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Biographical Note

Mary Kelly was a campaign worker for the John F. Kennedy for President Organization in Jackson County, Oregon. This interview focuses on the 1960 presidential campaign in Oregon and the anti-Catholic sentiment JFK faced during his campaign, among other topics.

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Mary Kelly– JFK #1

Table of Contents

<u>Page</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Anti-Catholic sentiment in Oregon
2	Invitation to John F. Kennedy [JFK] to the Roosevelt Memorial Dinner in Jackson County, Oregon
3	JFK’s speech at Roosevelt Memorial Dinner
4	Opposition to JFK’s candidacy from Catholic press
5	JFK meeting nuns in Oregon
6	Conflict between JFK and Senator Morse of Oregon during primary
8	JFK’s attendance at the Pear Blossom Festival in Medford, Oregon
10	Impressions of JFK
11	Edward Kennedy at a labor group meeting in Coos Bay
14	Aldai Stevenson’s supporters’ attempts to derail JFK’s campaign
17	Dinners with JFK during the 1960 campaign
18	Volunteers for the primary campaign
19	Oregon ministers opposing JFK’s campaign
20	Memorial for JFK organized by local churches after his death
21`	JFK’s general campaign loss in Jackson County
23	Conversation between Edward Kelly and JFK
25	Opposition to Catholics running for office in Oregon
27	Edward Kelly’s recollections of JFK
Addendum	Program for Roosevelt Memorial Dinner
Addendum	Memo about Roosevelt Memorial Dinner
Addendum	Sheet music for “Kennedy” by Mary Kelly and John Lusk

Oral History Interview

with

MRS. EDWARD KELLY

February 12, 1966
Hilton Hotel
Portland, Oregon

by Charles T. Morrissey

For the John F. Kennedy Library

MORRISSEY: Let me start by asking you how you became active in the Kennedy for President Organization in Oregon.

KELLY: Well, when I think of President Kennedy in 1960, I just naturally have to go back to 1959 because in 1959 we all felt that he was a potential strong candidate for the presidency. The only thing that our family could figure out that could possibly be against him would be his religion, and we lived in a part of Oregon where there had been a background of considerable bigotry against Catholics and other minorities. Fortunately this situation is now negligible. But, when I first went down to Medford in 1927, it was still a hot bed of the Ku Klux Klan. People were elected on a Ku Klux Klan ticket. With that background of having gone through my first voting experience with [Alfred E.] Al Smith, a burnt child dreads the fire. So when I thought of Kennedy, I loved him very much from the very beginning for all that he stood for; I'd seen him on television and admired him greatly; but I had that burnt child instinct, drawing back from him for fear of him being hurt. And I just didn't want to see him be a target for abuse, and really suffer as Al Smith had done.

I used to be Democratic county chairman in Jackson County-- was elected for two terms. In 1951 I established what is known as the Roosevelt Memorial Dinner. And we had succeeded over the years in getting some very great people out there on the strength of that, including of course, (James Roosevelt was our first big one) Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. And we really had it made. We used to do it on a potluck basis and had fourteen hundred people out to dinner for Mrs. Roosevelt. . . . Because I was chairman--Democratic county chairman formerly and then chairman of this dinner for many years--I felt that I had to, at least invite the annual speakers to my home if they wanted to stay, and that's the way I'd always put it. Mrs. Roosevelt chose to stay with us, as did Governor [G. Mennen] Williams of Michigan, and many others.

So in 1959, there were two people that to our mind loomed very large in the presidential picture. One was John F. Kennedy, and one was Hubert Humphrey. And here my burnt child psychology came to the fore again, because when I wrote to Senator [Wayne L.] Morse to help us get a good speaker that year, I put Humphrey first. I said, "We'd like to have either Hubert Humphrey or John F. Kennedy," because being a Catholic, I wouldn't put the Catholic first. So Mr. Morse said he'd do the best he could to get either of them. Well, I didn't hear from him for so long, and so finally I wrote a letter myself to Humphrey. I assumed that was the one Morse would ask, because I'd seen their names associated a lot. So I wrote this letter to Humphrey, and that seemed to make Senator Morse quite mad at me. So he called me long distance from Washington and said, "Well, Mary Kelly will certainly have it made if both young men show up at her dinner." And he said he'd already asked John F. Kennedy. And so I wrote an apology and said I didn't mean to step out of line, but I hadn't heard; I thought maybe my letter would supplement what he was already doing, that was all.

I hadn't heard from Senator Kennedy, in spite of the fact that I had written him a letter too, later. And finally I followed it up by another letter--now this is interesting, you'll see later, in light of the 1960 campaign--and I said that I would like a confirmation of his acceptance of our invitation. Oh, Senator Morse said that Kennedy would come on the sixth of March. Now we usually had the Roosevelt Memorial Dinner as close to the time of President Roosevelt's death date as we could, the

twelfth of April, as a memorial, you see. And so Senator Morse said we'd have to take Senator Kennedy on the sixth of March. We had only three weeks to get ready. We usually had months to organize it because it's a lot of work. So, we said, we'd be happy, we'd get right on it.

I still hadn't heard from Senator Kennedy, so I was getting quite anxious. I wanted that confirmation in writing. So I wrote back, and I got rather a brisk reply from Senator Kennedy, saying, "As I told Senator Morse, I will be there on the sixth of March." Well, I had also written and said that if it were possible, we'd love to have Jacqueline Kennedy, his wife, come along. And he wrote back and said she would come. So we were thrilled to pieces. That was a double-header for us, you know.

So when they arrived, oh my, the whole airport was full of people. It was just terrific, and it was the Oregon Centennial Year, so we had covered wagons out. I remember Jacqueline Kennedy looked one wagon over and said, "Are we going to ride in the wagon?"

But anyway, he made a great speech that night, and he was one of the few speakers that when I asked him in advance, if they'd like to stay at our home, they could, if not, we'd make reservations at the hotel. I didn't get any word on that either. Then Stephen Smith called me long distance and apologized and said it was because Senator Kennedy had to sleep on a bed board, and they didn't want to inconvenience people to that extent. And I made arrangements at the Hotel Medford. I rode the management so hard at the hotel that they really fixed up a suite as it never had been fixed before, even dragged the carpet out and put in a new carpet and everything for his visit.

Well, right then, I mean you could see that Kennedy was in dead earnest about going for the presidency. He really wanted to stay downtown--because he wanted to meet as many people as he could, to be completely accessible. So we put the reception on at the hotel too, instead of having it at the school where we usually have the dinner. We have the reception at the same place later. We had it downtown at the hotel, which he liked very much. And it was jammed with people.

We were very much impressed with him in one respect, it's just a little thing, but when you would be talking to Senator Kennedy, you felt like you were the only person in the world.

His eyes, his whole attention were on you, and it was the same with Jacqueline Kennedy. Being a hostess at that reception, I would have to almost rudely pull him from one person to the next to get him to focus on the next person. Then his whole attention would be on that person.]

Well, prior to that time the Catholic press was taking off on Kennedy because he didn't believe in federal aid to parochial schools, and this kind of infuriated some of them, and they were really very hard on him. Well, there was an editor of the Catholic Sentinel who's a very marvelous person, Gorman Hogan, and he didn't feel that way at all. He was for Kennedy. And he had come all the way down to Medford to meet him. And Senator Kennedy wouldn't even look at him. Hogan was trying to get an interview, to no avail. So he complained to me, he said, "He just won't talk to me." So I turned to the Senator after there was a little lull in the number of people coming up and I said, "Senator Kennedy, I would be very happy if you would meet Gorman Hogan, a very fine person. He is the editor of the Catholic Sentinel." He said, "Certainly," just as if no break had ever come. So then he turned his attention to Gorman Hogan and gave him a nice little interview, and it was just fine.

