. There was a pad with the presidential seal on it, and he kept writing and giving them his autograph, and they were just.... And Mrs. Lincoln [Evelyn N. Lincoln] was bringing them in suckers and all. Oh, he gave the boys PT tie clips and the girls bracelets.

DAITCH: What a sweetheart.

KELLEY: And they were so excited because there were so many little gifts.

DAITCH: Yes. Well, and his signature. Maybe when you’re a child you don’t think: It’s a signature on the presidential pad. But to me, I would kill to have one of those.

KELLEY: Would you really?

DAITCH: Oh, yes.

KELLEY: Did I tell you about the one we sold at St. Anne’s?

DAITCH: I don’t think so.

KELLEY: Well, there were quite a few of those signatures. When Chrissy was at St. Anne’s, they were having an auction. I said to Sister, “Well, I’ll give you a Kennedy autograph.” She said, “Well, how do I know it’s for real?” I said, “Well, I was there when he signed it.” She said, “Well, I need a little more....” So I wrote to.... I remember George Hamilton. He died. He was an autograph specialist. So I wrote to him, and he wrote back and said that he thought it was authentic and that it should bring a nice price.

Well, during the auction, nobody touched it. Nobody touched it. Didn’t I tell you that Mike Bell said, “I want it.” So he offered Sister a thousand dollars, and Sister wouldn’t take it. So he upped it. I don’t know if he upped it to 1200 or 1500, and still Sister was dubious about it. But she finally took it. Mike Bell has it. Mike Bell bought it. He wrote to me, and he was so excited. He has it framed, and it’s in his office.

DAITCH: Well, the thing that’s neat about it, too, is that he knows the provenance of it, when the signature actually was done, under what circumstances, who it came from.

KELLEY: It was done in April of 19.... He died in November, and the last time I saw him



was in April.

DAITCH: I mean I would love to have a signature like that, one that you knew actually where it came from. That's amazing.

KELLEY: I still have a couple.

DAITCH: Oh, that's a wonderful thing, a wonderful thing to have.

KELLEY: I still have, he gave me a gold, it was not a tie clip, it was a pin, of the PT. And I think he gave it to me because of Lenny. Several years ago, when Hilary and I were in North Carolina at a wedding, our house was broken into, and my whole jewelry box was taken.

DAITCH: Oh, no!

KELLEY: Not only was the pin in there, there was some of my very good jewelry, and I've never recovered it.

DAITCH: Oh, no. Oh, that's sad.

KELLEY: But the girls have their bracelets, I've seen them. The boys have their tie clips.

DAITCH: I'll bet they treasure them. Do you think they do?

KELLEY: Oh, I know they do.

DAITCH: Oh, I bet they do.

KELLEY: I know they do. And I know when Gerry [Gerard Kelley] wrote to the one who's at the Library....

DAITCH: Oh, Allan Goodrich.

KELLEY: Allan Goodrich, yes. Gerry, he is a lawyer in Philadelphia, he wanted to get that picture. You know the picture I showed you.

DAITCH: Of all the kids.

KELLEY: That is a bona fide picture. On the back of it it has Stoughton's [Cecil Stoughton] name.

DAITCH: Oh, Cecil Stoughton?

KELLEY: Yes, he's wonderful. Do you know him?

DAITCH: Yes, I talked to him.

KELLEY: He took that picture.

DAITCH: He did?

KELLEY: On the back of it is "Cecil Stoughton," what date he took it.

DAITCH: Oh, that's great. Oh, I'm sure we have copies at the Library.

KELLEY: Well, you do because Gerry wanted to get a picture for each of his brothers and sisters. And he called Goodrich. He was very gracious, and he sent.... I don't know. I guess Gerry had to pay for them. But Gerry had them framed, and he gave one to each of his brothers and sisters.

DAITCH: Oh, that's a nice, nice gift.

KELLEY: Isn't that a nice story?

DAITCH: Yes, it's very nice.

KELLEY: So Gerry was interacting with him.

DAITCH: That's really nice. I think the Library is very pleased to do it. They do have to charge for things, some money.

KELLEY: Of course.

DAITCH: But generally that's what they're there for, and they love it. They love.... Archivists and librarians, I think most of them love finding things for people. That makes them happy.

KELLEY: Vicki, do you have everything of his personally in the Library?

DAITCH: Most of it. I'm sure some of it still remains with the family.

KELLEY: Vicki, why don't you look and see if you can find that knife.

DAITCH: That would be interesting. Did you tell me...? I thought you said you thought it was sold.

KELLEY: No, no, no. I don't know. I gave it to him, remember?

DAITCH: Right. And then you don't know what happened to it.

KELLEY: The one they sold was my wedding gift.

DAITCH: Oh, right, right. Okay. Yes. Okay.

KELLEY: And I don't know that for sure. Mike Bell told me. Mike is.... He just scavenges around and gets all the information. I'm not sure, but I think he was at the auction. The knife I gave him that day in April, I remember he opened it and said, "Where'd you get this?"

DAITCH: Like he'd seen it before.

KELLEY: Vicki, I don't know what it was like. It just shocked me. I said, "Well, it was Lenny's, and I want you to have it." He didn't thank me. It was so unlike him.

DAITCH: Well, maybe somebody at the Library can track it down and learn more about it.

