

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

WITH

CHRISTINE WALLACE &

DAVID F. WALLACE, JR.

PART III—SIT-DOWN INTERVIEW & HOUSE WALK-THROUGH

AUGUST 26, 1991

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

INTERVIEWED BY JIM WILLIAMS

ORAL HISTORY #1991-26

This transcript corresponds to audiotapes DAV-AR #4391-4400

HARRY S TRUMAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



EDITORIAL NOTICE

This is a transcript of a tape-recorded interview conducted for Harry S Truman National Historic Site. After a draft of this transcript was made, the park provided a copy to the interviewee and requested that he or she return the transcript with any corrections or modifications that he or she wished to be included in the final transcript. The interviewer, or in some cases another qualified staff member, also reviewed the draft and compared it to the tape recordings. The corrections and other changes suggested by the interviewee and interviewer have been incorporated into this final transcript. The transcript follows as closely as possible the recorded interview, including the usual starts, stops, and other rough spots in typical conversation. The reader should remember that this is essentially a transcript of the spoken, rather than the written, word. Stylistic matters, such as punctuation and capitalization, follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 14th edition. The transcript includes bracketed notices at the end of one tape and the beginning of the next so that, if desired, the reader can find a section of tape more easily by using this transcript.

Christine Wallace, David Frederick Wallace, and Jim Williams reviewed the draft of this transcript. Their corrections were incorporated into this final transcript by Perky Beisel in summer 2000. A grant from Eastern National Park and Monument Association funded the transcription and final editing of this interview.

RESTRICTION

Researchers may read, quote from, cite, and photocopy this transcript without permission for purposes of research only. Publication is prohibited, however, without permission from the Superintendent, Harry S Truman National Historic Site.

ABSTRACT

Christine Wallace, sister-in-law of Bess W. Truman, and her son David F. Wallace, Jr., reveal in detail the inner workings of the extended Wallace family during the 1930s to early 1940s. For several years the Wallace siblings (Bess, George, Frank, and Fred) and their families lived together at 219 N. Delaware St. with their mother, Madge Gates Wallace. In this part of the interview, the Christine Wallace discusses her family history and how she became involved with the Wallace family in Independence. Then both Wallaces relate their experience at 219 N. Delaware St. and other family events in Denver, Albuquerque, and Washington, D.C. Their two-day interview concludes with a walk-through of the Truman home, with the Wallaces's recollections of what the home was like in the 1930s and 1940s during the time of their residence and later visits.

Persons mentioned: D. Frederick Wallace, Marian Christine Wallace Brasher, Christina Anna Reisch, Charles Martin Meyer, Martin Meier, Mary Stigert Meier, Frank Sales Reisch, Anna Reisch, Frank Martin Meyer, Charles Edmund Meyer, Stephen Douglas, Abraham Lincoln, Nancy Smith, Bob Smith, Madge Gates Wallace, Harry S Truman, Sue Hudspeth, Jack Lepage, Julie Lepage, J. C. Nichols, Bess W. Truman, Frank Gates Wallace, George Porterfield Wallace, Natalie Ott Wallace, May Wallace, Margaret Truman Daniel, Margo Wallace, David Willock Wallace, George Porterfield Gates, Elizabeth Emery Gates, Myra Gates Wallace, John Wallace, Helen Wallace, Marian Wallace, Myra Sue Wallace, T. B. Wallace, Maud Gates Wells, Gates Wells, Annie Wells, Louise Wells Hull, Lee Wells Hull, Oscar Wells, Bob Wells, Frank Gates, G. Walter Gates, Mary Loveland, Mary Paxton Keeley, Helen Bryant, Julia Ott, Margaret Louise Ott, Charles C. Bundschu, Helen Souter, Louisa Maria Ott, Fred Bacon, Christian Ott, Virginia Ott, George Henkes, Natalie Henkes, Natalie Elizabeth Henkes, Paul Buchdahl, Julia Elizabeth Buchdahl, Albert Moore Ott, Frederick Paige Barnes, Peter Crane Barnes, George Bryant Barnes, Rose Ott, Anna Barbara Ott Bundschu, Anton Joseph Bundschu, Henry Bundschu, Paul Bundschu, Anton Joseph Bundschu, Jr., Ellen Frances O'Leary Bundschu, Barbara Bundschu, Charles Bundschu, C. C. Bundschu, Jr., Helen Bundschu, Frances Bundschu, William Bundschu, Albert Jerome Bundschu, Ethel Wakefield Bundschu, Kristen Ott Bacon, Sandra Hall Bergon, Edwin Benony Hall, Jr., Peter Armstrong Hall, Edwin Bacon Hall, Rose Bacon, Mary Bostian, Caroline Southern Carnes, Bill Carnes, Victor Carnes, Sally Rogers, Ethel Southern, Rowland T. Proctor, Mary Thompson, Grace Minor, Elizabeth McCoy, Temple Buehl, Blevins Davis, Denny Chavez, Richard Jamon Brasher, Norine Allen, Lloyd Stark, Charlotte Margaret Wallace, Cheryl Ann Brasher, Richard Jamon Brasher, Jr., Elizabeth Marian Brasher, Lynne Frances Brasher, Pamela Sue Brasher, Jamon Brasher, Kristi Marie Brasher, Margaret Ann Wallace, Charles Gates Wallace, Johnny Porter, Knute Rockne, Carol Sutter, Polly Merritt, May Hardwood, Vietta Garr, Tommy Caskey, Lucy Peters, Linda King, Oscar King, Mize Peters, Marjorie Nicks, Tom Twyman, Adelaide Twyman, Mell Palette, Thelma Palette, Mary Shaw Branton, Ernest L. Capps, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Mamie Eisenhower, David Eisenhower, Julie Nixon, Gene Cervi, Eulalia Cervi, Oscar Brannon, Clint Anderson, Clark Clifford, Reathel Odum, Tommy Dorsey, Ralph Zimmerman, Gretchen Zimmerman, Leola Estes, Charlie Brandon, Oscar Chapman, William C. Westmoreland, E. Clifton Daniel, Jr., Harrison Gates Daniel, William Wallace Daniel, Thomas Washington Daniel, Dean Acheson, Mary Jane Truman, and Martha Ellen Truman.

**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH
CHRISTINE WALLACE AND DAVID F. WALLACE, JR.**

PART III – SIT DOWN INTERVIEW

HSTR INTERVIEW #1991-26

JIM WILLIAMS: This is a continuation of the oral history interview with Christine Wallace and David Wallace. We're at Arthur's Bed and Breakfast on Maple, on the afternoon of August 26, 1991, in Independence, Missouri. Jim Williams from the park service is asking the questions, and Carol Dage from the National Park Service is here also, and Scott Stone from the National Park Service is running the recording equipment.

Well, we've been talking about things kind of hit-and-miss until now, and I wanted just to sit down and have a chance to go through chronologically as much as possible and find out more about your family and how you became related to the Wallaces. Could you start out by telling me where and when you were born?

CHRISTINE WALLACE: Well, I was born in Springfield, Illinois, on May 18, 1908.

WILLIAMS: How long did you live in Illinois?

C. WALLACE: I lived there until I was about . . . oh, I think I was about three years old, and then we moved to Oak Park, Illinois—my father was in business in Chicago—and we lived there until I was about ten, when we moved into Kansas City, Missouri. My father had a business there, and there I stayed until I married my husband, Fred Wallace. We lived in Independence with his family for about eight years, and from there we

moved to Denver, Colorado, and I've been there . . . Well, we were in Colorado, Denver, Colorado, when he passed away in 1957, and I was working for the Colorado Department of Highways, and I stayed there until I retired. We were told that we had to retire at sixty-five, which I did. And from there on I have lived with my daughter in Maryland for a while, and I lived in Los Angeles, California, with my son for a while. I am now living in a retirement residence or apartment in Denver, Colorado.

I have a lot of grandchildren there because I had another daughter, Marian Brasher, and she passed away in '84 from cancer. She had seven children, and they are all living in Denver. Some are married—oh, except one, who is with her husband now in England. He's with IBM and he was sent there for . . . I don't know how long, but they'll be there a while. And I have some great-grandchildren, six. Seven. No, there's seven. One of them just had a baby. [chuckling] Seven. And I am now in Independence, Missouri, speaking to you.

WILLIAMS: Okay. What were your parents' names?

C. WALLACE: My mother's name was Christine Reisch, R-E-I-S-C-H, and my father's name was Charles Meyer, M-E-Y-E-R. And they were both . . . Let me see, my father was born in Bloomington, Illinois, and my mother was born in Springfield, Illinois, and they had always lived there until they married. And as I said, we lived in Springfield for a while and then on, as I said earlier.

WILLIAMS: Do those families go back into Illinois history several generations?

C. WALLACE: I don't know. I really don't know too much about it. I know my father's . . . well, my Grandfather Meier came from Switzerland, Bern, Switzerland. It was spelled M-E-I-E-R at that time. Now, when he came to the United States, I don't know. I have no record of it. And then he married, and that's my grandfather, his name was Martin Meier, and he married my grandmother, whose name was Mary Stigert. And I don't know where she came from or what, but I think they were all from probably some German . . . the names sound kind of German. And as for my mother's family, her father was Frank Reisch, and my grandmother was Anna Reisch. And as far as I know, they were born in and around that area, Springfield.

WILLIAMS: Did you know both sets of grandparents?

C. WALLACE: I knew my Grandmother Reisch. I did not know my Grandfather Reisch, because he died before my mother was married. And as for my father's mother, I was just a baby, I think, when she died. And my grandfather—his name was Martin Meier, as I said—and I vaguely remember him, but he didn't live long after I was born.

WILLIAMS: How long did your parents live?

C. WALLACE: Well, my father passed away in the sixties. Where's my notebook?

WILLIAMS: Well, it's in on the . . .

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And he had diabetes. And my mother passed away when she was ninety-seven years old. She died in California. She lived with me

for a while after my father died, and then she went out to California and lived . . . I had two brothers, Frank and Charles. Charles lived in Dallas, and my brother Frank lived in California, and she was with them.

WILLIAMS: Were you the youngest?

C. WALLACE: I was the youngest.

WILLIAMS: How much older were Frank and Charles?