Well, the labor groups down in Medford at that time, especially the Teamsters Union, were very mean about Kennedy, and they were saying that he was the last person in the world they would support, and one of them in particular was very outspoken about it. So Robert Boyer, who was head of the Kennedy campaign for our county, later on, arranged for a group of the teamsters to meet Senator Kennedy in the hotel at breakfast in the morning. Well, you never saw such a change. They were there about a half an hour. Senator Kennedy completely charmed those teamsters, and the one that was the most outspoken and bitter about him, later said, "I think we've misunderstood him all the time." I saw that right then Kennedy knew how to handle people, and yet he was so charming.

Well at this reception, it was so funny, he said, "Mrs. Kelly, we would like, in the morning before we take off to come out and see your home." Well, this was kind of funny since I had invited him to come earlier and I had been completely ignored. Now I said, "Well, Senator, it's not much of a home to look at, it's just an old-fashioned large old home." He said, "Well, I mean we'd like to come out for a visit and have coffee with you perhaps." So I said, "Of course, I'd be delighted."

So in the morning after the Teamsters meeting, he and Jacqueline and all the newspapermen--even one from the Manchester Guardian, and other reporters who were following him all over the country--the whole entourage came out to our home and we had coffee. Senator Kennedy sat on the davenport and visited with my husband Judge [Edward C.] Kelly, and they just got along beautifully. Among other things, they were discussing this Catholic press attitude toward him, and Senator Kennedy said to my husband, "You know, I feel that if Christ were back here today, and he would make his statement about rendering unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's, that the Catholic press would take off after him, too." And they laughed about that.

Well, I was out in the dining room getting more coffee and things to pass around to this group, and Senator Kennedy came out to have a little visit with me, and I said, "Senator, there's one group of people that I just wish you could autograph a picture for. It's the sisters at Saint Mary's School because I know how they'd love to have heard you speak, but they don't go out, you know, to public meetings." At that time they didn't, anyway. So he said, "Have you got a picture here?" So I took one out, and it was one we'd used in publicity, and he said, "Oh, don't you have something better than that? I look so dour." And so I took up another one, it had a slight smile. He didn't like it too well either. It was just a press photograph that we had at that time, which weren't too good. So he said, "This is a little better." And he looked at it and didn't sign it, and he asked, "How far are the sisters from here? Is it very much out of our way?" They were already late getting to their plane, their take-off. And I said, "Well, probably it'll take fifteen minutes out of your way." He said, "Let's go over there. I'll give them the picture in person." I thought that was so sweet and so thoughtful.

So we started out, and the whole entourage went with us, and the police siren started up. I felt so silly. And we got over to this convent. I had run upstairs at home and called on an extension phone and warned the sisters that we were coming, so when we arrived they had everything set up. You'd think they'd been going through this every day of their lives. They had circles of chairs arranged. And they had two chairs set out in front, one for Senator Kennedy and one for Jacqueline, and other chairs for the press or whoever were behind them. The place

was just jammed. And it was the cutest little conversation between the sisters and Senator and Mrs. Kennedy. They asked about the baby--you know, Caroline, I think that was all they had then--and various things. And Kennedy asked the sisters questions about their school. He had such a curious mind, and he wanted to know just about everything. He got an awful lot of information out of them about their school in fifteen minutes which he had. And then we got up to leave.

Well, as soon as we left, I found out later, there's a real old sister there who just adored Kennedy, and she was so afraid that they wouldn't remember which chair Senator Kennedy sat on that she marked it, "JFK" underneath his chair, and then under the one Jacqueline sat on, "Jacqueline Kennedy". And later on our congressman, Robert Duncan, thought that was so cute when he heard about it that he had engraved brass plates made for those two chairs: "John F. Kennedy sat here on March 7, 1959, on his way to the White House" and the same for the one that Jacqueline sat on. So the sisters just loved those, and the whole school, I mean, they just treasure those two very commonplace looking chairs.

Well, now in 1960 Were you out here in 1960 in the campaign?

MORRISSEY: No, I wasn't.

KELLY: Actually, Senator Kennedy knew that if he won at all, he'd have to win the hard way. And that was to go into all these tough primaries, and Oregon has really a tough one, you know. And he really wanted Oregon. It was his decision to come into the state. But before he did-- he told me this himself--before he came into Oregon, he went to Senator Morse and asked him if he was by any chance going to be a favorite son candidate, or enter this primary at all. And Senator Morse said, "No, I have no intention to. I'll let the chips fall where they may." So Senator Kennedy, being the gentleman he was, figured Morse would do just that. He told me he had checked first with every potential favorite son in every state that he went into, you know. He didn't want to be unfair. So he felt free to come into Oregon. And he really waged a wonderful campaign.

Well, it seems that it somehow infuriated Senator Morse anyway. What happened in between time. . . . Because if you remember, I told you that he, Senator Morse, was the one that brought us Senator Kennedy, as our speaker out here in preference to Humphrey just the year before. So Morse really waged a very unfair campaign against Senator Kennedy, hatcheting him every step of the road, calling him a reactionary and everything else. He had one speech against Senator Kennedy in Medford that made the Kennedy people so mad that they walked out. They just walked out of the meeting, including ourselves, and we were good friends of Senator Morse. We always were good friends, so I couldn't understand him being so unfair.

But Senator Kennedy told me later, when I talked to him about that after he came back from the West Virginia campaign, he said, "I was stunned by the way he treated me because of five Senators in the U. S. Senate that I thought were my very best friends and among those whose opinions I prized most, Senator Morse was at the top of the list." And he said, "I thought he was my friend." And he said, "But once I got into the Oregon campaign, there was no backing out. I couldn't run out, I had to keep going."

Well, as you know, he won overwhelmingly in Oregon in that primary. It was terrific. And the way he won--in spite of the bigotry and other factors! Of course, there were other candidates in the primary campaign, too. You know, there were five major potential candidates. I don't think they all came into Oregon. But [Lyndon B.] Johnson certainly was on the ballot, and Adlai Stevenson, and Morse, and Kennedy, and others were thought of, and they were written in to some extent, [Stuart] Symington and so forth. But a lot of the central committees didn't turn their hands to help Kennedy. But Edith Green really did a magnificent job in Oregon setting up that Kennedy task force.

MORRISSEY: Is that how you got . . .

KELLY: Yes, right. And we had one, and she asked us to help in Jackson County, so we did. Bob Boyer was the head of the task force in Jackson County, and I helped him. But I purposely didn't want any out in front position like chairman. I just helped. I helped open a headquarters, and get the thing rolling, and things like that, and

worked full time on it. But anyway it was terrifically effective, and they assigned Ted [Edward M. Kennedy] to handle the Western part, you remember, and Medford was his area. He came to the opening of our headquarters. He was so cute, just 28 years old. We had pictures taken, and he came back three or four times, Ted did, to help out, you know.