KELLEY: Because it was given to Lenny by one of the men that saved them, you know, one of the men that took them off the island.

DAITCH: Now, do you think, as far as the PT boat story and the rescue, according to what Lenny told you and what you know from his perspective....

KELLEY: You know, Lenny didn't tell me much.

DAITCH: He didn't?

KELLEY: In his letters he wrote personal things. But when he came back, uh uh. No. I wondered. He did tell me about when Jack, that he really thought Jack was sicker than he let on. In fact, he said that in a couple of the letters. But when he came back, he reiterated that he thought he was much sicker than he was, and how he had to hold him when he came back out of the water to warm him up and stop him from shaking.

DAITCH: Now this was when Jack would go out to swim to see if there's a ship.

KELLEY: Yes, to try to hail down a boat. Yes. He was just swimming for hours.

DAITCH: Yes. He would come back and just be shaking....

KELLEY: Just collapse and just be.... Lenny said he just was shaking.

DAITCH: And Lenny being such a big guy, he'd just hold him and warm him up?

KELLEY: Yes, give him his warmth, try to protect him.

DAITCH: I mean I know they were close in the way that wartime buddies are close, but it sounds like they really had a nice relationship.

KELLEY: They did. They did. Because as I look at it now, when we were in Melville, Jack was in the hospital most of the time. When we went to New York and we went to Florida, New York for the commissioning and Florida for the shakedown, Lenny was busy, but it was always Jack seeking Lenny. That's the way I saw it. Lenny was too busy.

DAITCH: Well, Jack wasn't doing anything much at that time.

KELLEY: Well, and then Lenny was given his own boat. A man by the name of Russ Hamachek [Russell E. Hamachek] was the squadron leader, but Lenny had his own boat. And do you know what it was called? The *Thom Cat*.

DAITCH: Cute, T-H-O-M Cat.

KELLEY: Yes, the *Thom Cat*. Several of the men that had been on *PT-109* elected to come with Lenny.

DAITCH: Oh, that's nice. He sounds like such an amazing guy, Lenny. It's no wonder that Jack admired him.

KELLEY: He did. I'm sure he did. I think he loved him, as a man. You know, he was a man's man.

DAITCH: Do you think Lenny reciprocated? What did he think of Jack?

KELLEY: Oh, Lenny liked Jack. Oh, yes. Lenny liked Jack.

DAITCH: You know, you wonder what they said when they were having all their manly conversations, when you were off doing something else.

KELLEY: They were probably talking about the war ending and how it ended and how they were.... At the very end Lenny was on his way for the invasion of Japan. But Jack was out of it, didn't go out then. When the boys were on the shakedown in Miami, he was down there a couple of times as they were taking off. And it looked as though he was reminiscing about when he was able to be on the boat, and he just.... See, this is I'm speculating. But I think he felt bad that he wasn't able to be a part of it again. I don't know how his feelings were. But that's what I kind of saw.

DAITCH: Yes, yes. Well, as much as he was hanging around, that sort of gives some credence to that idea.

KELLEY: He was hanging around because those were his buddies.

DAITCH: They were his buddies, and maybe he would have liked to....

KELLEY: I guess he just wanted to be a part of it.

DAITCH: Yes, yes. But he was really sick then. From what Lenny was saying and from what I've read, he had malaria, and he was a little bit frail probably from his other intestinal problems. And then his back.

KELLEY: Well, it was almost a whole year after Hyannis Port because Lenny was born in April, and I went down to Miami to be with Lenny before he went out. So I was down there when they were--during the shakedown. And Jack wasn't sick. He seemed well then.

DAITCH: Well, he probably had ongoing problems that were up and down. You never saw him that sick again?

KELLEY: No, no. Heard about it. Heard about it right after he was married to Jackie. Just hearsay.

DAITCH: Did you try to call him?

KELLEY: No, no.

DAITCH: Did you feel uncomfortable after he got married being maybe...?

KELLEY: No, I was happy for him. Hey, you know how you think, oh, gosh, is she good enough for him? Why did he pick her?

DAITCH: Yeah. Who would you have had him pick? Did you have somebody lined up for him that you would have liked to see him get together with?

KELLEY: Since I never saw him with anybody, I don't know. I certainly wouldn't want him with some movie star.

DAITCH: No.

KELLEY: Or somebody who had half a brain. Jack would always seek out people with substance. So it would have had to be somebody with substance.

DAITCH: One way or the other, somebody smart. And I think you could say that probably about Mrs. Kennedy, you know, whatever else, if she was reserved or anything, she was smart.

KELLEY: And I think Jack listened to his father as far as.... I think his father acquired Jackie.

DAITCH: Really? And so he thought she was a good catch?

KELLEY: I don't.... I'm just speculating.

DAITCH: Is there something that sort of makes you think that? Or maybe even just something you saw at the wedding or anything, anything Jack said?

KELLEY: No, no, no. I'm just thinking, too, of myself. I know that Mr. Kennedy did like me because he would always, when we were sitting down, he would always sit next to me. At dinner he made sure I was sitting right next to him. At the wedding he came up and told me how glad he was that I could make the wedding. I saw him many times, and he was very cordial. When we were leaving early, he said, "Oh, you can't leave." I just knew that.... But I don't know why I think that he thought Jackie was a good mate for Jack, other than that she was well educated and she came from a good background. And that's what Jack needed. He needed somebody that he could show off, that he could be proud of.