C. WALLACE: Well, Frank was quite a bit older. He was about eight . . . Let me see, he was born in 1901, and he died . . . [whispering] I don't have my book. She took it up to my room. [speaking normally] And then after he died, my mother came—

DAVID WALLACE: You had it downstairs this morning.

C. WALLACE: Well, I think I told—

D. WALLACE: It's not in your purse?

C. WALLACE: No, I told Pat about it, and I think she took it upstairs. And where were we?

WILLIAMS: Frank was born in 1901.

C. WALLACE: In 1901.

WILLIAMS: And died . . .?

C. WALLACE: And he was about . . . How old was Uncle Frank when he died?

DAVID WALLACE: Fifty-seven, fifty-six?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. Well, he was about Fred's age, about fifty-seven, and he had . . . What did he die of? Hepatitis. And he was married and he had two children, and they lived in California. And then my mother—

D. WALLACE: He died about '59.

C. WALLACE: Hmm?

D. WALLACE: He died about '59, '58.

C. WALLACE: About '59.

WILLIAMS: So you had two Uncle Franks?

C. WALLACE: Two Uncle Franks. [The missing book is brought downstairs.] And then, let me see, I'll look this up. January . . . Now who are we on? Frank? January 1st . . . Well, I don't see . . . Oh, yeah, he's December. No, he was January 1st. No, he was December. And then December 11th, 12th, 13th . . . I ought to have David looking these up. I need a secretary.

WILLIAMS: So he was about seven years older than you.

C. WALLACE: And my brother Charles was thirteen months older than me. Frank Sales Reisch. Well, what happened to him? Here he is, Frank Reisch, and he died January 4, 1961. So, if he was born in 1901, he was sixty years old, wouldn't you say?

D. WALLACE: Fifty-nine.

C. WALLACE: Fifty-nine.

WILLIAMS: His name is Frank M. Meier.

C. WALLACE: Frank Martin Meier. And my brother was born April 4th—my other brother—March, April . . . April 4th. See how I like this book?

WILLIAMS: Mm-hmm.

C. WALLACE: For somebody that can't remember anything it's fine. Charles Edmund

Meier. He was born in 1907, and he died on November 30, 1984. Is that '84?

WILLIAMS: Eighty-nine?

C. WALLACE: Eighty-nine.

WILLIAMS: Not too long ago.

C. WALLACE: And he had been living in Dallas, Texas, and he has one daughter who's married and lives in . . . Dallas? Fort . . . What is it?

WILLIAMS: Fort Worth?

C. WALLACE: In Fort Worth.

WILLIAMS: How much did you see your brothers through the years?

C. WALLACE: Well, not too much. I would go to Dallas once in a while, but not too often.

WILLIAMS: Would you visit that side of the family?

D. WALLACE: No.

C. WALLACE: No, they all kind of stayed in their own place.

WILLIAMS: So you had one living in Texas?

C. WALLACE: And one in California.

WILLIAMS: So Frank lived in California?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, Frank lived in California. And he had been living here in Kansas City at one time, and so had my brother Charles, but then Charles moved to Dallas and Frank moved to California.

WILLIAMS: Where did you go to school?

C. WALLACE: I went to school in Kansas City. I went to a French convent, Notre

Dame de Sion, is the best I can do.

WILLIAMS: It's still there.

C. WALLACE: It's still there, and the mother house is over in Paris, and we had to speak French all the time. Oh, then I went to Finch after I graduated from there. I graduated from "Si" and I went to Finch, and that was in New York City. And I went there—it was a two-year program—and the first year was in New York and the second year was in Versailles, France. They had a school over there, which was a lot of fun, and then my mother came over and met me, and we saw some of Europe before we returned home. By that time, you went on a boat; you didn't fly in those days.

WILLIAMS: What were you being trained for at Finch?

C. WALLACE: That's a good question.

WILLIAMS: What kind of courses did you have?

C. WALLACE: Well, we had languages, and of course I had French, and we had art appreciation.

D. WALLACE: Tell them what kind of a school Finch was.

C. WALLACE: It was a finishing school. [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: It wasn't a real school.

C. WALLACE: Well, it was, and we had history, and we had . . . We'd go to the Metropolitan Museum, and we had a very good teacher, and we'd look at the pictures, and she'd explain different techniques that the artists had used and so forth. And then we'd look at some of the furniture they had

and show the different things that meant something when . . . Anyway, it was educational. And then when we were in France, why, we did a lot of museum business. We went down to the chateaux country to see all the buildings. Anyway, that's what we did. What did I come out knowing?

WILLIAMS: You knew French. You were using some of that last night.

C. WALLACE: Oh, I could speak French very well at one time, but after you get married and you never hear it for twenty-some-odd years, you get kind of forgetful. I have a French dictionary I had when I was in school there, and it's just . . . Well, one part of it is English-French, and another part is French-English, and it's very helpful. When I couldn't find my English dictionary, I'd look it up in the French, on the English side, so I could see how they spelled it so I'd know. And then you can use things. And by the way, I found a new dictionary at the King Supermarket.

D. WALLACE: Well, you showed it to me and told me it was ninety-nine cents.

C. WALLACE: So, anyway . . . well, you just forget words. I mean, I notice myself trying to think something in French, and I have to go to the dictionary to look it up. I can't remember it anymore. Silly words like . . . Well, I know window, but . . . Oh, I don't know, things on the table or in a room and so forth.

WILLIAMS: What business was your father in?

C. WALLACE: He had a business of office supplies and printing and so forth.

WILLIAMS: Did he do pretty well with that?

C. WALLACE: No, he didn't. He lost his business during the . . . well, in the thirties.
Wasn't that when it was so . . . everything—

D. WALLACE: In the Depression, wasn't it?

C. WALLACE: The Depression, yeah.

D. WALLACE: Well, somehow they managed to live pretty damn well, though.

C. WALLACE: Well, my mother was left some money by her father.

WILLIAMS: So that's how they could afford to send you—

D. WALLACE: From the big brewery.

C. WALLACE: And he had a brewery.

D. WALLACE: He was smart enough to switch to soda pop during Prohibition.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, in fact, here it tells something about—well, let me get my glasses on—the brewery and when it started.

WILLIAMS: This is the Reisch side?

C. WALLACE: Reisch, mm-hmm. His name is Frank Sales, S-A-L-E-S, Reisch.
[reading] "He came to Springfield from Niederhausen, Germany, in 1832. . . . Work for building the first brewery was started in 1848."

WILLIAMS: So there was beer money.

D. WALLACE: He used to have a statue of Stephen Douglas on the landing of their stairway.

WILLIAMS: Oh, really? Stephen Douglas was a family friend?

C. WALLACE: I don't know about that. [chuckling] I didn't know too much about that in those days.

D. WALLACE: Well, how would I if you hadn't told me?

C. WALLACE: Well, I think you were there a lot more than I was.

D. WALLACE: In 1850?

C. WALLACE: [chuckling] Well, I wasn't there in 1850.

D. WALLACE: No, but your mother would have told you that.

C. WALLACE: No, my mother didn't tell me anything.

D. WALLACE: Anyway, they were on that side of the Lincoln-Douglas debate.

WILLIAMS: So your family—we talked about this earlier—was traditionally Catholic?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: All the way through?

C. WALLACE: As far as I know.

WILLIAMS: What were you doing, and when was it that you met Fred Wallace?

C. WALLACE: Well, I was in Kansas City, Missouri, and it was January, and I had a date with a boy—I can't remember his name—and we went over to friends of mine, some friends I had, a house, and their name was Nancy and Bob Smith, and Fred was there and other people. We had a little group that would get together, and we'd play blackjack. So that's when I met Fred. It was on the 17th of January, which was, by the way, his birthday.

WILLIAMS: What year?

C. WALLACE: Nineteen thirty-three. Thirty-three, yeah. And then in April, that's when I started dating him. In April I went to Carmel, California, with my family. We went out there quite often. Ever been to Carmel?

WILLIAMS: No.

C. WALLACE: It's a nice place. Anyway, then in July he came out, and we got married.

WILLIAMS: So you had about a six-month romance, courtship?

C. WALLACE: Well, yeah, but I was away most of it. [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: Got married at the Carmel mission, which is one of the historic missions.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, the Carmel mission. We had our wedding breakfast at Del Monte Lodge, and we went on a wedding trip to Banff and Lake Louise. And then we came home, and for a while we had a place of our own, but eventually we went out and lived in Independence with the family.

WILLIAMS: Did you know when you went out to Carmel that he was going to come out and you were going to get married?

C. WALLACE: Oh, it was all planned ahead, yeah.

WILLIAMS: So it wasn't a surprise when he showed up?

C. WALLACE: No, no, no.

D. WALLACE: It was a hell of a surprise for your mother, I'll bet.

C. WALLACE: Yes, it was. I remember the day she got the letter. He was very proper. He went in to see my father and said that we wanted to get married, and then my father wrote my mother. And I will never forget the expression on her face.

D. WALLACE: Well, he was still in Kansas City.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Your father?

D. WALLACE: Yeah, your father.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and Fred.

WILLIAMS: And you and your mother—

C. WALLACE: Were in California.

WILLIAMS: And your brothers?

C. WALLACE: No, just one brother. One always would stay there. They worked in the business with my father. And so he wrote my mother that we had planned to get married, and it was okay by him, I guess. [chuckling] Anyway . . .

WILLIAMS: What did your mother think?

C. WALLACE: Well, I sometimes wonder what she was thinking, because I don't think it was very nice. [chuckling] She was very surprised.

WILLIAMS: And you were twenty-three or twenty-five?

C. WALLACE: Twenty-five.

WILLIAMS: And he was thirty-three.

C. WALLACE: Well, we were born—

D. WALLACE: Yeah, thirty-three.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, thirty-three. He was eight years older than me.

WILLIAMS: Did the age matter too much?

C. WALLACE: No, it didn't have anything to do with it.

WILLIAMS: What did you like about him?

C. WALLACE: Well, he was a nice person. I don't know, we just . . . What do you

think about? [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: Was it love at first sight?

C. WALLACE: Not exactly. No, we got along real well, and he was . . . I don't know, it's kind of hard to say.

D. WALLACE: Swept her off her feet.

WILLIAMS: Were you considered in the same kind of social category?