Well, in 1960 and of course, every spring, Medford has a Pear Blossom Festival Parade in April, and Bob Boyer has been head of it for several years. Well, he was determined that Senator Kennedy was going to be the marshal of that year's parade. Senator Kennedy then was down in West Virginia on that tough primary fight he had down there. And Edith Green called me from Washington, and said, "Do you think that's so important, that Pear Blossom Festival Parade, that he should come all the way from West Virginia?" And I said, "Certainly not. It's not that important." I said, "I've never even attended one." Well, I told Bob Boyer, and he about ate my head off. He said, "It is too important." He said, "We get at least fifteen thousand people out," he said, "with Kennedy here, we'll get a lot more. We have been getting fifteen thousand people."

So I called Edith back and said, "Well, I made a big mistake. I'm sorry. He should come." So he did. He flew all the way from West Virginia. And he made a magnificent appearance. People just jammed the streets to see him. It was a great thing that he did. And he said that it helped his morale. He was having it kind of tough at that time in West Virginia.

I remember riding with him up to Southern Oregon College at Ashland, where he made a very marvelous speech, in the town, and he had a reception up there. We had that day so jammed full that it's a wonder he could get a breath, the poor man. And when we were riding in the car, he held his fingernails up, and he looked at them and said, "See that?" And I looked at his fingernails, and they looked a little bit dirty underneath. He said, "That's from the mines of West Virginia." He said, "I've been trying to excavate it out ever since, and I can't get rid of it." You know, he kind of laughed about it. Well, he was losing his voice pretty badly.

I remember I had some throat lozenges in my purse that had an antibiotic in. So I gave him some of those. He said they seemed to help, but would we call a doctor after his speech at this big auditorium in the middle of town. I guess it was the

armory. This place was just jammed packed as it could get. Then he had another speech at Southern Oregon College, then one of the professors, a Doctor Kreisman, at Southern Oregon College had a big home reception that people milled in and out of. And that's where we took him. His voice was conking out, and the Kreismans sent for their doctor, a throat specialist. And he felt so honored to be treating Senator Kennedy that he never sent a bill to them.

But anyway, that whole day was full. We had a reception for him in Medford, and that too was jammed. Every time he'd try to go out in the streets, the people would crowd around him especially kids. They just deluged him, and he was infinitely patient. And I remember the Democratic women's group gave him this reception at the Medford hotel, and we had a lot of home-made cookies. After it was over, they took pictures and he had this long reception line. He met everybody, and he autographed everything that everybody asked him. He went up to the tea table, when he was about ready to leave for the television station where they had some tape recordings and televised programs. And he went over to the table and said, "Do you mind if I take some of these toll house cookies, they're my favorite cookies." The women who had made them were so delighted and flattered. So he filled his pockets up with cookies, and away he went.

But they had him booked up then at the T.V. stations and all like that till 7:00 at night. And then his chartered plane took off. But he said that whole day made him feel very good. You know, it built his morale up, and he felt more confident even about West Virginia because Oregon, our part of Oregon, was so friendly. And that made us feel very happy.

Well, as I said, I pinch-hitted between the Kennedy headquarters that we'd opened and the Democratic headquarters. And believe me we had some real bigots that came in there. They just seemed to want to let us have it about Kennedy on his religion. You know, it was just fantastic some of the things that some of these hate-filled people would say, I mean so bitter and so ridiculous! And sometimes out in the precincts where I'd go from house to house, they'd say they were Democrats, and you'd mention Kennedy, and they'd slam the door in your face. But other people were ashamed of that attitude. I mean some of the fundamentalist churches, I won't mention any names because I think they've changed now, you know. . . . But even some of the

ministers had literature there to pass out at their churches, and some of the lay people were so ashamed that they would come down to our headquarters to pledge their support to work all the harder because they were so ashamed that their church would take an attitude like that about a man because of his religion.

But I remember one thing, it was so strange about Senator Kennedy, I mean how alone he was. I mean people would crowd around him, but you always felt like that man was alone. He always reminded me of an Oregon pine standing apart in a forest, you know, away from the other trees. You'd have photographers out there to take pictures, and people would be shy about barging up. They'd say, "Get into the picture." And people, even like myself, would pull back. Of course, there are always some extremists that want to be up front have their pictures taken. But he'd look at them so tolerantly. He understood, you know, and he'd never force himself on others. If they wanted to take his picture all alone, it was alright.

But he also had a great sense of communication with people without a word. I remember in Portland, a meeting that we were invited to. We had a breakfast meeting in a large restaurant. Off it was a big meeting room and it had a stairway that you went down two or three steps into this big meeting room. Well, it was all filled with chairs, and Edith Green was there and the ones presiding. By the time we got there, Senator Kennedy was in the middle of making a nice little talk. There were still a couple of chairs left, so we sat in them. But there were some people sitting on the steps, these long wide steps going down.

Well, when he was about in the middle of his talk, a Negro man came in from the outside, and he looked around this crowded room. There was no chair left; there was one chair next to Senator Kennedy. And he looked over, looked around the room, and Senator Kennedy never paused a moment in his talk, but his left hand--he had these incredibly graceful hands--drifted in an almost imperceptible little gesture downward near the chair, without pointing to the chair or anything, just a subtle movement of his hand. And the Negro man darted down the steps through the people across the room and into the chair beside Senator Kennedy and felt perfectly at home. And Senator Kennedy never batted an eyelash or acted like anything untoward had happened; but the Negro man just acted like, "I'm home," you know. "I'm with my friend." It was the sweetest thing, but it was an instance of his wordless communication with people. You know, it was kind of

a special quality he had that marked him as so different. Am I talking too long?

MORRISSEY: No, this is fine.

KELLY: Ted really took his job very seriously, you know, of campaigning for his brother. Bob Boyer as chairman had the idea that Ted should go out in the hills and mountains and every place else and meet people in the sparse settlements. Well, this didn't set very well with Ted who was used to contacting lots and lots of people. He thought he'd make more hay if he'd go to supermarkets, the lumber mills or fruit packing houses where there were lots of people working.

But anyway it was so funny, and kind of typical of the Kennedys I think, their spirit of combatativeness would come out at times. Ted had heard that there was a great big meeting over in Coos Bay on the coast of a labor group that were for him anyway. He was booked to attend it. Then he heard about how he was not going to be welcomed at all in Josephine County, our neighboring county. Their chairman was very strong for Senator Morse and had the county "all sewed up for Morse". In fact, I had called down there trying to get a speaking engagement for Ted on the way to Coos Bay. You know, where he could speak. Maurine Neuberger was campaigning then for the Senate, and they had a luncheon for her at Grants Pass. Maurine liked John Kennedy, and also liked Ted a lot. So I asked if Ted could come to the reception and the luncheon for her? Well, this woman that I talked to was a former county chairman down there and was secretly for Kennedy, but she hated to displease the present county chairman who felt that he owed an awful lot to Morse. Morse had helped him with his motel when he had a fire and felt obligated. So he was strong for Morse, and he had everybody wearing these great big Morse buttons that were about three or four times as big as an ordinary campaign button. And so he told her no, we couldn't come in there at all with Ted. We weren't welcome.

Finally, she kept after the chairman down there who got kind of mad at her. Finally, he said, "Well, if Ted just wants to come down and look on, alright." So we told Ted that and we thought he wouldn't want to be bothered with such a silly situation but Ted said, "No, I'll cancel my meeting in Coos Bay."

--which was probably three or four times as big. The idea of somebody telling Ted he couldn't go any place made him determined to go because that's where he could best help his brother.

