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STACY: Of course, we have it in Atlanta everywhere you go. But--

STUECK: Tell me, what about--I heard, oh, from a couple of people in the last few days, that your father was at one time a member of the Ku Klux Klan. Do you have any recollection of--

STACY: I do not believe that.

STACY: My father was not born until the year that the Civil War started. So he was not old enough to have been in the Ku Klux Klan--the original.

STUECK: No, we're thinking of the Klan of the Twenties.

STACY: Oh, no, I'm sure he wasn't. I was old enough to know then. Now, somebody said that Dick and Rob had been in. But I don't believe that. But you know, it would have been normal for young boys to go into something like that if they were talked into it. I don't think they were; so many of them were around here.

STUECK: Do you have any--I asked you about Teddy Roosevelt. Do you have any recollection of your father or your brothers' attitudes toward Woodrow Wilson?

STACY: Well, Dick went to Washington to his inauguration. I think that my father admired Woodrow Wilson.

STUECK: Young Dick did? Now this was 1913.

STACY: He was twelve years old--twelve or thirteen. He went up there to stay with Uncle Rob and went to the inauguration of Woodrow Wilson. I told you my father and mother were anxious at every opportunity that they had for us to do things and go with--see what was going on--

STUECK: Do you remember him saying anything when he got back. I mean there must have been tremendous excitement--

STACY: Well, he had a wonderful time, but I can't remember any particular thing that he said, no.

STUECK: Is that the only trip you can recall that he made to Washington while he was a child?

STACY: Yes, I think it was.

STUECK: And he probably--

STACY: He may have been up there before that.

STUECK: He was able to do it basically because his Uncle Rob--

STACY: He wasn't in the Senate in 1927, was he? Well, he came through Washington then because I was there. He had been to Paris to the American Legion Convention, and I know he came back through Washington and was there quite a while then. I think he may have gone to Washington many times because we had two uncles that lived there, Uncle Ed and Uncle Rob, and Dick may have been there several times. I just don't remember.

STUECK: Now, Uncle Ed, was he the one from Texas, who lived in Texas?

STACY: Uh-uh. We don't have anyone in Texas. Uncle Edward Russell was my father's brother, and he was with the post office department in the foreign mail section until he retired and moved to Waynesboro, Virginia.

STUECK: Well, the one I was thinking of was a cousin, Gordon J. Russell.

STACY: Oh, that was long, long years ago.

STUECK: From Whitfield county. He moved to Texas and became a congressman, and there is some mention in one of the--Oh, in one of Senator Russell's letters about your father going to Washington to help--to talk to Hoke Smith to try and get Russell a judgeship. And apparently--

STACY: Oh, yes, I do remember that.

STUECK: You do.

STACY: See, I had been in Washington just about a few weeks maybe when my father came up. My father used to come to Washington quite often.

STUECK: And you went to Washington when?

STACY: 1918.

STUECK: 1918.

STACY: I didn't like teaching school. I had some friends up there and my sister, older sister, married in Washington at my uncle's home. Her fiancé lives in, well well, he was from Georgia, but he was at the Rowsden arsenal during World War I. And he could only get about three days and he thought he was going to Europe, so my father and mother and several of us got on the train and went to Washington. She was married in my uncle's home. But I was up there-- I talked with these friends of mine who had taken civil service examinations, and they told me to--when they were going to have the next one, and I came back and stood it. And when I got my appointment to the Veteran's Administration, or called the Bureau of War Risk Insurance then, I felt like I had inherited the world because I was getting \$450 a year teaching school--fifty dollars a month for nine months in the year. And I got appointed a bureau--a clerk

in the Bureau of War Risk Insurance at a \$1000 a year, over twice as much as I was making. Well, that's when I went to Washington.

STUECK: There weren't that many women in your position, was there?

STACY: No, but--

STUECK: But that wasn't really a clerical position.

STACY: It was clerical, but--

STUECK: But not secretarial.