C. WALLACE: I guess so. Yeah, we sort of all had the same friends.

WILLIAMS: Do you know why he was down in Kansas City at the Smiths?

C. WALLACE: Yes, he was a very good friend of the Smiths, and I guess Nancy and Bob just . . . I don't know how it happened that he happened to be there, except they probably asked him to, because he's not the kind that would come barging in. And then he had all of us out to the house in Independence one time for one of our little get-togethers, and I'd have them another time, and so it was kind of fun.

WILLIAMS: Was he the first person you met from Independence?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, by the way, he was. Yeah, I didn't know too many people in— Well, I didn't know anybody, really.

WILLIAMS: So he had the group out to the house here?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Did you meet his mother at that time?

C. WALLACE: Oh, yes, she would be right there, but then she went and sat in the rocking chair in the living room, because we played our little blackjack game on the dining room table. And Nancy and Bob had been out there

before. They had known Fred a long time, and knew Mrs. Wallace too.

WILLIAMS: What was her reaction to your wedding?

C. WALLACE: I wasn't there to see it, so I don't know. I have no idea. But I think Grandmother Wallace was the kind of person that . . . I don't know, she wouldn't show her feelings much. Do you think she did?

D. WALLACE: Everybody else thinks she did—I mean, “the dragon lady.”

C. WALLACE: Oh, I don't think that.

D. WALLACE: She sure said some negative things about Harry, and you know.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, but Fred was her baby boy.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, but he never told you that she hit the ceiling or anything like that?

C. WALLACE: No, I don't think she did.

WILLIAMS: Did they wonder why he went out to California, why you couldn't wait to get back here?

C. WALLACE: Oh, no, no, no, it was all . . . It was nothing behind anybody's back. They were told just exactly—

D. WALLACE: Why didn't they come out for the wedding?

C. WALLACE: Well, people just didn't have that kind of money in those days. I didn't have a big wedding. I just wore a suit, and we went to the mission and got married and went to the Del Monte Lodge and had a nice breakfast, and then we went on our trip.

D. WALLACE: Well, did you take a train up or did you drive up?

C. WALLACE: Oh, a train.

WILLIAMS: Who was at your wedding?

C. WALLACE: Oh, my mother and David. No! not David. [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: [unintelligible]

WILLIAMS: Now we know the truth.

D. WALLACE: You'd better erase all of that and start over again. Now you'll see how accurate it is.

C. WALLACE: [chuckling] My mother and my brother Charles, and Sue Hudspeth, who, by the way, Charles married eventually. And I had these friends, Jack and Julie . . . What was their last name? Jack Lepage and Julie. And she was my maid of honor, and Jack was Fred's best man, and my brother Charles walked me down the aisle.

WILLIAMS: Were these all people from the Kansas City area?

C. WALLACE: No. Jack was in the service, and he came from . . . you know, what they call Fort Ord was called the Presidio in Monterey, and he was stationed there. She was a . . . oh, what was she, a niece or something of a Mrs. Hamlin who lived in Carmel, and we always stayed . . . Mrs. Hamlin had apartments and so forth for rent, and we always stayed with her whenever we went to California, to Carmel.

WILLIAMS: Would you go there every year?

C. WALLACE: Well, we went there quite often, and so that's how I happened to know Julie, and we got to be real good friends. And then there was another couple, and I can't remember . . . Snow, two girls, they were twins, and their last name was Snow. Well, they were some kin of Julie's. And it wasn't big, it was just . . . that was about it.

WILLIAMS: And it was in the mission?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, at the mission. The mission has the big altar here, and then off to the side there was a small chapel, and we were married in the chapel. And the priest was Father Murphy. [chuckling] I asked him to come to the breakfast, and he said, “Well, I’ll come if you have something soft, because I’m having trouble with my teeth.”

WILLIAMS: Did you have something soft?

C. WALLACE: Yes. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: So none of the Wallaces were there except Fred?

C. WALLACE: No.

WILLIAMS: Did you have any kind of reception when you came back here?

C. WALLACE: No, nothing.

WILLIAMS: Were there announcements sent out?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, we had engraved announcements sent out.

WILLIAMS: Did you get gifts?

C. WALLACE: Yes, we got some gifts.

WILLIAMS: How much did you know about Fred before you married him?

C. WALLACE: Married him?

WILLIAMS: Or before you got to know him, how much of his past were you familiar with?

C. WALLACE: Not too much.

WILLIAMS: Once you got to know him better, I guess, being married, heard the family stories from his side—

C. WALLACE: Well, we didn't . . . You see, we didn't live with them right away. We had an apartment, and then we were having a little trouble financially, [chuckling] so we moved out to Independence. Fred was an architect, and it was kind of rough going.

WILLIAMS: How long had he been in business then?

C. WALLACE: Well, now, let me see, you'd have to figure that one out, because he had two years of college. Now, if he was born in 1900, and he was thirty-three, so it was 1933 . . .

WILLIAMS: So he probably finished college about '20?

C. WALLACE: What would that be, about? Wait a minute, I'm trying to figure it out. Nineteen hundred, and he was eighteen. When he was eighteen it would be 1918, so he must have gone to college then. So it would be 1920. Would that be about right?

WILLIAMS: Mm-hmm.

C. WALLACE: After two years? And then he had an office downtown on Tenth Street across near the Schubert Theater. Wasn't there a Schubert Theater on . . . Anybody know anything about Kansas City?

WILLIAMS: No, I don't. [chuckling]

C. WALLACE: Anyway, somewhere. And he had a friend that was in the office with him, his last name was Brown. I can't remember his first name—I've been trying to—but . . . Anyway, so they had this office together and everything was kind of a struggle in those days.

WILLIAMS: Was it just the two of them?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: And had he done work somewhere else before that?

C. WALLACE: Yes, I guess so. I can't really remember what, but . . .

WILLIAMS: Somewhere we got this newspaper article from 1929, and it says, "Do you know Fred Wallace?"

C. WALLACE: Can we put that through here? [adjusting the microphone around her neck] Well, I know what I'll do. There we are. Of course, these fall off of my nose. [chuckling] What does that do? Oh, that makes it work, huh? Where is this article [see appendix, item 1]?

WILLIAMS: This was before you even knew him, and he was already in the *Missouri Democrat*, Kansas City, Missouri, Friday, May 17, 1929.

C. WALLACE: I didn't know he was with the J.C. Nichols firm. Frederick Apartment Hotel at Columbia. Well, I wouldn't know that building. [reading] "A credit to his skill as a [designer] . . ." Well, where did that all come from?

DAVID WALLACE: He just told you.

WILLIAMS: It was a Kansas City newspaper. It says he designed the SAE house at Columbia.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and was supervisor of construction. And it said that he did things up here. Frederick Apartment Hotel at Columbia, Missouri. I wonder if he named it after himself? [chuckling] Jackson County Negro Girls' Home and Jackson County Hospital.

WILLIAMS: Did you know that?

C. WALLACE: No, I didn't know any of this. I probably did, but I've forgotten. Oh, well. [reading] "He has very ambitious plans for the future . . . lives with his mother."

WILLIAMS: It says he was a member of the board of trustees of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, "also a member of the Board of Governors of the Missouri University Alumni Association." Well, that's fine. Thank you.

WILLIAMS: You didn't know that?

C. WALLACE: I didn't know a lot of that. I probably did, but I just . . . You know, I told you I knew about the SAE fraternity. I didn't know they had built a new house.

WILLIAMS: We need to change tapes.

C. WALLACE: Oh, good, I [unintelligible].

WILLIAMS: For a few minutes.

[End #4391; Begin #4392]

WILLIAMS: It's funny how we've stumbled across these things.

D. WALLACE: [unintelligible] building [unintelligible] by the [unintelligible] theater.

WILLIAMS: That might have been in the home that the library removed. Mrs. Truman [unintelligible] say things or maybe Mother Wallace [unintelligible] building.

C. WALLACE: [unintelligible]

WILLIAMS: Did we talk about your parents? When they . . . ?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: . . . were born?

C. WALLACE: We might do that.

WILLIAMS: I got your brothers.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, my parents. Three children.

WILLIAMS: I don't think we got the years.

C. WALLACE: Well, my mother.

WILLIAMS: You said she was ninety-seven, but . . .

C. WALLACE: [unintelligible] May 15. May 15. I don't know where my other grandparents were. I don't know. May 15th. Well, her name was . . .

WILLIAMS: This is your mother.

C. WALLACE: She was born in 1866. Her name was Christina, but they called them Tina in those days. Her name was Christina Anna Reisch, R-E-I-S-C-H, and she was born May 15, 1866, and she died September 2, 1963. Well, six from thirteen is seven, so that makes her ninety-seven.

All right, now who else? My father, his birthday was September 23rd. Was it the 23rd or was it the 21st? Well, we'll get around there and we'll see. [counting quietly to herself] Twenty-seventh, twenty-eighth . . . No. Twenty-fourth? Here it is. Charles Martin Meier. He was born September 23, 1868. He was a little younger than my mother. And he died May 8, 1947. Seven from eight is one . . . Well, that doesn't work out, does it?

WILLIAMS: Forty-seven to . . .

C. WALLACE: Eight from seventeen is nine.

WILLIAMS: So he would have been eighty-nine? Seventy-nine.

C. WALLACE: Seventy-nine, yeah. Now, who else did we need?

WILLIAMS: I think that was all. Got your brothers and your parents.

C. WALLACE: You have both of them now?

WILLIAMS: Mm-hmm, and you.

C. WALLACE: I gave you me.

WILLIAMS: Right.

C. WALLACE: Now, you want my mother's parents. Frank Reisch. I don't know when his birthday was.

WILLIAMS: Well, that's far enough back.

C. WALLACE: I really don't know. I mean, I could look through here one . . . [interview interrupted—cold drinks served] Oh, how did you know I was thirsty? Thank you.

WILLIAMS: Because I've been making you talk.

C. WALLACE: Oh, that water's so nice and cold.

WILLIAMS: How did your husband get along with your parents through the years?

C. WALLACE: Well, they just kind of went each other's way.

WILLIAMS: I didn't hear you.

C. WALLACE: They kind of went their own way.

WILLIAMS: Which means they avoided each other?