So my husband and I took Ted down there, and the meeting was quite large. It was in a big restaurant and it was crowded, but they had a few seats left, but the head table was all full. And the former mayor of the city was there, who was running for state senate. He jumped up, he said, "Oh, Ted Kennedy! You come up and take my place." And the chairman jumped up with his hands outstretched and said "Oh no, no, no. There's no place at the head table. The seats are all taken." He was not about to let Ted sit up there. And the mayor said, "Well, he can have my place, I insist." And Ted spoke up, he said, "Oh no, thank you. I'll sit here by Mrs. Kelly." And I sat at a side table with some friends of mine, and my husband sat across the room with some other friends.

So he sat there, and this chairman actually called on everybody in the room and ignored Ted Kennedy. Even us, you know, introduced us, and we had to stand up and take a bow and so forth. But it just got to the point of being ridiculous. Maurine had made her speech. She paid a nice tribute to Senator Kennedy and to Ted and said it was an honor that she had seen Ted at the Roosevelt Memorial the night before in Medford, and so forth. Then she excused herself since she had to go on up the line to another meeting. And there was her place at the table. But still Ted was not invited to go up, however, Ted just acted as if he couldn't care less.

So when everything else got disposed of, the chairman said, "Well now, after the meeting I want all the executive committee to come up to the head table and have a meeting." He said, "Now if Senator Kennedy's brother would like to come up here, we'd be very glad. We have nothing against him nor his brother. But we are all for Senator Morse," he said, trying to close Ted out. So Ted walked up as if he had given him the most cordial welcome in the world. You know he has that great big beautiful smile that he turned on. Ted said he wanted to pay his respects to Maurine Neuberger, that she should be elected to the Senate. She was a fine person, and had helped Dick. And he paid her a fine tribute.

Then he paid a fine tribute to Senator Morse, "one of the most able Senators in the United States Senate," and he said, "But he is not running for the Senate." He said, "He is a great Senator, and that's where he should be reelected." He said, "My brother is serious about the presidency. He really means it," and so forth. So my goodness, when Ted got through with that, he got a tremendous hand.

Well, then the chairman again stood up, spreading his fingers out and trying to keep Ted from getting together with anybody, and saying that he wanted the executive committee to all come up to the table immediately and meet with him on important matters. Well, they didn't pay any attention to the chairman. They followed Ted around, asking if he had any Kennedy buttons, and Ted said, "It just so happens that I have a few," reaching into his pocket and pulling out some.

So I rushed outside and got some Kennedy bumper strips. We had that place plastered, and these people were carrying away Kennedy symbols like crazy, not only around Grants Pass but all over from Josephine County, and a place called Sunny Valley and so forth. You know way out in the hills, and they were just tickled to death. And some of them complained to us outside how the few in party offices were trying to close Kennedy out. Well, the funny part about that was that Josephine County carried for Kennedy in that primary just about as big percentagewise as Jackson County did. So it didn't help Morse, you know, to have the chairman act that way. Well, those are just a few reminiscences.

In the history of Oregon politics, when your primary goes for somebody for the presidency, then your delegates are bound by it to support that person for two or three ballots till it shows that he's losing ground or the vote is going to be hopelessly split. In the past, they have designated alternates in various ways. Sometimes the delegates were given the prerogative of selecting their own alternate. I know that's the way it was during some of Roosevelt's terms. But this time the majority of the people who had a Kennedy slogan behind their name--identifying them as Kennedy supporters. There were some that weren't, but the majority of them were. They were strong Kennedy people. And that's what elected them, that they said, "All the way with Jack Kennedy," or something.

Well, then, in turn, this year the delegates decided they were going to elect the alternates rather than naming them at random. Well, I remember one woman delegate who was for Adlai Stevenson, but she liked me well enough because we were old friends, Nan Wood Honeyman, who was our first woman congressman, and I had been her campaign manager when she ran for congress, and she couldn't bear not to vote for me for alternate even though I was for Kennedy, and she was for Adlai. But I was one of the ones elected as alternate, and one of the ones at the top because they knew how strong I was for Kennedy. Bob Boyer, of course, and a lot of my good friends like Edith and other influential Democrats from around Oregon were potent voices in the delegation.

So it was kind of interesting, and even after we got down to Los Angeles, there were some people who were so die-hard (mostly they were Adlai Stevenson people) who couldn't give up. And they had one man prominent in Oregon Democratic politics, who was so broken-hearted because it couldn't be Adlai, that he came down to Los Angeles to try to blitzkrieg the delegation out from under Kennedy before any balloting had begun. But he didn't get any place, you know, because the delegates stayed with Kennedy through thick and thin.

MORRISSEY: Who was the Kennedy man assigned to the Oregon delegation?

KELLY: What do you mean?

MORRISSEY: Wasn't there a liaison man appointed by the central Kennedy organization that dealt with your delegation?

KELLY: Oh yes. I can't remember his name. He had white hair. . .

MORRISSEY: [Hyman B.] Hy Raskin?

KELLY: Right. He was real cute. He came down to Medford two or three times.

MORRISSEY: When this fellow trying to promote Stevenson's candidacy was active, was Raskin in there trying to counter effect his influence?

KELLY: I didn't see that if it happened. The alternates were only invited down to the floor by the delegates at different times, and the only times I went down was when I was specifically invited to come down from the balcony. But Hy was right in there pitching. He was a very quiet, effective man.

MORRISSEY: Was the Oregon delegation surprised when the name of Lyndon Johnson was put forward as the vice presidential candidate?

KELLY: I think most of them were. Some of them were disappointed, the ones of a more liberal bent. I always think, you know, I think back about our Roosevelt Memorial Dinner. One of our favorite speakers was "Soapy" Williams [G. Mennen Williams] you know. And I remember how kind of stunned Soapy was because he was such a liberal, you know. He didn't think of Lyndon Johnson as a liberal. It seemed to crush him for a while, but he liked Kennedy so much. In fact, they had sounded out the Oregon field to see if Soapy had a chance, for the presidency before Kennedy loomed so prominently.

MORRISSEY: Oh really.

KELLY: Yes, the national committeeman. I can't think of his name now. . .

MORRISSEY: [C. Girard] Davidson?

KELLY: No, I mean from Michigan. You'd probably know him if I could remember his name. He came out to sound us out on Soapy. Really kind of a cute little thing happened. As I say, I was very cagey about coming out for Kennedy--because I didn't want to hurt him--even to Senator Kennedy himself. And I felt sad about acting so cool at first yet I couldn't help it. And I would sort of kid around about

my support instead of saying what I really felt. When I came to Portland one time--it was 1959 when they were getting ready for this and they were having a lot of meetings--they had invited me to this breakfast.

Well, when I arrived, I was limping because I'd had an operation--one of these varicose vein operations--that I was kind of lame from. But Senator Kennedy came across the room and greeted me and took me over to the table to sit by him. Well, of course, he was kind of wooing anybody he could, you know, to strengthen his chances in 1960, and he thought that I had some influence, I guess, down in Jackson County. Poor man.

So anyway I couldn't help kidding just a little bit. So, I said, "You know why I always liked Soapy Williams so well, why I'm so crazy about that Soapy Williams?" I said, "When we had him as our speaker at the Roosevelt Memorial, I invited him, as I had all the other speakers, to come to our home. Of course, it isn't a fancy home, but Soapy came, brought his aide and they stayed with us. And the Governor of Oregon and his wife stayed there at the same time, and, I said, "Soapy was so nice. He even helped me with the dishes. He was just wonderful. But," I said, "oh, not Senator Kennedy." Here I was sitting next to him. I said, "I also invited Senator Kennedy to stay at our home, he never even answered my letter." So Senator Kennedy turned around to me and said, "Now just how many dishes did Soapy wash in your kitchen?" I said, "Enough to show his good faith."