STACY: No, just clerical. Filing and stuff like that. And I did work up into correspondence, you know, answering correspondence and doing things like that. And then some of my women friends were studying law and getting good jobs and I decided to study law and get me a job, which I did.

STUECK: How active was you mother in the community?

STACY: Mother never did anything at all in the community except go to church.

STUECK: Was she on committees in the church?

STACY: I don't think so.

STUECK: How about the United Daughters of the Confederacy?

STACY: That was later on after we were all grown and out of the way, Mother became active in the church. She became very active in the Women of the Church and she became active in the Daughters of the Confederacy, UDC's and she did do a lot of things like that afterwards. But we were all out of the nest by that time.

STUECK: Tell me, what were Dick's faults?

STACY: Faults?

STUECK: Yes.

STACY: He could--no, I started--I was thinking of Rob--he was sort of that way too. He could be sarcastic sometimes, and he was a great tease. He was more introverted; maybe that was one of his worst faults.

STUECK: What do you mean by that?

STACY: When he was around people, he could just go into a shell unless he wanted to. I don't guess you'd call that introverted.

STUECK: Well, would you--did you observe that within the family or would this include, for instance, when he was a senator in Washington and--

STACY: I've seen him do it in Washington. And you know when he went to Washington, he said he tried about two weeks of the cocktail circuit and then decided it didn't pay. So he never would accept invitations to cocktail parties and things like that. He didn't like people *en masse*. He was a great people lover as individuals, but--and I'm that way.

STUECK: He, as a child, although he seemed to read a good deal, wasn't an outstanding student in school.

STACY: I think he was bored, more or less, with the trivia.

STUECK: Yet, you know, you talk about being bored with trivia, I mean he was a man who, at least as a senator, had a reputation for taking great care--

STACY: Well, I shouldn't have said that about trivia because he used to remark that he had the greatest store of unnecessary information of anybody he had known. And he could, he could quote things like what team, baseball team, won what pennant, and he could go back and tell you the names of everybody on the football team and just any old things like that, you know, he said unimportant--the greatest storage of unimportant information of anybody.

STUECK: Yeah. Well, he read a lot of history. He apparently knew an awful lot about the Civil War and the battles--

STACY: Oh, the Civil War was his love. He was crazy about reading about the Civil War.

STUECK: But it seems when he was in the Senate, he had tremendous self-discipline in mastering certain areas, like parliamentary procedure--

STACY: Oh, I would say he was one of the best disciplined people I had ever known.

STUECK: Like the armed services and army. He was considered to know more about that than virtually anybody in the Senate. So he was perhaps one of those people--

STACY: Dick had a good sense of humor. He really had a keen sense of humor. And he used to tell us very funny stories of things that happened. Remember when he went on that five-man tour of Europe--of, you know, China and--

STUECK: During World War II?

STACY: During World War II. He told us how Happy [Albert Benjamin] Chandler, who was later baseball commissioner, everytime they'd get on the plane and shut the door, he'd go and lie

down on that bench that they had right there and he said, "Let me know when we get off the ground." (laughs) Scared to death, you know--things like that. And then he told us once about Carl [Trumbull] Hayden wanting him to fly to Arizona with him. Carl Hayden didn't like to fly and he was invited out there to make a speech or do something, and he wouldn't go unless Dick went with him. And he had a lot of incidents, you know. About Madame Chiang Kai-shek, you know, he visited them. You've heard the story of when she was at Macon--

STUECK: Yeah, right.

STACY: --and then she they invited her back to get her doctorate, and she wouldn't go unless Dick went down there. And so he went down there and he told--said why he had never married, you know, that he had seen this beautiful little Chinese girl and since then he had never wanted to marry. He could make up good stories like that, you know, and he was interesting.

STUECK: Well, you give the impression that, although the community that you lived in as children was very isolated, the family was very close and didn't in terms of playing and so forth, didn't really mix all that much with people outside. That nevertheless, through reading and through traveling outside of the state--not necessarily outside of the country--but outside of the state and perhaps through communications with this Uncle Rob, or someone else who had traveled outside of the state, really had a vision of what was going on outside of Georgia--

STACY: I think we did. I think my mother and father were anxious that we should know.