C. WALLACE: No, but they didn't go out of their way to . . . I don't know, how would you say, David?

DAVID WALLACE: I don't think they liked him very much, and I think you resented

it and reacted accordingly.

WILLIAMS: Why wouldn't they like him?

D. WALLACE: Martin Meier was born January 9, 1843, and died December 19, 1921. That's her paternal grandfather. Well, I don't know, I guess never good enough for their daughter, sort of thing.

WILLIAMS: Sounds like Madge Wallace and Harry Truman.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. But there were a lot of problems, just put it that way.

WILLIAMS: But they were living in Kansas City all those years that you were out. . .

C. WALLACE: No, they were living in Kansas City, but after my father lost his business, they went to California. And my father never drove a car, neither did my mother, so Frankie was there. I've got to stop doing that. My brother Frank was at home, and he would take them back and forth.

D. WALLACE: Don't you love that? She signed her name in old German usage: Christine Reisch, 1830, and died in 1902.

C. WALLACE: That was my grandmother.

WILLIAMS: Did she give you that book?

C. WALLACE: No, that was my mother's book. I showed it to you. It's a hundred years old. It's on the flyleaf. No, it's on the cover.

D. WALLACE: She got it on May 19, 1891.

C. WALLACE: The book.

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

C. WALLACE: And, oh, we just all had family problems.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

C. WALLACE: I think we'll leave it that way.

WILLIAMS: But since they were in California a good part of the time, was that not a problem, really, that you didn't see them?

C. WALLACE: No, no, no, we wrote and so forth.

WILLIAMS: Would you visit them?

C. WALLACE: I went out a couple times and visited them, yeah.

WILLIAMS: By yourself?

C. WALLACE: By myself. Yeah, I didn't even take the kids. But we were living in Independence, though, when I went out. Prior to that, no. Well, Fred and I were really only by ourselves maybe two to three years after we were married.

WILLIAMS: When you moved to Denver, did that mean you visited them more often in California?

C. WALLACE: I didn't visit them. We were too busy coming to Independence.

WILLIAMS: And Washington.

C. WALLACE: [chuckling] Yeah.

D. WALLACE: Well, and my grandfather died in 1947, too, so we were only in Colorado for six years.

C. WALLACE: And then she came to . . . My mother came to live with me for a while—when were in Denver, not before then, of course. Then she spent some time with me, and then she'd spend some time with my brother in Dallas. Because Frank had gotten married, and he and his wife then went to California. They had twins, a boy and a girl, and my

mother enjoyed them. And so my brother came and got her and took her to California, because she'd rather be with . . . Well, like Fred was Mrs. Wallace's boy, Frank was my mother's boy. He could make her believe black was white and white was black. Don't you think so, David?

D. WALLACE: Mm-hmm. That isn't very specific, but that's true.

C. WALLACE: Well, it's specific enough. So they just showed up one day and said, "I'm taking her to California, and goodbye."

WILLIAMS: What are your first memories of Bess, Frank, and George Wallace?

C. WALLACE: Well, I remember walking through that Union Station in Kansas City as we returned from our wedding trip, and there stood Bess and Margaret waiting for us. [chuckling] I thought, "Oh! I wonder what that's going to be like." [chuckling] And I think they were thinking the same thing, but we all got along well.

WILLIAMS: So you really didn't know them before you were married?

C. WALLACE: I didn't. No, I had met them, and that's all. I didn't know them at all.

D. WALLACE: Margaret was nine years old, though.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and I had never met Frank and George and Natalie and May until after.

WILLIAMS: Did it matter to you that Bess's husband was a county judge, politician?

C. WALLACE: No, I didn't care. No, fine. I always liked Harry. He was always very nice.

WILLIAMS: Was that considered something of a celebrity back then?

C. WALLACE: Well, I wouldn't say "celebrity." Well, you didn't think he was out digging ditches or anything. You know what I mean? It was a pretty good job, wouldn't it be? And he was such a nice person.

WILLIAMS: Well, he was living with his mother-in-law, just like you ended up.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Did you share that experience with him?

C. WALLACE: No, no, no, we never talked about our personal feelings with him. No, when he was there, we'd all have dinner together, and then sometimes Harry would sit down in the living room for a little while. But generally he went on upstairs to their room, and he'd read, and Bess would sit down . . . and eventually she would go upstairs. Lots of times she'd just sit downstairs and read, too. We're a reading family, let me tell you.
[chuckling]

And then I do remember, though, something that . . . We finally got to the point we were all playing canasta. You ever play canasta? And we put up some card tables—

D. WALLACE: Not in the forties. The game wasn't invented until the fifties.

C. WALLACE: Well, I'm talking about we got so we were playing canasta. Now, wait a minute. I was there, and Fred was there. Now, I don't know whether we were visiting there or what, but we were there, and we put up these card tables just as you would go out of the living room. All right, here's a . . . like this, and here's an . . . All right, you'd put them across there. And Frank and George and Natalie and May and Fred and myself, and

Bess, and sometimes Harry, would get around those [chuckling] tables and play canasta, and we'd just have a marvelous time, all the women against the men, and we always beat them to death. But that's the only time I can ever remember Harry sitting in and playing a game like that with us. But he was always going, always away, always talking on the phone. He was a busy man. And he was so nice. Never, never, as I told you, did I ever hear him raise his voice to anybody. He was a perfect gentleman. *Never* did I hear him say a "damn" or a "hell." I'll bet I said more than he did. He was just nice.

I think one of the nicest things he ever did that I'll always remember, is Christmas was coming, and he had been away. And this was the Christmas of . . . Let's see, Margo, Marian was born March 2, 1937. So it would be Christmas of '36, wouldn't it? Yeah. And he came home for Christmas, and he gave me a Christmas present—I mean, generally we gave it together—and it was a white afghan, a baby afghan, because I was expecting a baby, you know, shortly. And I thought it was such a . . . I thought it was just wonderful of him. [chuckling] It was such a nice thing for him to do.

WILLIAMS: How would you describe your mother-in-law?

C. WALLACE: She was always very kind and very nice, and tried to do everything on earth to make everybody happy. I don't know, I always felt kind of sorry for her.

WILLIAMS: Why?

C. WALLACE: Well, I think in many ways she was lonesome, and in many ways she was hurt from her experience. And I don't think . . . That's a hard thing to live down. Because I have been told that she was very extravagant, and I guess he had run up a lot of debts and so forth trying to meet the expenses. So basically, up to a point, she was a little bit responsible.

WILLIAMS: Did you ever hear anything about how David Willock Wallace died?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Was that ever talked about?

C. WALLACE: No. No, it's—

WILLIAMS: How did you find out?

C. WALLACE: I think Natalie told me. And even Margaret didn't know it for a long time. I don't know whether it's May or Natalie, and it's one of those books Margaret wrote, and I think it was the one called *Bess* [W. Truman], where she said that Bess found out that Natalie had told her. And it wasn't very well received. I don't know. They didn't talk about those things. In those days, that was something you kept locked up in a closet.

WILLIAMS: In one of the articles in the newspaper when he died—

C. WALLACE: I never saw them.

WILLIAMS: Well, it says that he had a disease that was creeping over him, and some people read that as if he had an alcohol problem.

C. WALLACE: He did.

WILLIAMS: So that was one of the problems?

C. WALLACE: He had that, and then he had . . . Oh, he had terrible debts, and I think Grandfather Gates had loaned him money after . . . time and time again. Of course, you don't know how much of some of this you read now—whether Grandmother was extravagant or what—I don't know, but he had a house to maintain, a wife. By that time they had one, two, three, four children. Even those days that cost money. And I don't know. And of course Fred doesn't even remember his father, never did, so . . .

WILLIAMS: But you eventually found out these things?

C. WALLACE: Well, Natalie had told me. Natalie told me.

WILLIAMS: Was it quite a while after you had been in the family?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, quite a while. Yeah, but it never occurred to me to ask or anything. I mean, it was one of those things.

WILLIAMS: And you didn't know the Gates family, George P. and Elizabeth?

C. WALLACE: No. I never knew anybody at all, and I met Fred and I knew none of his background or anything. And gradually you meet them and . . .

WILLIAMS: Did Madge talk about her parents?

C. WALLACE: She never did to me, no.

WILLIAMS: She wouldn't make references to them about . . . in the house?

C. WALLACE: No. No, not that I remember.

WILLIAMS: Where did you hear some of these stories about them and what the house had been like when it was built?

C. WALLACE: Well, mostly from Natalie or May, yeah. And somebody told me then, or maybe I read it, that the house had been built when Grandmother

Wallace was four years old, but . . . And then it was remodeled. Now that, I don't know when that was done. And I do know they lived down the street—just hearsay, you know.

WILLIAMS: Things you pick up through the years.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and Natalie would tell me a little bit. I was very fond of Natalie. And I liked May, too; she was fun. They were completely different people, but you could like them both, you know. May was just . . . I just couldn't believe it today. We saw her. She didn't respond too much to us. Her face was always fuller. That's what bothered me this morning, and it's so thin, and she just sort of sat there like this most of the time.

WILLIAMS: How would you describe her personality?

C. WALLACE: May? Oh, just a lot of fun, happy-go-lucky. She was a great person. Was. I shouldn't say "was," but it's sad to see somebody change like that. And Natalie was a very down-to-earth person—well, so was May. Oh, we used to, at Christmas time, write little poems or something and give everybody a silly little gift. What did we do? Natalie was always sort of penny-pinching a little bit, and we used to tease her about it. She was a good sport; she'd take it. And one Christmas we gave her . . . How did we get it? Something for . . . soles for your shoes, because she was always walking rather than riding because it saved her money. And said, "Well, you'll probably be needing to have your shoes resoled." Just dumb, silly things. I can't even remember what I got, [chuckling] but I guess it was something good. But it was fun. That's the only one

I remember what we gave. I can't remember what we gave Harry or Bess or anybody.

WILLIAMS: How much did you know Madge's sisters and brothers, Myra . . . ?