And I thought he took it all as a big silly joke. You know, just a light feathery conversation. Well, that night they had a big dinner, a Democratic dinner, and I ran into Steve Smith, and I said, "I was kidding your boss a little bit about the Roosevelt Memorial and not staying at our home." And he looked so serious, he said, "You were kidding?" and I said, "Well, of course, I was kidding." And he said, "Well, he thought you meant it." I said, "Oh, he did not because he turned around. . . ." He said, "Yes, he did. He's dead serious about this thing." And I said, "Oh, that's so silly, I'm crazy about Senator Kennedy." I said, "But I kid that way." I said, "He's a Catholic, I'm a Catholic. All these other people are not Catholic. If a Catholic is out tooting his horn all the time and afraid to kid a little bit or anything like that, then it looks like we're all just go-for-broke, you know, because he's a

Catholic." Whereas the truth is that a lot of Catholics did not vote for him at all, right in our own parish.

And so the funny part about that was, Steve said, "The Senator said, 'I know that Judge Kelly likes us, but,' he said, 'I don't know about Mrs. Kelly, she's kind of hard to read. She's so crazy about Soapy Williams.'" And so I said, "I do. I just adore Soapy Williams, but Kennedy is my man. I mean I'm completely sold on him, and I'll work my heart out for him."

Well, the next morning we were at another breakfast, and who should I meet but Ted Sorensen. He came over to greet me at the door, and he said, "You know, Mrs. Kelly, when we come down to Medford, I want to stay at your house, and I'll help you wash the dishes." And it was a cute subtle way of letting me know that it was all fixed up, they understood I was kidding, you know. It was typical of their whimsical, subtle, understated type of humor.

MORRISSEY: [Do you remember any other encounters with Senator Kennedy? Any other incidents like the ones you've already told?

KELLY: He didn't come down to Medford except in the 1960 campaign. Of course, I met him here two or three times. The big tea that Edith had, you know, someplace out in Portland, a big home. We visited there. But. . . . I had quite a bit of correspondence with him off and on. And he wrote me several letters. At the time of the Roosevelt Memorial Dinner, he went out in the kitchen thanked all the ladies. We had kind of a semi-potluck type dinner, you know, and some of the women really worked their hearts out on those things. And he was thoughtful enough to go out and shake hands with all those women. Some of the women had to drag their hands out of the dish water and wipe them quickly, to shake hands with him. Oh, they just thought he was great. He told them what a lovely dinner it was, and how much he appreciated it, and then he asked me to send him a list of all the people that worked hard on that dinner, and I did. And he wrote each one of them a lovely letter. And at Christmas time, each one of them got a Christmas card. You know, and they just thought. . . . He was so thoughtful about little things like that.]

MORRISSEY: Did you get a lot of volunteer help in that primary campaign in Jackson County?

KELLY: Yes, we got a surprising lot of help from sources that we wouldn't think about. I knew a very dear veteran man who was a real hero in World War II, and he was an Oklahoma Democrat, you know. But I never could get him to do any work before for the Democratic Party. He was in the war, and he believed in the Democratic Party and all like that, but he wouldn't work. His wife didn't do any work either. But when Kennedy came--and now here he was a Southerner, you see--when Kennedy came along he was completely sold on him. And at that meeting at Southern Oregon College, he said, "Oh, if I could only meet him."

So I just took him by the hand and pulled him through this great big crowd and got up to Senator Kennedy and introduced him and told him he was going to head the Veterans for Kennedy Committee, and so Senator Kennedy visited with him and was very sweet. And oh, this man just had tears in his eyes. He said, "He's the greatest." And that didn't end there. He came down to the Kennedy headquarters and got literature and got it all out. He had his little girls delivering literature all over the neighborhood, to their teachers at school, and throughout the town.

Then we had groups that were surprising. We had quite a farmers group for Kennedy. We had Farmers for JFK. But when you have your own headquarters, you can organize things along a lot of lines, whereas if you're working with the Democratic Central Committee, you don't have it.

MORRISSEY: I'm surprised so many farmers came out to support him because some people were dubious about his voting record in Congress on agricultural issues.

KELLY: That's right. We had some wonderful farmers that came out. We'd have luncheons right there at the hotel where the headquarters was, they have a nice restaurant there, and they just took great pride in having Farmers for Kennedy. Then we had a Veterans for Kennedy group, and things like that. . . . We actually took in more money.

My brother-in-law had made a beautiful piece of decor-- he had a very artistic bent. It was a lighted rose tree, you know, artificial roses. They looked so real, and they had little lights in the center of them, and we called it our Kennedy Tree. Well, you can't sell chances on a thing like that. He'd sell those lighted trees for a hundred dollars, but he gave this one to us, to use any way we wanted to. So anybody that came in and gave any kind of a donation, from a dollar on, or even fifty cents, we'd take their name down and put a number by their name and then we told them we'd have a drawing like a door prize on election night. Well, we took in more money. But it wasn't because of the tree. I mean some people couldn't care less about having a thing like that, but they wanted to help Kennedy in some way, even in a little way.

We took in close to a thousand dollars at that headquarters, which is quite wonderful for a little town, like Medford which is about 26,000. And this in spite of having such a split picture in the primary. But we had money left over. We paid all our expenses, and we helped the Democratic Central Committee. We just gave them some of what we had left of what came into the Kennedy headquarters. So that was real good.

MORRISSEY: Did you have a real thorough organization on election day to get out the vote?

KELLY: Yes, we did. I mean it was just volunteer, but we had it pretty well organized.

MORRISSEY: Did many of the ministers in your area thunder from the pulpit about a Catholic running for the presidency?

KELLY: They did, but it was mostly the small fundamentalist churches that we heard about. And then, as I said, they got out literature, too. And even one of the bigger well-established churches, some literature found its way in there. And of course, that made an awful furor because somebody brought it down to us, and one of their very abrasive type people from the church said, "I don't think there's any bigotry, really, among the Protestant churches about President Kennedy." And this one little fireball in our headquarters said, "Oh, isn't

there? We just got this out of this church." And she mentioned one of the big churches.

The minister was terribly upset. He came down there bawling her out and saying that she was trying to make trouble for their church. "Well," she said, "that's the farthest thing from my mind because we don't want any prejudice. But this literature was found in your church for people to take right out of their Sunday School." So he was upset about it because of himself, but later on, I think he probably even voted for Kennedy.

And there was one minister there, and I'll say what church he belonged to because he was so nice, a Congregationalist minister, who has a small church, you know. He was a Republican too. But he came down one day, and he handed me an envelope, and he said, "Well, I'm not the richest man in the world, Mrs. Kelly, but maybe this will help Senator Kennedy a little bit." It was ten dollars, a ten dollar bill he put in there. He said, "I feel so sad that some of our Protestant brethren feel the way they do because of that man's religion. I just wanted you to know that we don't all feel that way." And I thought that was so dear, such a sweet person.