DAITCH: Yes, yes. Well, you would have wanted that. I mean you can't see him with anybody that....

KELLEY: You're right. That's why I'm dubious about a lot of things.

DAITCH: I was going to ask.... I know. I just keep thinking about this. It sounds like he was your friend because you were the wife of his good friend. But it also sounds like there may have been some intention to, you know, after Lenny died and a respectable amount of time passed and all that, that he may have had intention to actually see you and maybe have a relationship.

KELLEY: A lot of people think that. But he never showed that intention, except maybe something bypassed that could have been more than just friendship, and I didn't see it.

DAITCH: So it was brought up.

KELLEY: Very lightly, very lightly. He was just testing the waters.

DAITCH: Yes, which is reasonable. Oh, my gosh, and those pictures of you, what man wouldn't? I just have to say for the record, this is a beautiful woman. We need to have pictures at the Library somewhere of you if we didn't.

KELLEY: What pictures do you have?

DAITCH: I don't know. We need to have some if we don't. So people can put the woman with the interview. Because, you know, it's....

KELLEY: Jack liked me for myself. Nothing more. And I'm sure that when he saw me at Lenny's funeral, he felt sorry for me.

DAITCH: Sure. Yes. Oh, I'm sure there was nothing else at that time.

KELLEY: I'm sure he remembered the good times that we had, and that this was all going to be very difficult because here I am seven months pregnant.

DAITCH: Such a horrible thing.

KELLEY: It was awful.

DAITCH: It was really very nice of him.

KELLEY: It was. It was.

DAITCH: For him to drop everything.

KELLEY: Can I tell you something? Well, Joe was there and Johnny Iles. But they weren't as close. They didn't.... They weren't intense about it as he was after. Maybe it was because he'd had so much in his life he felt deeper. I don't know. But I sure appreciated it, Vicki. I sure.... And to this day I do.

DAITCH: But you do wonder about that. I mean so many people, especially when they're young, have never had that kind of loss. And so you don't know how to respond to it. But he had.

KELLEY: And you know, I have to tell you something. He and my dad hit it off.

DAITCH: Really?

KELLEY: Oh, right away. And you know what? He sent my dad a case of Haig & Haig scotch.

DAITCH: Are you serious?

KELLEY: I'm honestly telling you the truth. They just seemed to.... Every time I'd see him or something, he'd say, "Remember me to your dad." "Remember me to your dad." "Say hello to your dad for me." And I thought that was--I liked that.

DAITCH: Oh, absolutely. Again, this is a.... To me that seems a little out of the ordinary, that a young, single man, especially a single man because women maybe think of this more, but a young, single man would think about your father just because he met him and liked him.

KELLEY: Well, you know, my dad was something else. He was very flamboyant.

DAITCH: Maybe a little bit like his dad? I think you told me that comparison.

KELLEY: I don't know. Well, except I don't think.... I didn't fear my dad at all. I loved my dad. I loved his flamboyancy and the way he always said, "If you can't go first class, stay home." And what else? He'd always ask me, "Have you been to confession lately?" You know, that kind of man. He demanded a lot of respect, he demanded obedience. In that day.... But his thoughts were that his girls should be ladies. I used to curtsy to my grandmother.

DAITCH: Really! Wow! That's pretty formal.

KELLEY: I know. But that's 80 years ago, 75. Yes.

DAITCH: There were some niceties like that that are just gone.

KELLEY: So I don't know, he liked him. They seemed to.... What I saw, he admired my dad.

DAITCH: Yes, yes. Who else did you see that he...? He admired Lenny, he admired your dad. Were there other people that you know? Well, he and Red Fay were supposed to be good friends.

KELLEY: And I saw him with Red. But there was always everybody else around. Red was.... I liked Red. A lot of people didn't.

DAITCH: But you said a lot of people didn't like Jack either.

KELLEY: Didn't like Jack?

DAITCH: Yes.

KELLEY: Did I say that?



DAITCH: Well, not everybody....

KELLEY: I don't think a lot of people fawned over him.

DAITCH: Well, let's not say they didn't like him.

KELLEY: No.

DAITCH: Well, when we were talking about he could be short and impatient.

KELLEY: Well absolutely. I've seen that. Oh, I saw that.

DAITCH: People might be put off by that.

KELLEY: I saw that.

DAITCH: Do you think he was rude to people?

KELLEY: I don't think he ever meant to be rude. I don't think rude was in his vocabulary. I just think it was, can we say, indifferent. The word "indifferent."

DAITCH: My husband's a little bit like that. I don't know, but if the conversation.... If you and I are having a conversation and he's there and he's not getting anything out of it, he'll just sort of walk away. That kind of thing?

KELLEY: But you know what, Vicki? I think Jack was very exclusive in whom he was friends with. He had that exclusive quality that he just.... He didn't have time for, I don't know what the word is, for just small talk...

DAITCH: Or shallow friendships?

KELLEY: That's right. Shallow, that's probably the word. And now that's my thought in the time span that I knew him. See, I don't want anybody to ever get the wrong idea about my relationship. Can I tell you something? To this day I cherish that.

DAITCH: Well, people would say, I mean the lengths to which some people have emphasized whatever relationships he had with women, you know, people can't imagine that he would have a friendship with a beautiful woman that was exactly that, a friendship.