STUECK: I mean, for instance, when you left Georgia--when did you leave Georgia for the first time--not necessarily to live somewhere else but, say, to go to school somewhere else.

STACY: When did I first go out of Georgia? I can't remember, but--Oh, I know. My father and mother took me to Washington when I was eleven months old.

STUECK: Well, you wouldn't have any recollection of that.

STACY: I never had any recollection.

STUECK: Well, how about after that? I mean, when you went places that were, you know, several hundred miles away.

STACY: I went to New York when I was about seventeen with Mother and Dad.

STUECK: For how long; do you remember?

STACY: That was the first time I guess that I went out-- I remember we went on the train to Norfolk. We had to lay over there some time. We went out to Virginia Beach, and my father was sitting on the beach, took off his shoes and socks, you know, to walk in the ocean and an unusually big wave came up you know, and I remember seeing my father--Whoop! Do this, you know to go under it. (laughs) And wet his socks I remember--had to put on. But they took us whenever they could, but I don't remember too many trips out of Georgia.

STUECK: Well, how strange did the world seem to be when you, you know, went to New York? How strange did New York--I can remember I grew up only ninety miles from New York and it seemed pretty strange to me when I visited New York when I was in my teens. Did it seem like an entirely different world to you?

STACY: Well, I had been to Atlanta so many times and I had an idea of what Atlanta was like, was a big city to me because coming from Winder, you know. So when I went to New York, it was just a bigger city.

STUECK: Yeah. How about-- .did you have a sense, for instance, when I was brought up being brought up in the north, we would be brought with a sense of being very different from southerners. You were brought up, I assume, with a sense of being very different from the northerners. When you went to New York--

STACY: I thought they were all terrible.

STUECK: Right. Well, when you went to New York, I mean, did you anticipate people with horns, you know, that they would behave an awful lot differently than the people that you were used to down here.

STACY: I don't know what I expected really. I know that we knew some people up there and one of them had a son that came around to the hotel and took me out to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. We went to the McAlpin and saw--what is it? Brother and sister that danced--did the dancing?--We went to a tea dance. They had tea dances at the McAlpin Hotel, and I just did a lot of things like that, and he had been living up there all the time, and I didn't think he was different than anybody else. We had an awfully nice time together. He thought I talked funny. I'd say something and he'd say, "Oh, say that again." (laughs)

STUECK: How about when you went to Washington in 1918. Now was that-- where were you teaching school? Was that in Virginia?

STACY: Winder.

STUECK: Oh, you were teaching school in Winder. So the first time that you actually went to live somewhere outside of Georgia was when you went to live in Washington in 1918. How about that? Was that a real big adjustment?

STACY: That was a big deal. My father had a brother there. He also had a man, who had been his legal secretary, when he was on the court of appeals who was then with a congressman. And they had lived right over here and his wife was about my age. And they had a young baby, and they wanted me to come and live with them. And my father said, "No, you go to Uncle Edward's house to live." His daughter was going off--the first one that had ever flown the coop. So, Mr. Perry and Uncle Edward both met me at the station. And I had to go with Uncle Edward to his house. So, I didn't like it very well there, and it was sort of boring and I couldn't wait to get to my job.

STUECK: Now, when were you married?

STACY: I wasn't married until I was forty-four years old. I had my career all made and had been through law school and everything when I met my husband.

STUECK: And your father probably thought you were a little bit weird.

STACY: No, he thought I was wild. I was doing something unusual, and then after I had been in Washington for a while, my sister and her husband were sent there. He was in the army then--the one that--oh, we had all gone to Washington for her wedding in 1918. That's when I got the idea of going to Washington first. And so he was sent to Washington then to work in the war department. And they got an apartment, and I lived with them for a while. And it just went on like that. I made friends and, finally, I entered law school. And then I got my own apartment. Well, at first I lived with three others, and Dad thought that was the worst thing in the world--you couldn't imagine, an unchaperoned three women, four women, living together--four girls.