Well now, since President Kennedy's death, even some of those churches that passed that literature out, they got together. . . . Well, when he died, the Church of Christ there--which I don't know how they felt, I'm not saying how they felt, I don't know--but their minister is the head of the ministerial association and a very wonderful little man, organized the memorial services for President Kennedy at the high school, and they all pitched in with the exception of one Protestant church which still couldn't bring itself to be nice about that. They didn't have quite enough money to pay for all the expenses of that memorial, and this one minister that was a die-hard said, "Well, I'm just all for Reverend Heberling having to pay this out of his own pocket because he organized it." And so forth. But he's still a bigot. This man is still a bigot. But the others aren't. I mean they've gotten together ecumenically and otherwise with our church.

When we started a Kennedy Memorial, a living memorial down there, it was started partly by a Protestant minister and Republicans right after Kennedy's death. And what it is is an exchange of young adults from different countries that we bring in. We cooperate with the experiment in International Living at Putney, Vermont, and we bring somebody from some country, and

we send a young person, a young adult, not a student, over to some other country in the name of President Kennedy. And it is so appealing. And we have two or three ministers that belong to that. One was Reverend David Brown of the Presbyterian Church there, and he was one of the charter members of this thing. And it's a hard job because in a little community like that, you have to raise all that money to send somebody clear off to a foreign land and back, you see, and then help somebody that comes in get from New York out to our place, and entertain them, you know, and take them into the homes. But what a sweet thing that is, and just something that we feel that President Kennedy would love. He loved to do things for young people.

MORRISSEY: I'm a little familiar with your area because I used to work at Fort Klamath, ten years ago this summer. And I can recall many people in that area having migrated in from Oklahoma, Arkansas, and so forth, and I was wondering if these people might have been Democrats by registration, but dubious about Kennedy because he was a Catholic?

KELLY: There's some of that, yes. But on the other hand, I've met people from Oklahoma that simply adored President Kennedy. Like that Elmer Donahoo, that hero from World War II. They're Oklahomans, and I think he was born in a deeper South state. I've forgotten. But they had no bigotry in their souls. They loved that man, just loved him.

MORRISSEY: Did Kennedy carry Jackson County in the Campaign against [Richard M.] Nixon?

KELLY: No. But it was pretty close, and I cannot remember figures, I'm awfully sorry. He overwhelmingly carried the primary, but Edith Greene felt very blue about that general campaign. She said, if the election could have been held earlier, she felt we could have made it with him. But the wall of bigotry began building, building, building, and it was a kind of an underhanded, mean, snide kind of a thing that was drawing the forces of bigotry together till she said it just seemed to grow into an unsurmountable wall. And she said, "It's just like beating your brains against it. You can't

knock it down." Even some big churches here in Portland that she counted on as being liberal seemed to join forces with them. She was terribly discouraged. That woman deserved an awful lot of credit. It took more courage for her to stick her neck out from the very beginning and organize the state as she did.

MORRISSEY: How about those teamsters that had breakfast with John Kennedy, did they help you in the campaign?

KELLY: Yes, some of them even contributed. They'd come down to the campaign headquarters--it was amazing the way he won them over. The head of it originally wasn't going to vote for him at all. Later he said, "I think we've underrated Kennedy and misunderstood him."

MORRISSEY: How about the newspapers in your area?

KELLY: Well, I think the Mail Tribune, they were certainly for Kennedy over Nixon. We have a very liberal newspaper in Medford, the Medford Mail Tribune is one of the most liberal papers in the country now. It had a great editor in Robert W. Ruhl, who is now old and kind of retired; but Eric Allen is their managing editor now, and he's extremely--he's a Republican, but he's extremely liberal, and he loved President Kennedy; he just thought he was great.

MORRISSEY: Do you recall if Senator Kennedy said when he asked Wayne Morse if Senator Morse was going to be a candidate?

KELLY: Well, it was before he decided to enter the Oregon primaries. He was turning over all the eventualities. He knew he had to go into the primaries, but he didn't want to go against a favorite son, and he said he wouldn't.

MORRISSEY: It's probably 1959, sometime, don't you think?

KELLY: I bet it was after our dinner in 1959. I don't really know. The reason I went all through that rigamarole with you was to show you that it was

Senator Morse that took the initiative to get Kennedy out here. Now for some reason he either thought Kennedy, being a Catholic, couldn't make it, Humphrey might, you see. Morse doesn't like the other guy to be too strong. He might want him to win but not too big, you see. He probably thought Kennedy didn't have a chance, so, therefore, he decided to get Kennedy out there, rather than give Humphrey that much of a break although he was supposedly a good friend of Humphrey. But Senator Kennedy told me that of the five people that he thought the most of in the Senate and counted on as best friends, Morse was at the top of the list.

MORRISSEY: Did he mention who the other four were?

KELLY: No, and I didn't ask him. I imagine Paul Douglas might have been one, but I don't know. I'm just guessing about that.

MORRISSEY: Can you recall any more about that conversation on the couch between your husband and the Senator?

KELLY: The thing is I was trying to be a hostess to the whole gang, and they talked about a lot of things. They talked about Alaska, you know, which is the forty-ninth state. The cute thing about that is, while they were there, some very dear friends--we were in Alaska in 1940, way up at Nome. My husband was an assistant U. S. Attorney General on a special assignment up there on the Reindeer Acquisition Program. The very morning that President Kennedy was going to leave after speaking at the Roosevelt Memorial, these people, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Walsh, from Nome arrived in Medford unexpectedly. And so as always when they'd come through, they'd stay with us. So we told them to come on out. No, I said, "come on out, or get a taxi and come out, or my husband will get you" I can't remember which. But anyway they arrived while Senator Kennedy was there, and he also had a very nice visit with them. And down at the Convention later, this Mr. Michael Walsh seemed to be the real leader of that Alaska delegation. And boy, they were for Kennedy like crazy. And I could see how Mike kept the Alaska delegation in line. And Mike would say, "Well, look now," and "See. . . Alaska needs

Kennedy" etcetera--oh, he just thought Kennedy was the greatest. He and his wife had a lovely conversation with Kennedy at our home that morning in 1959.

Well, I didn't want to be horning in, but before the Walshes came, my husband was talking with him about Alaska, and then, of course, Senator Kennedy was a great one for pumping you for all the information. He wanted all the background he could get on that area, and my husband has a great sense of politics, you know, and explained a lot of the Oregon history on politics. He can name names from away back when, organizations--and the years, he can keep all these dates in his mind. Oh, it's wonderful. So he really filled Kennedy in on a lot of things. Well, I was around, of course, getting coffee, getting donuts, and helping everybody feel at home, and talking to Jacqueline some of the time. So I didn't get in on too much of the conversation.

MORRISSEY: I was thinking when you get the transcript of this tape, you could ask the Judge if he could add anything to it.

KELLY: Well, fine, but it wouldn't be on tape.

MORRISSEY: Well, that's alright. At least we'd have it on a record somewhere.

KELLY: I'd be happy to have him do it. He'll recall things that I didn't know that Kennedy said, or that they discussed. But my, he just lost his heart to Senator Kennedy. I can tell you. He was so strong for him that it just showed all over, whereas I was putting on an act. And I told Stephen Smith that, I said, "Steve, I'm an old actress. I got my degree in dramatic art, and I'm putting on an act from a to z because I don't want to show how much I like that man. I don't think it will help him." And I really was conscientious about it.