KELLEY: And especially today. I wouldn't change it for anything. I was so thankful for what he did, for how he acted.

DAITCH: Well, like a friend.

KELLEY: Absolutely.

DAITCH: Did you not have other women friends that you--I know I asked you this before. I just find it so hard to.... Well, maybe after the incident with your sister, you wouldn't want to set him up with anybody. But that was too bad.

KELLEY: Yes.

DAITCH: Did we talk about that on tape, about your setting him up with your sister and she didn't show up?

KELLEY: Yes, stood him up.

DAITCH: That would have been....

KELLEY: It was embarrassing, but, you know.... I think about it today. They would have liked one another. Well, she was, I did tell you, gregarious, cute.

DAITCH: Yes. It's one of those funny things.

KELLEY: Yes.

DAITCH: Did your sister think, after he became president, was she...?

KELLEY: Once or twice I've seen her, we've talked about it. But she never dwelled on it.

DAITCH: No. Well, what are you going to do? It's just one of those funny things.

KELLEY: She married shortly afterwards and had two children, and her husband died when he was 36 years old...

[END SIDE 2, TAPE 2]

[BEGIN SIDE 1, TAPE 3]

DAITCH: But anyway, there was something you said about at the Waldorf. You were having dinner after the ballet, which he didn't enjoy. That he would say something about, "See those people over there? They're laughing at something." What was all that about?

KELLEY: Well, I didn't know a soul. He was always worried about someone was going to see him that he didn't want them to see him. But still, he'd go, "I think that girl

knows me. She keeps looking at our table.” And “See those people down there?” And it was just like.... I have to tell you something. He drove a white Cadillac.

DAITCH: A white Cadillac!

KELLEY: A white Cadillac. And in summer the top was usually down. No matter how many times he took me back to Catholic University dorm, he couldn't find the way. He lost the way. Hilary's a little bit like that. He won't ask directions. But he never wanted to be seen. But it's a direct dichotomy, he did. I don't want to be seen, but I do.

DAITCH: Right, right.

KELLEY: Just like, “Oh, I think that girl, she knows me.”

DAITCH: Almost like a movie star kind of where I really need my privacy, but I like it when people recognize me.

KELLEY: He was a good dancer. You might not think so.

DAITCH: Was he really?

KELLEY: He was a cute dancer.

DAITCH: I love sweet. What did he do?

KELLEY: He just danced beautifully.

DAITCH: Did he?

KELLEY: Yes.

DAITCH: And did he love dancing or no?

KELLEY: When he was dancing, he seemed to. And he always wanted to dance. “Let's dance.”

DAITCH: Oh, really! Oh, that's fun. Because a lot of men won't. They don't really feel comfortable. But he did?

KELLEY: Now, somebody just didn't tell me that. I know that.

DAITCH: Yes, you know that. And he danced with you? When you went out, when Lenny was alive and the other PT boat guys and all that, did you all go to places where

everyone would dance?

KELLEY: Well, when we were in Melville, he wasn't there. And in New York, no, because the boat was being commissioned. Some of the boys lived in Brooklyn. We couldn't find a place. We lived out in Jackson Heights. So we were there most of the time, and Jack would come out. We might have gone in once or twice, but we didn't dance.

DAITCH: Oh, okay. So it just wasn't.... But the Waldorf was sort of your only experience with that?

KELLEY: Yes, yes.

DAITCH: But that must have been fun, and he did like to dance.

KELLEY: Let's dance.

DAITCH: He was good at it. Were you a good dancer? I'll bet you were.

KELLEY: Oh, yes.

DAITCH: I'll bet you were.

KELLEY: I still am.

DAITCH: I'll bet, I'll bet. My mom loves to dance, and she's good at that. But anyway, the thing about his sort of.... I mean there's a little bit of ego there, isn't there? It's like I don't want to be recognized...

KELLEY: Oh, absolutely!

DAITCH: ...but I do want to be recognized.

KELLEY: Yes. Oh, absolutely.

DAITCH: Yes. Did you find....

KELLEY: He was careful, though, when he was in Washington. He was very careful.

DAITCH: What do you mean careful?

KELLEY: He didn't overstep or do anything that the press would get a hold of.

DAITCH: Really.

KELLEY: Or that he'd run into somebody he didn't want to see.

DAITCH: Do you think he was being protective of you or protective of him or what?

KELLEY: No, he was just.... He was just oriented that way. That's the way he was. That's the way that family was. They knew what their father wanted.

DAITCH: Well, that's pretty safe attitude.

KELLEY: And, you know, no matter how old you are, I'm speaking from my own perspective, you think about what your parents expected of you, and even today you don't overstep that line. It's inborn.

DAITCH: Yes, yes. It just becomes part of your world.

KELLEY: Yes, it is. It's a part of your persona.

DAITCH: Yes. But that's understandable to me, just the need for privacy sometimes, that not every little thing you do gets reported.

KELLEY: Yes. And you know, when I talk about the family, when you have a family, it's just like my brother Dick called me the other night, and we talked. What was he calling me about? I told him you were coming, and he said, "Well, I spent three days with him [JFK]. What a nice gentleman." And my other brother John called me from Georgia. We're talking. You just keep that family togetherness. And if you don't have anybody else, it doesn't matter.