C. WALLACE: I never knew the brothers. They were all gone when I came into the family, and I think Myra was gone, too. Now, I knew John and Helen, and as I told you—

WILLIAMS: Wallace?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, which were Myra's children. And as I told you, when John was married to Marian and they had this baby girl, which they named Myra Sue, and we went out to their house to see the baby and visit with Marian and John. And then the next thing, they were living on the farm outside of Liberty. John had a farm out there, you know. And Helen, I guess she was still living in the house. I think even he was gone.

WILLIAMS: T.B.?

C. WALLACE: Boulware Wallace, or whatever his name was. I guess she was living there by herself. I don't think she moved in . . . Maybe she was living with John. I don't know, but John and Marian broke up, because the next thing you knew, there was no Marian there. And as I think you told me, she's living in Canoga Park, California.

WILLIAMS: And that's John's daughter, Myra?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, but she went out there with her mother. So I don't know whether that means Marian's dead or whether they didn't elaborate on who was living there, or what.

WILLIAMS: So you were familiar with John and Helen Wallace.

C. WALLACE: Oh, yes. Helen came often, often, often to the house to visit Grandmother Wallace. She was so good to her. Yes, I liked Helen. She was a nice person.

WILLIAMS: She never married. Is that right?

C. WALLACE: No, she never married. And as for Auntie Maud, I never did know her.

WILLIAMS: You knew her children?

C. WALLACE: I knew some of them, the boys, and I think I knew Gates Wells better than any of them. And did you ever find that out about Annie?

WILLIAMS: Well, I have . . . no, their daughter was Louise Wells. Did you know—

C. WALLACE: Well, that's true, and she married a Hull.

WILLIAMS: Right.

C. WALLACE: Or she was a Hull and married a Wells. Now which is it?

WILLIAMS: She married a Hull, Lee.

C. WALLACE: Lee Wells Hull.

WILLIAMS: They had two sons.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, that much . . . I don't know what they did.

WILLIAMS: And then there was Gates Wells.

C. WALLACE: Gates Wells. I knew him. Now he was the banker.

WILLIAMS: He had three daughters.

C. WALLACE: And he's the one I said was married to Annie, and that she was killed as she was crossing a street. Now, you don't have that?

WILLIAMS: I don't remember that. Do you remember?

C. WALLACE: And I think he's remarried. I mean, he remarried, but Annie Wells—I mean Hull, or whatever her last name was—everybody liked her. She was great.

WILLIAMS: And then there was Oscar.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, Oscar. Good old Oscar. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: Why do you laugh?

C. WALLACE: Well, I don't know. He was just so funny. [chuckling] I don't know, he was nice. Sort of a ne'er-do-well sort. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: Oh. He's the one who went from job to job, sort of?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. A little heavy on the drinking, too.

WILLIAMS: And then there was Bobby. Did you know the youngest one?

C. WALLACE: Bob, yeah. I didn't know him too well. You know, when somebody like a relative comes to visit their mother, and it's just not a . . . just some old lady, they aren't going to hang around. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: I know I've asked you this before, but I don't know if it's been on tape. Were you in Platte City very much?

C. WALLACE: No. We didn't go up too often, but . . .

WILLIAMS: But you would go?

C. WALLACE: We'd go once in a while, and they'd come down once in a while, but I never, never did know . . . Well, I don't think I ever knew Louise's mother, Auntie Maud. No, I think she was gone, or . . . I don't know. See, there was a time in there we didn't go too much. I mean, I was so busy having babies.

D. WALLACE: You had some help [unintelligible].

C. WALLACE: [chuckling] I don't know, it's just—

D. WALLACE: You certainly had enough help around the house.

C. WALLACE: Having babies?

D. WALLACE: No, I mean, there were people all over the house.

WILLIAMS: To baby-sit.

C. WALLACE: I know, but you just kind of hated to ask them to. Grandmother was always glad to. But she would go to Platte City.

WILLIAMS: Madge would?

C. WALLACE: Oh, yeah, that's her sister. That was a little different than, just . . . Well, it was just different. She'd go do that, or take a ride with Frank and Natalie or George and May, but that was about it. But she wouldn't . . . oh, like . . . well, I don't think she ever went to a movie in her life.

D. WALLACE: Well, at the White House.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, that's right.

D. WALLACE: She went downstairs to the movie there. She didn't go out to movies there either.

C. WALLACE: No.

WILLIAMS: And you said that you didn't know Frank Gates or G. Walter Gates.

C. WALLACE: I knew G. Walter, but . . .

D. WALLACE: Yeah, he was around.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, G. Walter Gates, and he's from Portland, Oregon. Did he get married? I can't remember. He did, didn't he?

WILLIAMS: He had a son named Walter, I think.

C. WALLACE: Well, that's the one we knew, wasn't it, G. Walter Gates?

WILLIAMS: Here he is.

D. WALLACE: We knew G. Walter, not Walter.

WILLIAMS: He died in '23, so you must have known the son.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, the son, because . . . Is he still alive, or is he gone by now?

WILLIAMS: I don't think we know.

C. WALLACE: I think everybody lost track of him completely. I don't know.

WILLIAMS: Well, I have a few newspaper clippings about—

D. WALLACE: All these reasons for people dying. [reading] "He was stricken with paralysis two years ago." I mean, you know, there were no real reasons given why anybody died.

C. WALLACE: What did you say?

WILLIAMS: I know this was before your time.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: But I wondered if you'd ever heard of things like this? [reading] "Mrs. D.W. Wallace and Miss Bess Wallace entertained with a bridge luncheon on Friday, April 23, 1915, in honor of Mrs. Frank Gates Wallace. The house was beautifully decorated with spring flowers. In the center of each table was a glass basket of pink sweet peas and ferns."

C. WALLACE: Was that when Natalie and Frank were married?

WILLIAMS: It was 1915, so it was soon thereafter.

C. WALLACE: It could be, yeah.

WILLIAMS: But it says: [reading] “Prizes were won by Mrs. Frank Wallace and Miss Mary Loveland.”

C. WALLACE: I don’t know her.

WILLIAMS: [reading] “Those assisting Mrs. Wallace and Miss Wallace were Miss Mary Paxton—”

C. WALLACE: Yeah, Mary Paxton Keeley.

WILLIAMS: “Miss Helen Bryant.”

C. WALLACE: No.

WILLIAMS: No? “Miss Julia Ott.”

C. WALLACE: Well, Julia Ott—

D. WALLACE: There you are.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, Julia Ott was Natalie’s sister.

D. WALLACE: That’s the sister we were talking about.

C. WALLACE: That went to Oklahoma, and young Natalie had a daughter named Julia Ott. I’m so glad we got that name.

D. WALLACE: Ponca City, Oklahoma.

C. WALLACE: Where?

D. WALLACE: Ponca City.

WILLIAMS: Ponca?

D. WALLACE: Ponca, yeah.

WILLIAMS: Ponca City. Okay.

C. WALLACE: And little Natalie would come and visit, and we’d see her sometimes.

[speaking to D. Wallace] You remember her a little bit.

D. WALLACE: Yes, sure.

WILLIAMS: So Natalie had a sister named Julia who had a daughter named Natalie.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and Natalie had a sister . . . Well, anyway, Natalie never had any children.

D. WALLACE: Twelve Davids in a row.

WILLIAMS: But Natalie had some half-sisters, didn't she?

C. WALLACE: Not that I know of.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Maybe this was—

C. WALLACE: Half-sisters?

WILLIAMS: I think they had different mothers or something, I've heard from someone.

C. WALLACE: No, Julia Ott and Natalie had the same mother. I always heard, if you go by anything you hear, that . . . I think Julia was the youngest one, Natalie was the oldest, but anyhow, when Julia was—I think I told you—born, they lost their mother. She died.

WILLIAMS: When Julia was born?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, their mother died. And that, they tell me—I don't know—that's why Natalie never wanted any kids.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Well, I think that whoever their father was married someone else and—

C. WALLACE: Well, if that's true, I don't know anything about that.

WILLIAMS: Because there's a Margaret Louise Ott that—

C. WALLACE: Oh, Margaret Louise Ott? They live right next to C.C. Yeah.

WILLIAMS: The Bundschus.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, you're right, they did! Is that how that happened?

WILLIAMS: I think that was Natalie's half-sister.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, Margaret Louise and Helen Souter. Have you got Helen Souter anywhere?

WILLIAMS: Souter?

C. WALLACE: S-O-U-T-E-R, Souter.

D. WALLACE: Souter. Yeah, I remember her. Helen Souter.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and she, I think, was a sister of Margaret Louise Ott. And Helen S-O-U-T-E-R was a very good friend of Bess's. And they lived over here . . . You know where C.C. lived? Where am I? [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: The other way.

C. WALLACE: That way.

WILLIAMS: That's east.

D. WALLACE: Well, Louise Maria Ott died in 1927, in Los Angeles.

C. WALLACE: Louise?

D. WALLACE: Maria Ott.

C. WALLACE: Who are they?

D. WALLACE: I don't know. She was born here in 1867. She married someone named Fred Bacon, and that's children of Christian Ott and Louise Maria.

C. WALLACE: Did they have any ages ? [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: There are a lot of Ott's around.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, I'm trying to catch up to the generation.

WILLIAMS: They may be cousins of Natalie.

C. WALLACE: But you know where the C.C. Bundschu house is, and then right on down there and down here around the corner is the old Bryant School.

WILLIAMS: So that's up on College?

D. WALLACE: Yeah, here's Julia and Virginia Ott.

CAROL DAGE: Waldo.

WILLIAMS: Waldo.

C. WALLACE: That way, yeah, and it's kind of back from the street.

D. WALLACE: Henryetta, Oklahoma.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, Henryetta, that's right.

D. WALLACE: And she married George Henkes.

C. WALLACE: Henkes. Yes, Natalie Henkes. Oh, I'm so glad!

D. WALLACE: And their kids, their daughter was Natalie Elizabeth Henkes, born in 1928 in Henryetta, Oklahoma. And she had a child, and she married someone name Paul Buchdahl. They had Julia Elizabeth Buchdahl, born in 1953, in Fort Worth.

C. WALLACE: Oh, I forgot all about Souter. Yeah.

WILLIAMS: So the Bundschus lived up near Bryant School?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. That's C.C.'s family.

WILLIAMS: The one that you were friends with.

C. WALLACE: Well, yeah, and he ran the store.

WILLIAMS: And you were friends with his wife.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and I can't even remember her name. E— It's not Ellen.