And right there in that primary campaign we had one other woman (beside myself) who was a Catholic. All the other people working in there were not Catholics. In and out, in and out, we were the only two. And yet a man came down there one day, and said, "I think Kennedy'd be a lot better if it weren't all

Catholics running his campaign." I said, "What do you mean by that?" He said, "Well, all over every place Catholics are running his campaign." I said, "I'm not heading his campaign. I'm merely helping. Robert Boyer is the head of the campaign in this county." And I said, "I'm not even this headquarters' head." There was a woman named Myrtle Newton we had as head of the headquarters, and another woman, Inez Friel, were running the headquarters. But I mean that's how self-conscious they were on his religion, you see.

So, therefore, I kept underplaying, you know, my part in it as much as I could, for his benefit. And you know, it's kind of heart-breaking when you have to be that way. It makes you feel kind of sad that your religion would be offensive. When you think of that poor man what he went through in the war--losing a brother and his own hardship and all.

I suppose I feel so strongly about it myself because in World War I, I had six cousins, one of them killed. In World War II, we had fifty relatives in the war, including my husband. All of the Kellys were in the war, even his sister Marge was a WAC. And you think of all they gave. And I had cousins who were killed, and taken in prison camp, and all like that. And then when it comes to an office like the presidency, they think none of them could be worthy of aspiring to an office.

Actually, when my husband ran for judge the first time, his religion was used against him in the adjoining county. He has to run in two counties. There was a group, thirty people, who went from door to door telling everybody he was a Catholic, and a Catholic couldn't be a good judge. Can you imagine it? So you see the background there. But I think that it's too bad that a man has to die to dispel some of that, but I think Kennedy's death did dispel some of it. People are ashamed of that bigotry--or ashamed to admit it, at least.

MORRISSEY: Well, I've run out of questions.

KELLY: I've worn you out, poor man. I hope it isn't too long.

MORRISSEY: No, thank you very much. I've enjoyed it, I hope you have.

KELLY: Well, I enjoyed it. I just hope I gave you something worthwhile.

MORRISSEY: You have. Thank you.

Appendix

My husband, Judge Edward C. Kelly, died last June 11, 1968. However, he had spoken many times of his various visits and encounters with Senator John Kennedy during 1959 and 1960. We have snapshots of them talking together at the airport and in Medford.

My husband remembered with particular warmth and delight the long conversation the two of them had as they sat on the davenport at our home in 1959. My husband, a reserved, deeply humble, exceptionally intelligent but rather shy man told me: "From the first moment, I felt I had known John Kennedy all my life. We just hit it off perfectly on every count. I felt he really liked me and I certainly felt the same about him.

"He had such a sharp, quick wit--the kind that doesn't bruise, that startles you by its quick penetration, yet leaves you chuckling inside. And he seemed genuinely curious and interested. He asked me questions about our family, this county and its background, about Oregon history and personalities. He wanted to know the reaction of our Oregon people, not to himself, but to current national legislation and world happenings. You felt that every answer you gave him was being stored for later use in that brain of his.

"Yet it wasn't all serious talk. He and I exchanged funny stories about political and historical figures and as you could see we both did a lot of laughing. It was a lot of fun visiting with Jack Kennedy."

After the visit to the Convent, my husband and I accompanied the Kennedys and their entourage to the plane. The Senator insisted on showing us through the plane, introducing us to the crew. He acted as though he had all the time in the world to be a perfect host, even though he was already running a little late. And as we bade the Kennedys goodbye and crossed to the airport fence, we looked back, and he and Jacqueline were standing in the doorway waving and smiling to us. It is a nice memory.

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IN OREGON'S FIRST CENTURY--1859-1959

NINTH ANNUAL

ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL DINNER



HON. JOHN F. KENNEDY
GUEST OF HONOR



FRIDAY EVENING
MARCH 6, 1959
6 O'CLOCK



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OREGON



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Mary Greiner Kelly		
Gerald Scannell		Tickets
Elsie Werner		Foods
Eva Hamilton		Arrangements
Clyde Fichtner	}	Reception
Mark Norton		
Donna Straus		Serving
Myrtle Newton		Head Table
Larry Sheehan		Gift Selection
Marjorie Madden		Decorations
Pat Redmond		Social
Frank Christian	}	Coordination
Edith Rode		



DINNER COMMITTEE

Gertrude Wilmeth, Lura McGuire, Earl Cook, Marjorie Boyer, Louise Norton, Art Lusk, Hank Wilson, Priscilla Deatherage, Marie Nichols, Joan Redden, Frances Hamilton, Scott Hamilton, Phyllis Christian, Marie Ulrich, Doris Wilson, Edna Sheehan, K. C. Wernmark, Walter McMahan, Dick Southard, Ralph Hughes, Hazel McMahan, Blanche Southard, Mary Reeder, Frances Scannell, Mary Higgins, Inez Friel, William Frohmayer, Jesse Wagner, Frank Parke, Eva Seggesenman, Doris Boothby, Ray Briggs, Dave Peterson, Sidney Ainsworth, Ida Cook.



PARTY OFFICERS

C. Girard Davidson, National Committeeman David Epps, State Chairman
Virginia Grant, National Committeewoman Edna Scales, State Vice Chairman
Frank Christian, County Chairman
Edith Rode, County Vice Chairman

PROGRAM

Incidental Music John H. Lusk
At the Baldwin*

"KENNEDY" Frances Thrun
Audience Sing

Opening Frank Christian
Democratic County Chairman

Master of Ceremonies Hon. Robert D. Holmes

Invocation Rev. George R. Bolster
Episcopal Church

The National Anthem Frances Thrun
With Audience

Introduction of Mayor John Snider Master of Ceremonies

Welcome to Distinguished Guests His Honor, The Mayor

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SINGERS

Yvonne Cairo, Sharlene Finchum, Julie Joy, Donna
McFarland, Evelyn Deets, Pat Leek, Connie Zack,
Gayor Huck, Wilson Gilinsky, Louis Vance, David
Deller, Maynard Hadley, Jeff Lee, Clifford Nelson.

ACCOMPANISTS

Karen Elle, Michael Johnson, Lorna Vance

SOC Populaires Louis O. Clayson, Director
"We Remember, F.D.R.", Binet, Lenore Zapell, Reading

»

Reading of Messages

Introduction of Distinguished Guests Master of Ceremonies

Introduction of Local Officials Pat Redmond
President Democratic Social Club

A Token From Oregon Gordon Hudson

Introduction of Hon. Robert B. Duncan Master of Ceremonies
Speaker, House of Representatives

Introduction of Honor Guest Hon. Robert B. Duncan

ADDRESS

HON. JOHN F. KENNEDY

Fifteen Minute Question and Answer Period
..... Audience to Senator Kennedy

*Courtesy Lusk Piano Company.

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1951

Eagles Hall DeVere Taylor, Speaker
Entertainment "The Roosevelt Story"

1952

Medford Hotel David C. Shaw, Speaker
Entertainment Tresa Matlack, Frances Thrun, Vocalists

1953

Medford YMCA Hon. James Roosevelt, Speaker
Entertainment Novelaires Quartet, Tresa Matlack, Vocalist

1954

McLoughlin Jr. High Hon. Wayne L. Morse, Speaker
Entertainment Lenore Zapell, Reading; Marilyn Dungey, Piano

1955

McLoughlin Jr. High Hon. Stephen Mitchel, Speaker
Entertainment Vocal Duets, Jim Baker, Tresa Matlack
Lenore Zapell, Reading; Marilyn Dungey, Piano

1956

Hedrick Jr. High Eleanor Roosevelt, Speaker
Entertainment Ray Lewis Chorus; Lenore Zapell, Reading

1957

McLoughlin Jr. High Gov. G. Mennen Williams, Speaker
Entertainment "Big Man of Michigan" Calipso Number with
Anderson Trio and Colleen Hope Dancers: Lynn Sjolund's Senior
Mixed Chorus. Adaptations by Jerry Dryud.