DAITCH: Yes, yes. It's nice when you have that many brothers and sisters. You know, you were living near Bobby when Jack was president.

KELLEY: Yes, in McLean. We lived on Melrose Drive.

DAITCH: I had heard that he was just absolutely devastated. Do you remember seeing him at the time?

KELLEY: Yes. That's kind of a blur to me. I don't remember. I remember a lot of the neighbors that were mutual friends of both of ours were just devastated.

DAITCH: Oh, everybody was. Even people who didn't know them. I can't imagine what it must have felt like. At the Library they have a little area where they run film from Walter Cronkite as the events were unfolding. And I can't watch that without tears in my eyes, and I was barely two years old or something.

KELLEY: When he died.

DAITCH: Yes. But it was such a shocking, horrible thing. I can't imagine what it was like to have known him.

KELLEY: It was like a mirage. It's there, but you hope you don't see it.

DAITCH: Yes. It must have been just hard to get it a handle on it. Did you see Eunice after that or any of the other family members that you knew?

KELLEY: No, I haven't seen them. I kind of watch what she does because I think she's a character. I think she's colorful.

DAITCH: But you never did at that time. And you still had your hands full with a whole big family.

KELLEY: You know, once I married Hilary, my life became altogether a different life.

DAITCH: But you were in Washington.

KELLEY: I know. But I had all these kids. When I moved to Washington, I had to find a school for Lenny, a school for Chrissy, a school for Kitty. Well, Mary and Gerry I put into St. Luke's. Patrick went across the street to kindergarten. I was just overwhelmed.

DAITCH: You were busy.

KELLEY: Most of the time overwhelmed.

DAITCH: Yes, I bet. So really the only time after that you got to see Jack was when you took the kids to the White House.

KELLEY: That's right.

DAITCH: And before that, before you moved to the Washington area with Hilary....

KELLEY: Oh, yes. That's how we....

DAITCH: And you probably wouldn't have seen Jack much after you married Hilary until then?

KELLEY: Yes, we did. I told you that Jack and Hilary seemed to.... Hilary liked Jack, and Jack seemed to like Hilary. I'm sure that if Jack didn't like Hilary, he would have never called and asked us to meet him. Or, "Hilary, why don't you fly

back with me?” “Meet me, I’m going to be at St. Vincent’s for an honorary, and will you be my guests?” and stuff. I’m sure if he didn’t like Hilary, he would have never pursued that. And when we went to the White House, he said to Hilary, “How much are you making, how do you rear all nine children on that much money?” you know, “Why don’t you come to work for me?” Do you think Jack would have said that?

DAITCH: Oh, I’m sure he must have liked him.

KELLEY: I mean it wasn’t that intense like that he and Lenny had because they were together in that terrible tragedy. It turned out not to be a tragedy, you know. He was the same when I was married to Hilary that he was when I was married to Lenny.

DAITCH: Yes. It’s really nice to have had that. Then that he liked Hilary, which is great.

KELLEY: Yes. I’m assuming he did because why he would have pursued it?

DAITCH: Well, and respected him, too.

KELLEY: I didn’t pursue it.

DAITCH: Yes, it wasn’t a mutual thing where you both....

KELLEY: No, I didn’t say, “Where are you going to be, what are you going to be doing?” No way. He knew I was there. If he was going to be around.... And I loved it, I adored it that he felt that way.

DAITCH: It’s really nice. I mean it must have been kind of fun just to get a call. Now you said somewhere that he was a real spur-of-the-moment kind of guy.

KELLEY: Very.

DAITCH: He didn’t call and give you his itinerary two weeks ahead of time.

KELLEY: No. He might have when he was coming to St. Vincent’s. He might have. But, no, several times, no. He’d be somewhere, and he was going to be flying in, usually to Pittsburgh. “And I’m going to be there. Do you want to come in, or can you come in?” And it was just he was in and out.

DAITCH: Yes. That must have been kind of fun, though, just once in a while get a phone call. Could you most of the time?

KELLEY: Yes.

DAITCH: Because we talked about that, getting a baby-sitter for nine kids.

KELLEY: Yes, we did, we knocked ourselves out. And if Hilary hadn't liked him, I don't think Hilary would have bothered.

DAITCH: And Jackie was never with him on any of these trips?

KELLEY: Never. Never.

DAITCH: I know some of the time she was pregnant or not having an easy time.

KELLEY: But I mean when I was around, no, she didn't. No, no.

DAITCH: I had read that she rarely came to those things.

KELLEY: I don't know. And he never talked about her.

DAITCH: Really!

KELLEY: Not to me. Now, he talked to Hilary about the miscarriage. Maybe it's because I had so many.

DAITCH: Yes, he didn't want to bring it up or something?

KELLEY: Well, not with Hilary because I had four miscarriages between children.

DAITCH: Did you really! Oh, my gosh.

KELLEY: Oh, the would-be mother. And I had to go to surgery with every one.

DAITCH: Really! Oh, my gosh.

KELLEY: So maybe that's what they were talking about. Maybe that's why he brought it up. And maybe because Dr. Walsh was my doctor.

DAITCH: Did he continue to be? Not after you left Washington.

KELLEY: No. Well, yes, when I went over to the beach. See, we had a home over at Monmouth Beach, and I would go over there with the kids during the summer.