D. WALLACE: Boy, here's a scary one. Albert Moore—

WILLIAMS: What is this you're looking at?

D. WALLACE: It's the Ott family history. Albert Moore Ott's daughter married Frederick Paige Barnes.

WILLIAMS: That's the Barnes.

D. WALLACE: So the Otts and the Barnes, May and Natalie, were related, third or fourth cousins probably.

C. WALLACE: Who are the Barneses?

D. WALLACE: Frederick Paige Barnes in Kansas City, and their kids were Peter Crane Barnes and George Bryant Barnes.

WILLIAMS: Now, one of those I'm supposed to interview, one of Natalie's—

D. WALLACE: Now, that's then how the Bundschu . . . The three daughters of Christian Ott and Louise Moore were Rose, Anna Barbara, and Louise. Anna Barbara married Anton Joseph Bundschu, and their kids were Henry, Paul, and Anton Joseph, Jr., who died at two years old.

C. WALLACE: Do you get any C.C. Bundschu in there?

D. WALLACE: Well, yeah.

C. WALLACE: What was his wife?

D. WALLACE: Charles Christian Bundschu.

C. WALLACE: And who did he marry?

D. WALLACE: Ellen Frances O'Leary.

C. WALLACE: Ellen. Ellen Bundschu.

D. WALLACE: And their kids were Barbara, Charles, C.C., Jr., Helen, Frances, and William.

WILLIAMS: When Natalie died, it said her survivors were a sister, Mrs. George [Julia] Henkes, from Henryetta, Oklahoma; a half-brother, Albert M. Ott, Jr.

C. WALLACE: Oh, Albert M., yeah.

WILLIAMS: 804 West Waldo.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, that's that friend of Fred's, Albert, on Waldo. Would that be . . . ?

WILLIAMS: Yeah, that's up . . .

C. WALLACE: That way.

WILLIAMS: [chuckling] That way.

D. WALLACE: [reading] "Albert Jerome Bundschu, born June 3, 1902."

C. WALLACE: That's Fred's friend.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, and he married Ethel Wakefield.

C. WALLACE: Ethel! Thank goodness I'm getting these names.

D. WALLACE: Ethel Bundschu. In 1932. That was the year just before you married Dad.

C. WALLACE: Albert and Ethel were friends of Fred and me. And when Fred died, Albert was one of his pallbearers.

WILLIAMS: Okay. We're about out of tape.

D. WALLACE: And they had no kids.

C. WALLACE: No.

D. WALLACE: See, so there he is right there. Well thank you Vic, let's drag this out.

WILLIAMS: [unintelligible] right over there.

D. WALLACE: Ah. The *Ott of Independence, Missouri*. And this is a Christmas present.

C. WALLACE: Oh, isn't that wonderful.

D. WALLACE: "Wishing you a Merry Christmas, Ellen and C. C. Bundschu, 1948," they did this whole thing with a pen.

SCOTT STONE: You might want to identify this on the tape.

C. WALLACE: Ah, isn't that wonderful. We've got all [unintelligible] and we have names.

D. WALLACE: Well, you have no idea how terrifying this is then. Cousins! Kristen Ott Bacon, that's the one who died in Los Angeles, 1938. Ah, more. Another married in Ventura, California. Sandra Hall Bergon, 1943. I'm gonna walk into a cousin here, you know some day. Edwin Benony Hall, Jr., and his—Peter Armstrong Hall is his son. Twins. Edwin Bacon Hall, Rose Bacon. Los Angeles. All live in Los Angeles. The whole damn clan. And here are like one hundred cousins.

C. WALLACE: Ethel, Ethel, Ethel, Ethel.

D. WALLACE: It was the 1948 Christmas present. From the Bundschus to the Ott family.

C. WALLACE: Where did, uh, [unintelligible].

D. WALLACE: It goes with the house, Mother.

WILLIAMS: Oh, OK. Bundschus. That makes since. You know, everybody in Independence is somehow connected with [unintelligible].

C. WALLACE: Well, you should have a copy of that.

D. WALLACE: We do now.

[End #4392; Begin #4393]

WILLIAMS: Well, we were looking at a book, I guess it is, called *Ott of Independence, Missouri*, apparently put together by Ellen and C.C. Bundschu in 1948. And Ellen was your friend.

C. WALLACE: C.C. Bundschu's—

D. WALLACE: Albert.

C. WALLACE: Albert was my friend, but I knew Ellen real well.

D. WALLACE: Albert and Ethel Bundschu.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, but I knew Ellen real well.

D. WALLACE: Their sister-in-law or mother-in-law.

WILLIAMS: Albert and Ethel?

C. WALLACE: Her sister-in-law. C.C.'s wife's name was Ethel, and Albert's wife's name was Ellen, so that would make Ellen and Ethel sister-in-laws.

D. WALLACE: Sisters-in-law.

C. WALLACE: Sisters-in-law. And the last I saw Ellen, C.C.'s wife, was Aunt B.'s funeral when they had that reception, or whatever it was, at the house. And she was with Mary Bostian, and they were in some kind of retirement place that I keep harping about.

D. WALLACE: So we don't need to deal with that.

WILLIAMS: Now, also at this party was Miss Caroline Southern.

D. WALLACE: This is the one in 1915?

C. WALLACE: Now, Caroline Southern is Aunt May's sister, and she had two sons. She married a Carnes.

WILLIAMS: Bill?

C. WALLACE: Bill Carnes, and it's something else Carnes, and I can't remember his name.

WILLIAMS: Victor?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, Victor Carnes. Vic. How did you know that?

WILLIAMS: Well, he's an attorney, or . . . Well, we know them from trying to buy her house. Let's just put it that way.

C. WALLACE: Vic, yeah.

D. WALLACE: Boy, is that a euphemism for . . .

C. WALLACE: Bill and Vic would inherit whatever money because Caroline is dead. Aunt May, I don't know what they're going to do about her, money-wise, but . . .

WILLIAMS: So those were Caroline's, and she must have married a Carnes.

C. WALLACE: Caroline is dead. She married a Carnes, and it's Bill Carnes and Vic. Oh, gosh, the names are all coming through!

D. WALLACE: Well, they ought to. That what we're doing this for.

WILLIAMS: So, were Bill and Vic around May's house?

C. WALLACE: I knew Bill. I knew Bill, but I didn't know Vic. And I knew Bill when I came here for Aunt May's funeral—no, I mean Aunt Bess's funeral. And I stayed. After everybody left, I stayed a week with May, and I had them all for lunch out at that Stephenson's Farm.

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

C. WALLACE: And I had May and . . . Who did I have?

D. WALLACE: Margaret.

C. WALLACE: Margaret who?

D. WALLACE: Truman Daniel.

C. WALLACE: I didn't have her for lunch. She'd gone back to New York.

WILLIAMS: She came down for dinner, you said, one time with her sons.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, I told you about the dinner the night of the funeral.

WILLIAMS: And that was at May's house.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: I was there for that.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, but you had left.

WILLIAMS: So, later in the week you had a luncheon.

C. WALLACE: It was later in the week, and I had . . . Well, anyway, Bill Carnes's wife—and I don't remember her name—and I had somebody else and somebody . . . Well, they wouldn't mean anything to you.

WILLIAMS: Okay. And also at this party was Miss Mary Southern—that's May.

C. WALLACE: That's May. She was Mary Frances, her name is.

WILLIAMS: And Frederick Wallace was there.

C. WALLACE: He was?

D. WALLACE: When he was fifteen. That's in his house.

WILLIAMS: He's helping them entertain. I was kind of that way as a baby brother, always in the way.

C. WALLACE: And had to help.

WILLIAMS: With my older sisters, I think. And in June 1916, they had the Monday Morning Bible Study Class at the home of Mrs. Frank Wallace.

C. WALLACE: They always had studies. They had study classes. They had them all the time.

WILLIAMS: It sounds like you didn't get involved in those.

C. WALLACE: I didn't. No, they were a different generation, as far as I was concerned.

D. WALLACE: Natalie?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, they had their own little group here in Independence.

D. WALLACE: It was the same generation, though.

C. WALLACE: Not necessarily. They were a lot older than I was.

D. WALLACE: Oh, I see.

C. WALLACE: And I had friends from Kansas City.

WILLIAMS: So you did feel like you were younger?

C. WALLACE: A baby, a younger sister, yeah.

WILLIAMS: Almost of a different time.

C. WALLACE: Well, I was eight years younger than Fred.

D. WALLACE: Oh, and he was like a year younger than Frank, so yeah. So there is a big gap.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: So you didn't get involved in the Mary Paxton Study Club?

C. WALLACE: Oh, no. They didn't think I was bright enough, I think. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: Well, you went to Finch, didn't you?

C. WALLACE: They had no children. I had two brats by that time. [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: Was there any resentment in the family that you and Fred were the only ones who made kids, besides the Trumans, and they didn't have any children?

C. WALLACE: No, they thought it was great. We had all the responsibility, and they could enjoy you.

D. WALLACE: No doubt.

WILLIAMS: We have heard that back when Bess was in that generation, it was the fashion only to have one child. Did you ever know anything like that?

C. WALLACE: No, I never heard that. And I know she would have liked to have had more, and she tried, and she had several miscarriages. Now, that I have been told. I think it upset her a lot because she was afraid never would she have a child, and then all of a sudden she had Margaret. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: And as far as you know, Natalie and May just didn't want children?

C. WALLACE: I heard Natalie didn't want any, and I don't know about May. Maybe she couldn't.

C. WALLACE: You didn't talk about those things in those days.

D. WALLACE: But if you're all living under one roof, you'd think the subject might come up.

C. WALLACE: No, you didn't discuss those things in those days.

WILLIAMS: Even when you were pregnant, they wouldn't sound envious or anything?

D. WALLACE: And say, "Golly, I wish we could have a kid"?

C. WALLACE: No, no, no, I felt very embarrassed most of the time. [chuckling] I thought I was doing something wrong. And poor little Margaret, I think she was beginning to learn the facts of life, and I don't think up till that time she had been. [chuckling] Well, at ten, she was a little young in those days, but nowadays they start at five.