STUECK: Were there many girls in Washington that did that?

STACY: Everybody in Washington. There were more women in Washington during World War I than you could shake a stick at because, you see, the men were in the army. The women came there to do the clerical work, and there were a few that joined the navy or the army as WACs or WAVEs. But the most of them were just ex-school teachers, ex-secretaries, ex-everything else, that were bored with what they were doing of else it was a patriotic--The government was advertising for people to come to Washington to work.

STUECK: Were there any other people from Winder that you knew who went?

STACY: Yes, there was a woman up there that joined the navy. And she's in the hospital right now, brain tumor. But I don't believe there were any of the others--there must have been others in Winder that went.

STUECK: Did Dick visit you much when you were in Washington? Now this was 1918?

STACY: 1918.

STUECK: Yes, did he visit you much, say between 1918 and 1925?

STACY: Oh, yes, there were lots of visits.

STUECK: He did. But he would go up to Washington--

STACY: Dick was in school, you see. He was still in school when I went to Washington.

STUECK: Right, right.

STACY: And then when he got out of school, he started practicing law in Winder. And so that was a different life for him. I was away at that time and I didn't know much about it.

STUECK: But he didn't visit much then in Washington.

STACY: Never saw him except when I came home on visits.

STUECK: I see. Did he think that you were a little bit crazy, too--a little bit wild?

STACY: Well, I don't know that they thought I was too wild. They just thought I was unreasonable. I guess they thought it was unreasonable for me to want to do something like that. Dad thought that the only dignified thing that a woman could do was teach school.

STUECK: Or be a nurse?

STACY: And I hated school; I didn't want to teach. And I didn't like--I was teaching elementary school, of course, and I didn't like the little girls coming up and hugging me and putting their arms around me and the little boys sassing me and all that kind of stuff. I liked the boys better than I did the girls. But I got along all right with teaching. In fact, the superintendent at school was very disappointed and very peeved when I told him I wasn't going to teach again next year. And that's when I went to Washington.

STUECK: Did you see Dick quite a bit when you first went to Washington in 1933?

STACY: Oh, yes. I use to see him all the time. And it's the funniest thing. You know my brother-in-law, Hugh Peterson and my sister Pat, the four of us--my sister Pat and Hugh and Dick and I--the four of us used to have an awful lot of good times together. And we'd go out to Pat's and Hugh's and have dinner and sit around and talk a lot and everything. And I had a good friend up there that went through law school with me, Leila Brown. Leila and I used to beg Hugh and Dick to pass a four-four bill, we called it. It was four hours of work, four days a week. And you know, they've just about come into that four days a week. At that time, we were working six days a week. And then we got to where we had half a stay on Saturday, five and a half days a week, and then later on they had five day weeks. But--

STUECK: So Dick, when he got up there, he didn't have much trouble adjusting to the new situation, to the life up there?

STACY: I don't think he did. I don't think he did. He lived at the Hamilton Hotel when he first came up there, and Huey Long lived at the same hotel, and several other senators--I don't remember all of them. You've heard the story of how Roosevelt called Dick one night--

STUECK: Oh, yeah, at 12 o'clock at night.

STACY: And he said, "This is Franklin Roosevelt." And Dick says, "I'm--"-- what did he say? hung up. In the middle of the night, you know. And so, soon the phone rang again and the

operator said, "Senator, you were talking to the president of the United States." (laughs) And Dick said, "Well, put him back on."

You know, when I lived in Washington with Dick during his last days, he was speaker *pro tem* of the House--of the Senate, and he had a little green telephone that he told me not to ever pick up the receiver because, you see, he was the fourth in line for the presidency. If anything had happened to the Speaker of the House and the vice president, he would have been the next in line for president. So he said that phone was put there for him. At any time, so at any time the White House could call him, or he could pick it up and call the White House any time he wanted to, but he didn't want me playing with it.

STUECK: Well, I think that about covers it. You have been very pleasant to talk to, and I think the interview has been very informative.

STACY: Here's Modine now; I want you to meet Modine.

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