DAITCH: And that was close to where Dr. Walsh was?

KELLEY: No, Dr. Walsh was in Washington. But he would send letters over to this doctor in Red Bank. I'm glad he did because I had a bad miscarriage there, and I was



given superior treatment.

DAITCH: Oh, that's good.

KELLEY: It's not what you know, it's who you know.

DAITCH: Yes, apparently that pays off sometimes. But that's good.

KELLEY: If Dr. Walsh is still living, he probably has a lot of happy memories and sorry memories.

DAITCH: Some sad, yes. It would have been difficult. Did you.... I don't know. Sometimes I look at pictures of Jacqueline, and she looks frail to me. But she was a horseback rider and stuff, right?

KELLEY: I think she was tough.

DAITCH: Do you?

KELLEY: I'm just saying that. I think she was a pretty tough lady.

DAITCH: Well, you'd have to be to be a horsewoman, I mean a real horsewoman.

KELLEY: Well, she was thrown several times, I understand.

DAITCH: Yes? Wow. But she just looked so delicate and slender and all that.

KELLEY: Well, in McLean, you know, we always had a horse tied up in our backyard.

DAITCH: Did you?

KELLEY: Oh, yes. You know here the Kennedys had horses for every kid. I had one horse for nine.

DAITCH: Right. Well.

KELLEY: And our horse died in Bobby's front yard. She called to tell me.

DAITCH: Oh, no.

KELLEY: Oh, I was devastated. Our kids taught the horse. His name was Roho. We kept him in the farm next to their house. There was a grate. Our kids taught the horse to go over the grate without being afraid, which was wrong. Because he got out early in the morning, and he was hit by a car. He limped over to Kennedys' and fell down in

their front yard.

DAITCH: Oh, no. And this is Bobby Kennedy's.

KELLEY: Yes. And so she called to tell me that our horse was lying in her front yard. So I went over and she never came out of the house.

DAITCH: Ethel [Ethel Skakel Kennedy]?

KELLEY: That's all right. So a neighbor went in and called the vet. A vet arrived and examined the horse, and he told me that I'd best put him out, put him away. So right then and there he gave him an injection. Then I had to pay about \$80 to have the horse removed from her front yard.

DAITCH: Oh, dear, that would have been expensive. They're big critters.

KELLEY: So that was my experience with the horse.

DAITCH: And with the Kennedy neighbors. But you were neighbors with Ethel, were you neighborly with her?

KELLEY: No, no.

DAITCH: None of your kids played together, anything like that?

KELLEY: We spoke to one another in church. Kitty and Kathleen attended some parties together. Kitty's 52 now. And Kathleen, she's in Maryland. And you saw them around, but they weren't in and out of our house.

DAITCH: It's just unusual. You would think that with all that many kids there would have been one or two that were....

KELLEY: Oh, that neighborhood was filled with kids. There were no fences. If you go by there now, everybody has a big fence around their house. See, this is the way times change. Then it was all open fields, all open. Very livable. The Kennedys kind of kept.... Now, I went over several times. I went to a tea there. And another time I went to a book review. But I wasn't invited by Ethel per se. It was just a group. I remember seeing that it was much like my house. There were broken dishes mended and some of the pictures were askew. And there was a little bit of wear and tear.

DAITCH: You guys are both just in such good shape.

KELLEY: Oh, yes.

DAITCH: Yes. That's fun, though. You guys are just so complementary.

KELLEY: Well, as I say, it's been 55 years.

DAITCH: I think it's wonderful. I've been married almost 18 years.

KELLEY: Oh, my gosh. And the next 18 will go so fast, so fast. And you know for our 50th wedding anniversary, our children had the most beautiful blowout for us. They had it at the Duquesne Club in Pittsburgh, and they had an orchestra, sit-down dinner, and each one of the kids toasted us with a beautiful speech. And the grandchildren got up and had a little toast. And each one took a rose and brought it to me. Oh, it was so touching.

DAITCH: That is so nice.

KELLEY: I know. Afterwards I said, "Gee, this is what having all these kids is all about."

DAITCH: That was wonderful. What a nice family you have. We talked about this a little bit before, but one of the things that I think everybody felt so sad about Jack Kennedy dying so young was he was such a family man. I mean you feel it personally for his family, you know, because he was such a strong family person. His children--he never got to see his children grow up, and likewise they never had a father.

KELLEY: Yes.

DAITCH: And that's a part of what I think makes people feel strongly.

KELLEY: When Mike Bell was interviewing Chrissy, I didn't hear her say this, but Mike told me, and she told Mike, she said, "You know, Mike, when I went into see President Kennedy, he took he aside, and he said, 'You know, Chrissy, I knew your father, and he was a wonderful man.'"

DAITCH: Oh, that's nice. Did he ever say things like that to Lenny, too, do you remember?

KELLEY: Jack?

DAITCH: Yes.

KELLEY: Oh, I don't know. Mike told me that.

DAITCH: Mike told you?

KELLEY: Yes.

DAITCH: Because Lenny would have been old enough to remember. He would have talked to Kennedy a few times, I suppose. I mean that's just a nice thing. It's a nice little thing.