WILLIAMS: In 1916, Miss Julia Ott entertained with a dance in the Battery Hall. Do you know where that would have been?

C. WALLACE: I never even heard of it.

WILLIAMS: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gates Wallace—

D. WALLACE: The National Guard.

C. WALLACE: The National Guard.

D. WALLACE: Remember, Harry was Battery D.

WILLIAMS: Mm-hmm. Well, Julia Ott was one of the Ottts.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, a sister.

WILLIAMS: Natalie's sister.

C. WALLACE: It was Natalie's sister.

D. WALLACE: From Henryetta, Oklahoma.

C. WALLACE: Henryetta, Oklahoma. Henkes. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: Okay. And that's H-E-N-K-E-S, I think.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: And Henryetta is H-E-R-N-

D. WALLACE: H-E-N-R-Y-

WILLIAMS: R-Y-E-T-T-A. There's a Y in there instead of an I.

C. WALLACE: There's a *Y* instead of an *I*.

WILLIAMS: Just for the record. Well, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gates Wallace were there, Miss Rose Ott—another Ott.

C. WALLACE: Rose Ott?

D. WALLACE: It's in that book.

C. WALLACE: I think Rose Ott was Julia's . . .

D. WALLACE: Now, we went through all that. Don't make me go through it all again.

WILLIAMS: No, please. Miss Sally Rogers?

C. WALLACE: Sally Rogers was the aunt that took care of Nellie.

D. WALLACE: Oh, the one you were looking . . .

C. WALLACE: And she lived on up the street, I kept saying there's some aunt, or aunt [pronouncing awnt]. I say aunt, and Marilyn my—

C. WALLACE: Yeah. Ethel? Ellen.

CONNIE ODOM-SOPER: No, no, it was the cousin. She's still there, and Mrs. Barnes is still there.

C. WALLACE: Who is Barnes?

WILLIAMS: Mrs. Frederick Barnes.

C. WALLACE: Oh!

WILLIAMS: A half-sister. She was a half-sister of Natalie.

C. WALLACE: Barnes, right. Frederick Barnes. Frederick Barnes. I can't put a face to her.

WILLIAMS: Half-sister of Mrs. Frederick P. Barnes of Kansas City, and a niece, Mrs. Paul Buchdahl of Amarillo, Texas.

C. WALLACE: Frederick Barnes? I'll bet in the middle of the night this is going to come through, this Frederick Barnes.

WILLIAMS: I think that was Margaret Louise.

C. WALLACE: Margaret Louise Barnes.

WILLIAMS: She married Frank.

C. WALLACE: Thanks. How did you know so much?

WILLIAMS: Well, because somebody has told me, "You ought to interview her, because she was related to Natalie."

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: And I wish I had time to do that, but anyway . . .

C. WALLACE: Can't you make it?

WILLIAMS: This is my last week.

C. WALLACE: Well, where are you going then?

WILLIAMS: Back to school.

C. WALLACE: Oh.

WILLIAMS: The guests at this dance at the Battery Hall were Mr. Fred Wallace, Mr. John Wallace, Mr. Frank Gates, and some other people.

C. WALLACE: Fred and Margaret Louise Barnes. Yeah, we used to see quite a bit of her at one time. And they're still alive. Well, I'm still alive, so they'd be about my age. [chuckling] Would they?

WILLIAMS: I know that you weren't around when May married George.

C. WALLACE: No.

WILLIAMS: But this was their wedding reception, and I'd like to read a few names

and see if they were still around, too, and what you know about them. Let's see, Miss Ethel Southern—there are all these Southerns that I assume were family—Mr. and Mrs. George P. Gates, Mrs. D.W. Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gates Wallace, Miss Bess Wallace, Mrs. Rowland T. Proctor.

C. WALLACE: That's the Proctor family.

D. WALLACE: Well, just a minute. This is whose wedding?

WILLIAMS: May and George.

D. WALLACE: Then why is it "Miss Bess Wallace"?

WILLIAMS: Because it was 1916.

D. WALLACE: Oh, they weren't married till '19.

WILLIAMS: Mrs. Mary Thompson, Mrs. J.H. Montague. Okay, Miss Grace Minor.

C. WALLACE: Well, the Minors were good friends of Bess and Natalie and all of them. Are there any Minors left around here?

WILLIAMS: Miss Elizabeth McCoy.

C. WALLACE: Well, the McCoy's, too. The Minors and the McCoy's. [chuckling] Yeah, they were good friends. I think some of them were in that bridge club. You know when Bess had the bridge club back in Washington?

WILLIAMS: Why did George and Frank build houses right next door there?

C. WALLACE: Because their Grandfather Gates gave them the land.

WILLIAMS: Was that a device to keep them nearby?

C. WALLACE: Well, I don't know. I wasn't around then. But I know they were given the ground and the house, I think, and I know Mrs. Wallace always said,

“Well, Fred, I think you should build a house.” I don’t know where we would have built it if we had built it, in the back yard or out on the side or what. It’s just as well we didn’t.

WILLIAMS: Did you ever feel slighted that you didn’t have a house of your own?

C. WALLACE: No. Well, I always wished I had a house of my own, but not at that location. It was a little close, but . . . Of course, it would have been nice now, wouldn’t it?

D. WALLACE: I don’t know, if you want to live in Independence.

WILLIAMS: You’d have the government trying to buy your house.

C. WALLACE: I know. I was thinking about that. I always thought if I had to have one . . . Well, Grandmother was always going to put us over where the pergola was; then we might be right by the driveway. But I used to . . . you know how you think about things in the middle of the night? I thought, “Well, maybe it would be better between the house and the alley, right close to the alley.” But then I couldn’t figure out what they’d do about the fence. [chuckling] See, they take the fence right up to the house, and they take the fence here, but what’s going to keep people from jumping over the roof and down into the yard?

D. WALLACE: There wasn’t a fence then.

C. WALLACE: Well, this is in later years when there was a fence. I kept thinking, “Gee, it’s just as well we didn’t build.”

WILLIAMS: So you wanted a house near where the Secret Service built their little hut?

C. WALLACE: I never thought about going down there by the barn.

WILLIAMS: Oh, you were further . . .

C. WALLACE: I was up across from the—

WILLIAMS: Toward Delaware.

C. WALLACE: Geez, I'm all turned around. Right here, next to the Allens, and then a house, and then the alley.

WILLIAMS: Oh, okay, I see.

C. WALLACE: I was going to use the alley as my driveway, but they wouldn't let me, probably. Do you ever do that, sit and think of all those silly things that maybe could have been?

D. WALLACE: Well, I would have thought about it in the 1930s, but I wouldn't have thought about it now.

C. WALLACE: Well, they sometimes need some things to think about.

WILLIAMS: So the topic did come up of you maybe building a house nearby?

C. WALLACE: Grandmother Wallace would every now and then say something about it.

WILLIAMS: Was she going to give you money to do it?

C. WALLACE: She was going to give us the ground.

WILLIAMS: Which is probably about all she had to give.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, she didn't have any money. It took all of what she had, I guess, just keeping everything going.

D. WALLACE: So why didn't you do it?

C. WALLACE: Why didn't I do it?

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

C. WALLACE: Well, in those days I didn't want to be that close to my mother-in-law.

D. WALLACE: No, but you already gave up the option of living in California to go back to Missouri. You know what I mean?

C. WALLACE: Option of living in California?

D. WALLACE: "Why didn't we stay in Carmel?" you have said, but your father wanted to go back to Missouri. You know, your parents were living in California in the summertime.

C. WALLACE: I was never asked to stay. I was asked to come and visit.

D. WALLACE: Well, you had the option to move there if you wanted to.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, but they didn't offer to help me get there.

WILLIAMS: So how long was it between your marriage in July of '33 until you moved out here at Independence?

C. WALLACE: About three years. Thirty-three, thirty-four. I had David in '34.

D. WALLACE: It couldn't have been that long, because you've got me at about three months old in the house out here.

C. WALLACE: Well, I guess that was it.

D. WALLACE: It wasn't three years. You were out here, and then you moved back to Kansas City for a while with your parents, and then back. I don't think you lived for more than a year in your place in Kansas City before you moved out here.

C. WALLACE: Well, that's about right.

WILLIAMS: And you had an apartment in Kansas City?

C. WALLACE: No, I just went and lived with my folks for a while. We had a lot of problems at that time.

WILLIAMS: So that's why you decided to move out here?

C. WALLACE: Well, was I going to make a go of it, or was I going to just say "forget it"? So we came out here to try to make a go of it.

WILLIAMS: The Trumans were there with Margaret.

C. WALLACE: They always were there.

WILLIAMS: Did it seem a bit crowded?

C. WALLACE: No, not a bit. Not a bit. The house was big enough to take care of us, and there was a lot of ground and . . .

D. WALLACE: Well, by '34 he was in the senate.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, when he was in the senate, you see—

WILLIAMS: He was elected—

D. WALLACE: In '34, a month after I was born.

C. WALLACE: You see, when he was in the senate, Margaret would start school here, and then they'd go back when the senate would convene in January to be there. So it was a split thing. So they'd get in the car and drive back to Washington then in . . . When did they start? In January? Yeah.

WILLIAMS: And they just went for half of the year?

C. WALLACE: Margaret went to school half a year here and half a year in Washington. She went to Gunston Hall—you probably have that in your records. And they got an apartment. In this one book titled *Bess*—you should get that and read it.

WILLIAMS: I have it.

C. WALLACE: You have?

WILLIAMS: Margaret's book?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. Well, you know how they were always looking for an apartment that they could afford?

WILLIAMS: Furnished.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, furnished. Because their furniture was . . . Where was their furniture? No, they took their furniture. They took their furniture.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, because that's when you furnished the house.

C. WALLACE: That's when our furniture was in the house, and their furniture was with them in Washington, and they had that apartment on Connecticut Avenue. Well, they had it on other places, but it was Connecticut Avenue when FDR died.

WILLIAMS: Why did they need furniture when they moved in with Mrs. Wallace? Or when Harry moved in, wouldn't the house have already been furnished? In 1919?

C. WALLACE: No, now wait a minute. Nineteen nineteen? Gee, I was only . . .

D. WALLACE: Mother, that isn't the question.

WILLIAMS: You weren't around, but I'm just asking you—

D. WALLACE: What was the furniture in the house before you moved in?

C. WALLACE: Well, I think it was sort of . . . Well, the secretary I have.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, that was a Gates or Wallace piece.