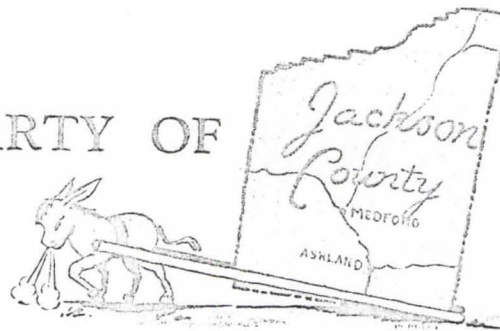
1958

McLoughlin Jr. High Hon. Wayne Morse, Speaker

COMMERCIAL PRINTING CO.



DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF



February, March 1959

Attention Fellow Democrats and Friends!

The ninth annual ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL DINNER, living tribute to our late beloved President Franklin D. Roosevelt, has been set forward a month earlier this year.

Time? FRIDAY, MARCH 6 6:00 p.m.
Guest of Hon. U. S. SENATOR JOHN F. KENNEDY

U. S. SENATOR JOHN F. KENNEDY of Massachusetts has accepted the personal invitation of Oregon's Senator Wayne L. Morse to be speaker. Eloquent, dynamic, Senator Kennedy has, for the past six months, led the Gallup Poll's list of all Democratic presidential contenders. Many predict, if nominated, he will be elected president in 1960!

Many high state and Democratic Party officials will attend the dinner. The Oregon Centennial, heralded at our dinner last year, will be saluted in theme this year as we move in step with Oregon's 100 years of progress.

Entertainment of the artistically high calibre now traditional with Roosevelt Memorial dinners is being carefully worked out by a talented program committee. Details will be announced in the press.

Tickets will be \$5.00 each. In addition to guaranteeing yourself and family a memorable, entertaining, and highly informative evening, your patronage of this dinner will provide badly needed funds for the 1960 campaign and will help keep Oregon on the march as a Democratic state!

The Food Committee is hard at work on a delicious and bounteous dinner menu. NO POTLUCK dishes to bring this year. Your ticket money is needed to help buy all that food and to pay for big advance expenses for this dinner.

Please help our Party and the loyal, hard working Committee by sending in your ticket money and/or extra contributions right away to your devoted friends in democracy.

James A. Redden

James A. Redden Co-Chairman
Mary Kelly

Mary Kelly

NINTH ANNUAL ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL DINNER

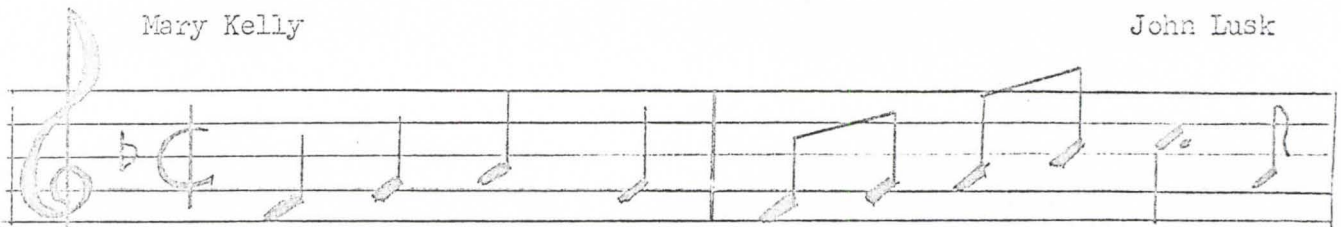
James A. Redden,
246 Aloha Street,
Medford, Oregon

Mary Kelly
906 W. 4th Street,
Medford, Oregon

K E N N E D Y

Mary Kelly

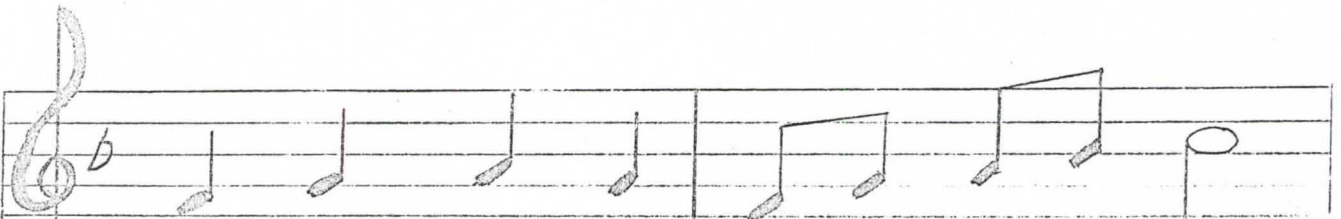
John Lusk



1. Who's that young man lead--ing the par--ade, His
 2. Who's that young man with the tous---led hair, and
 3. Who's that young man known to Na----vy blue, A
 4. Who's that young man here from Washing-----ton ----

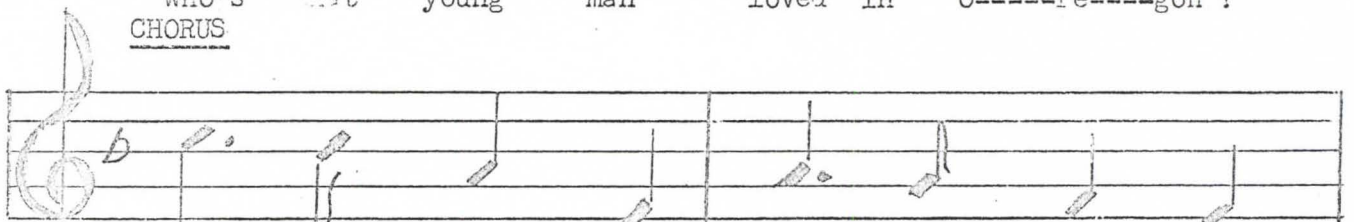


Head held high, A twink--le in his eye?
 elo---quent voice the all a-----mer-----ican choice?
 here in-the war with hon----ors by the score?
 At our command We reall---y think he's grand

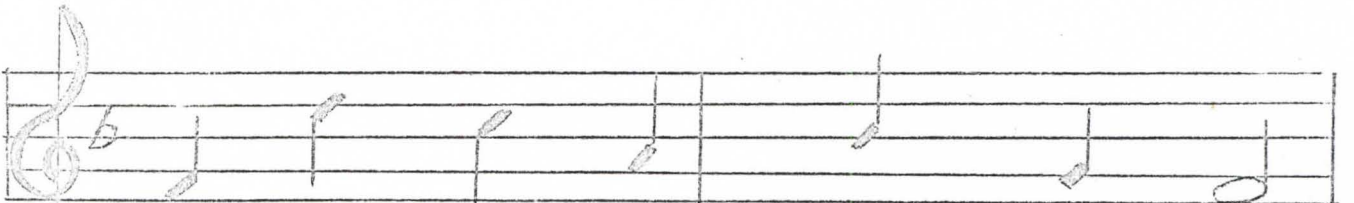


Who's that young man march--ing un-----a---fraid?
 Who's that young man known from here to there?
 Who's that young man states-man tried and true?
 Who's that young man loved in O-----re-----gon?

CHORUS



Here a grand guy He's a great guy



K-----E-----N-----N-----E-----D-----Y