KELLEY: Well, as I say, Lenny's very proud of his biological father, and he adores Hilary. And he would never do anything to upset that relationship. But he's very proud of what his father--who his father was. And I wish that if you ever go to Alaska you would go and see, he has this hall that goes the whole length of the house that has shadow boxes. And everything that I ever had or his father ever had, I saw that he got it. They're all in shadow boxes.

DAITCH: I would love that. I have a plan to go to Alaska someday in the not too distant future.

KELLEY: Oh, you will. Bill Battle did, and Bill Battle had dinner with them.

DAITCH: Really?

KELLEY: Yes, Lenny brought him.... You know, Lenny's a hunter, a fisher, and that's where Bill was up there with his son. Have you met Bill?

DAITCH: No, I haven't.

KELLEY: See, he had a part in Jack's inauguration. Oh, he was the envoy to Australia.

DAITCH: Oh, he was?

KELLEY: Yes.

DAITCH: No kidding!

KELLEY: Look it up. You'll see. But Bill, he made it his business to look up Lenny and get in touch with Lenny.

DAITCH: Oh, that's neat. Well, I would love to see him just to see his collection of shadow boxes. As an historian, I love stuff like that. It's so nice. So many families don't.

KELLEY: Yes. Some people are so.... They just don't think before they toss it. Three Christmases ago, no, last Christmas we were in Los Angeles, so two Christmases ago we were in Alaska. Lenny had a cocktail party, and all these people, you know, they love to look at the shadow boxes. And Hil was standing there, and this one man said, "Boy, that's a hard act to follow."

DAITCH: Ohhh. But Hil's a confident man. He probably....

KELLEY: He couldn't have cared less. In fact, he just takes all this like water off a duck's back.

DAITCH: Well, he's a very accomplished person in his own right. He doesn't need to compete with someone who.... He can't compete with Lenny. Lenny is a different person. Why would he want to? He can be happy for you that you had a lovely first....

KELLEY: He never asks about anything.

DAITCH: Yes. You would have had a hard time. I'm glad you found him. Because it would have been hard to, if you weren't Hilary, it would have been hard to....

KELLEY: Well, I'll tell you why I liked him a lot in the beginning. He didn't even know my children. He didn't even know I had two children. And he said, "I'm going to marry you."

DAITCH: And he didn't change his mind when he found out.

KELLEY: He was so good to those kids when he met them. Of course, he'd come in and out and in and out. Not often because he's at Penn State and I'm in Ohio. And they called him Unkie Hil. When we were married, she's only two, and he's four. They kept calling him "Unkie Hil." He wanted them to call him "Daddy." So he would just be nonchalant, you know, until they called him "Daddy." And, you know, he adopted them.

DAITCH: He did?

KELLEY: Right away. He said they must keep the middle name. Hers was Christine Diane Thom, so we changed it to Christine Thom Kelley. His was Leonard J. Thom after his dad. Well now, we changed it to Leonard Thom Kelley. That's how he goes.

DAITCH: Yes, that's right. That's a good and right way to do it. What a nice family you have. I can't help but think that Kennedy really liked that, too. Just to bring it back to Kennedy. But you know, that thing about him being a family guy. It's a different image than.... And I know you're concerned about the womanizing image that keeps coming out and stuff.

KELLEY: Well, if that's the way it was, that's the way it was. But that's not the way I saw it. That's not the man I knew.

DAITCH: Yes, yes. It's very different. And a man who loved kids; I don't think there's any doubt about that. I know he was kind to your kids when you brought them to the Oval Office.

KELLEY: Oh, absolutely. He was just in seventh heaven.

DAITCH: Yes, he was. I'll bet he had fun giving out these little autographs.

KELLEY: Oh, we were there all morning.

DAITCH: Were you really? Oh, my gosh! Because I know...

KELLEY: And he never.... He's the one that brought Cecil Stoughton in. "Oh, we've got to get a picture of this." But he was so, "I can't believe all these are yours."

DAITCH: Yes. But I know for sure, people have told me that he never, he was cognizant of his time and he wasn't frivolous with his time in the White House.

KELLEY: Well, that's in the White House, yes.

DAITCH: But you came in, and you saw him.

KELLEY: Oh, yes.

DAITCH: I'm surprised that you were there all morning.

KELLEY: He made that time special.

DAITCH: Yes, that's really neat. What a nice thing.

KELLEY: Yes.

DAITCH: Was that the only time, do you remember? I thought you told me there was one other time.

KELLEY: We did take them twice. He came in for just a few minutes because there was something very important going on. And he said to Mrs. Lincoln, "Take care of Kate and the kids. Get somebody to give them a tour of the house." He shook hands with all the kids, and he was gone. And Mrs. Lincoln told us that it was an emergency. And that's when she called and said, "Bring them back," a couple of weeks later.

DAITCH: Oh, that's great. Because she had so many emergencies in the White House. There's always something. Do you remember anything in particular. I mean

there were so many things going on: all the civil rights crises, there was Cuba.

KELLEY: I should because, you know, I was there. But I was involved in so many other things, especially kids.

DAITCH: Yes. Raising kids, you just don't have time for anything else. I wonder if Hilary does. I do want to maybe talk to him.

KELLEY: Well, I thought he'd be.... What time is it?

DAITCH: It's so.... It's about 20 after 11.

KELLEY: What time do you have to be out there? You leave in one hour.

DAITCH: I leave in an hour. So I should probably get going pretty soon.

KELLEY: Well, let's see if he left anything there. He said he would leave it if he got it done. [Pause]

DAITCH: I wanted to ask you this question about something you had said in one of the written stories that you had written.

KELLEY: Yes?

DAITCH: About he always seemed in control. And that was sort of with reference to drinking. He liked daiquiris, and you had never seen him really....

KELLEY: Yes. Well, you know with Haig & Haig pinch bottle. But, no, his drink was a daiquiri.

DAITCH: Yes, and he liked that. A daiquiri's a good drink, sweet. But you said he always seemed in control. Did he always seem in control sort of generally? Or was that just specifically with reference to the drinking?

KELLEY: I think he always seemed to be in control of his actions. As far as I'm concerned, what I saw, he was very sure of himself, he was in control, whatever that means. He could control any situation.

DAITCH: Yes. I wondered about that because some of the things you've described.... I mean it's one thing to say a person is always in control when they're drinking. But he seems like he was just, you know, he's in control at the Waldorf, say. In the situation where the flight can't be made because the plane is grounded, so he just figures out catching another flight, chartering a plane.

KELLEY: He didn't take time to call me himself. He called the Waldorf and made sure that they knew that I was taken care of.

DAITCH: Right. Well, it must have been easier to get a message there.

KELLEY: I don't know. Even when I look at it now, I think he would have done that. He would have never left me hanging.

DAITCH: Right, right. Exactly. Just that kind of a...

KELLEY: Here I am. I've made the .... It was a supreme effort.

DAITCH: Well, you had two kids at home.

KELLEY: Oh, and I know he kept urging, "Come on, let's go up to Hyannis Port. You come up to Hyannis Port." I can't. And then that was the end of it.

DAITCH: But it was fun in New York.

KELLEY: We were going to go up on the train. He's going to work the train.

DAITCH: Working a train. It sounds awful.

KELLEY: Well, you know, introducing himself.

DAITCH: Right. Did he like doing that? I mean that's such a....

KELLEY: I can't even imagine it. I can't.

DAITCH: You never saw him campaigning?

KELLEY: No. Uh huh.

DAITCH: It's such a weird thing. You have to do it, I suppose, but it's an odd kind of thing. But I wondered about that control thing. Because coming from that kind of money, too, where money gets you in and out of things.

KELLEY: Well, and if you know it's there, you don't have to worry about anything. God, he never had any money.

DAITCH: That thing about asking Hilary how much he makes, too. Other people have told me that. He was genuinely curious, though.

KELLEY: As though it was just, "Hey, Hil, how much you making these days?" And when



Hil told him, he said, “Oh, my God! How can you rear nine children?”

DAITCH: That’s not enough. But it’s just an interesting kind of thing. He never had to worry about it.

KELLEY: But just was that one part. Hil and I were there for quite awhile because we went ... Mrs. Lincoln put us in the Cabinet Room. When he came in, we went back into his office.

DAITCH: Now, when was that? Just you and Hil, not the kids?

KELLEY: No, there were no kids. It was just Hil and me.

DAITCH: When was that?

KELLEY: That was after he.... He hadn’t been in the White House very long, maybe a month or so, maybe two months.

DAITCH: Was that just a social call, or was that when....

KELLEY: We were in Washington, and I ran into Ted Reardon [Timothy “Red” Reardon]. Ted said, “Have you seen the president?” I said, “No. How do I see the president?” How do you see the president?

DAITCH: Right, right. You can’t just call him up anymore.

KELLEY: Ted said, “Easy.” This is exactly what Ted said: “Oh, it’s easy.” Ted said, “I’ll tell you what.” He said, “Call me tonight at home.” And I can’t even remember. I think we were having lunch in the Mayflower or something, and you know how you run into somebody? So I called Ted at home, and he had everything arranged.

DAITCH: Oh, that’s great.

KELLEY: So we just had to go to the little security house and our name would be there. And that was it.

DAITCH: Oh, that was neat.

KELLEY: And Jack was delighted.

DAITCH: I’ll bet.

KELLEY: He was.

DAITCH: Well, I suppose he knew you were on the agenda, but it must have just been fun to see you.

KELLEY: Well, it was so sudden, you know.

DAITCH: That's really nice. He must have been delighted.

KELLEY: Well, I was delighted to see him.

DAITCH: And to congratulate him and say hello. It must have been difficult to suddenly be president, and everything is different. Your whole life is different. And to see a friendly face must have been nice.

KELLEY: Well, I don't know. I can only hope it was.

DAITCH: Well, I mean from what you said, he was delighted, I'll bet you, to see you.

KELLEY: Oh, yes. He was thrilled that we came to see him. We had a wonderful, wonderful visit that day. Yes, you don't think about it much over the years, but now when I think about it, he was just really thrilled we came in.

DAITCH: Yes, yes. That's fun.

KELLEY: And he must not have been very busy that day because we stayed a long time. And again, I didn't see Jackie.

DAITCH: Well, that's, you know, he was president then, and he maybe took the time for things that he wanted to take the time for. But he was a busy guy. So that's pretty neat.

KELLEY: I don't want to rush you, but I don't want you to miss your plane.

DAITCH: No, I need to catch my plane. I thank you very much.

KELLEY: But I want you to come back.

[END OF TAPE 3]

[END OF INTERVIEW]

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