C. WALLACE: And the drop-leaf table that was in the hall, Marian has. Then those

two chairs on each side of the clock, and the clock, and they had a gate-leg table in the living room—What is that called? I've been doing this—

D. WALLACE: Bay, Mother.

C. WALLACE: Bay. Thank you. Grandmother's rocker.

WILLIAMS: Is it basically then Madge's furniture from . . . Victorian-style furniture?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, it's just the furniture that they had accumulated over the years. I guess some of it must have been Grandfather Gates's and Grandmother Gates's and all that stuff.

WILLIAMS: So why would the Trumans have bought more furniture?

C. WALLACE: Because when they went to Washington to live, they had to have furniture.

WILLIAMS: So it wasn't furniture they brought from Independence. They bought it in Washington.

C. WALLACE: No. No, they never brought that . . . They never brought that.

D. WALLACE: Well, they had to take something, because—

C. WALLACE: They took some of it.

D. WALLACE: You had to fit all of your furniture into the house.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, they took some of it, I think.

WILLIAMS: But they'd leave enough for Mrs. Wallace.

D. WALLACE: Well, like their bedroom upstairs.

C. WALLACE: Their bedrooms were never changed. When they left and we moved in, then we used my furniture.

WILLIAMS: Which you had had from your parents' house?

C. WALLACE: No, Fred and I bought some furniture when we were married. We had an apartment for a while, and we had to have furniture. We had a dining room set, and we had a—

D. WALLACE: Well, they must have taken the dining room set to Washington then.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. We had a sofa and some side tables, and we had a wing chair. And then that, with what Mrs. Wallace had, we were able to have enough for everything. Margaret never did take the . . . The piano wasn't there, was it?

D. WALLACE: No.

WILLIAMS: She was eight when she got it, in '32.

D. WALLACE: There was a piano in there, though.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: I don't think it was that one. I think that was the one from her own place in the White House. I don't think that Steinway was the one she was given.

C. WALLACE: No, it wasn't a Steinway.

D. WALLACE: That's another thing that's wrong with that slide thing.

C. WALLACE: My mother had the Steinway.

D. WALLACE: No, this Steinway came much later in Margaret's thing, the one that's in the parlor in there now. I don't know where that piano was that was there before, but it was like a Kimball or something. It wasn't a Steinway.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, a Kimball.

WILLIAMS: So you moved in not too long before the Trumans moved to Washington for the first time. And half of the year they were gone—

D. WALLACE: Not long after. Not long after, yeah.

WILLIAMS: They wouldn't have moved until the end of '34, right?

D. WALLACE: Yeah. Well, he would have been sworn in January of '35.

WILLIAMS: So you were there with Mrs. Wallace for about half of the year, just you and your family with her.

C. WALLACE: Mm-hmm.

WILLIAMS: Would she ever go to Washington to live with them?

C. WALLACE: Not at that time she didn't. She had her own home.

WILLIAMS: So she would stay there year round.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, that's what she wanted to do. And there was one time that . . . Where had we gone? I think we had our own place somewhere. And they left, and Grandmother Wallace couldn't stay in that house by herself. And she went down here on Maple—

WILLIAMS: To the apartments?

C. WALLACE: To the apartments, and had an apartment. And I think they all kind of glared at me every time because I didn't have her come live with me. But she did come to Denver a couple of times and stay with us.

D. WALLACE: Well, that's later.

C. WALLACE: Because you remember that house we had at 1200 East Third?

D. WALLACE: Yeah, I remember it. This is much later than we're talking here.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, but there was a half-bath down there, and then there was sort of like a room like that. We put Grandmother in there because she couldn't go up the steps.

WILLIAMS: So did you live in the Wallace home from '34 to '42 straight, or was there a time when you moved out and then came back?

C. WALLACE: If it was about eight years, it would be straight.

D. WALLACE: Well, she was out for about . . . How long did you live in Kansas City with your parents?

C. WALLACE: Oh, about six months.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, except for about six months.

WILLIAMS: In that period? And is that when Mrs. Wallace would have had to go to the apartment?

C. WALLACE: No. No, that was later.

D. WALLACE: That's after you went to Denver.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: And they thought that you should have taken care of her.

C. WALLACE: I was supposed to—

D. WALLACE: She could have gone to Washington.

C. WALLACE: I think I was supposed to have moved in here and stayed there, just like Bess did, forever.

WILLIAMS: When Bess was gone, did you assume that role of taking care of Mrs. Wallace?

C. WALLACE: She didn't need any care. She just needed somebody in the house. I

think she took care of herself pretty well. She had that bedroom and bath downstairs there off the living room, and then every fall Fred would get . . . She'd buy a lot of Floor-lac, and Fred would get the paintbrush and paint all the floors. We didn't have carpeting on the floor at that time.

D. WALLACE: Every fall? Every fall? He painted it every fall?

C. WALLACE: Well, wherever Grandmother wanted him. I remember doing it—

D. WALLACE: It's an awful, red-brown color.

C. WALLACE: Fred did it in his bedroom, and I just made him . . . [chuckling] I didn't know how to sew, and I struggled over these little rompers. I put it on him. They were yellow. [chuckling] He ran in to see his father. [makes sliding sound] Whoosh!

WILLIAMS: No more yellow.

C. WALLACE: No more yellow. [chuckling] I never saw a kid scoot along his . . . [chuckling] This is being taped. I'd better be careful.

WILLIAMS: Was this like a stain?

D. WALLACE: No, paint.

C. WALLACE: It was paint.

WILLIAMS: Just paint?

C. WALLACE: No, it was kind of a stain.

D. WALLACE: Like barn paint. No, I mean, it was paint. Paint. The downstairs floors were painted black.

C. WALLACE: They were Floor-lac, and it has a certain amount of varnish in them.

Now, don't tell me! [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: Well, I'm sure, Mother, but it looks like paint.

WILLIAMS: Gives it a shine?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: So it wasn't like these floors where you can see the wood?

C. WALLACE: No. Anyhow, they were bigger.

D. WALLACE: Big planks.

WILLIAMS: Didn't have carpet, wall-to-wall carpeting?

C. WALLACE: No. We had a good-sized rug in the living room that we had brought out. It had been in my bedroom.

WILLIAMS: Was it a rug like this, or more Oriental?

C. WALLACE: No, it was a plain brown rug that had sort of a little blue in it. [speaking to David Wallace] I don't think you ever saw it. I mean, you would never have seen it.

WILLIAMS: Is it still around?

C. WALLACE: If it is, I don't know where it is.

WILLIAMS: But would that have covered most of the room, or just there by the fireplace?

C. WALLACE: The living room. It covered most of the room. And then where the bay was, then that was where the gate-leg table was, and then Grandmother's rocker, and then the clock.

WILLIAMS: The clock was on the south, and the rocker was on the north.

C. WALLACE: And then there were those two chairs I just loved. I'd loved to have

gotten them. They're like the ones you have, you know, these antique chairs. God, they were pretty. And then, where are we here? And then here's the fireplace, and then here we had a wing chair. We had a big wing chair there with a table by it, and then was the door out to the porch, and then a door into Grandmother's room. And then along here we had the secretary, and then there were openings, and then we had a . . . Oh, we had that chair with the white cover on it that you . . . that we have in storage.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, the green velvet chair?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, it was green velvet. Here, and then—A brown table here, and then the sofa here. And then we had a little coffee table in front of the . . . I don't know why I do this.

WILLIAMS: Was it much different when the Trumans were there and when they weren't there, as far as the routine?

C. WALLACE: No, it was the same routine.

WILLIAMS: Who made the decisions around the house?

C. WALLACE: I think it was discussed between Mrs. Truman and her mother. I don't know. Well, we never had any. What would we have? You mean, "What should we have for dinner?" or something like that?

WILLIAMS: Well, that, and like, "Should we repair the roof?" or "Should we paint the house?"

C. WALLACE: Oh, that was between Mrs. Wallace and Bess, and as far as food, I think Grandmother always did it. And one thing she always did is, in those

days, Catholics had to eat fish on Friday, and she'd always have fish on Friday and then a little meat for the non-fish-eaters. [chuckling] She was very good about that. I mean, she took care of things well.

WILLIAMS: You were talking in the car earlier about sharing the bills.

C. WALLACE: That was between Fred and his mother, and I never got involved in it.

D. WALLACE: He never said how much he gave her?

C. WALLACE: No, and I never asked him.

WILLIAMS: And all this time, he was an architect in Kansas City?

C. WALLACE: Well, for a while he had a . . . yeah, for a while, and then things weren't going too good, so then he got several other jobs in the meantime. One time he was with a cement company, and another time he was with the FHA. And then we moved to Denver, as I told you, during the war, because he was with the War Production Board. And then after the war was over, he was with Temple Buehl who's an architect in Kansas City. And then we moved to Albuquerque, and Blevins Davis asked him to go down there. He had made an investment and he got a little bit sort of . . . Well, I wonder if it was too smart, because he made it with Denny Chavez who . . . [chuckling] He didn't make it. Well, anyway . . .

D. WALLACE: He was the son of a senator.

C. WALLACE: He was the son of Senator Chavez, but then he was sort of questionable. Then that was sold and we came back to Denver. Fred was sick then, too.

WILLIAMS: How long were you in Albuquerque?

C. WALLACE: Five years.

WILLIAMS: So that's how you ended up in Albuquerque for those five years?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and that's where Marian met Dick, and they were married. And the grandchildren I'm enjoying now in Denver.

WILLIAMS: What did an architect do for the War Production Board?

C. WALLACE: Well, you know something? I don't know.

D. WALLACE: You don't know what he did?

C. WALLACE: I don't know. What would he do with the War Production . . .?

D. WALLACE: I don't know. You were married to him. He didn't tell you what his job was?

C. WALLACE: Well, he wouldn't tell me. No, I didn't ask him.

D. WALLACE: He just went off every day to something you didn't even know what it was?

WILLIAMS: It wasn't secret or anything?

C. WALLACE: Well, it was a war thing.

D. WALLACE: I'm sure it had a lot to do with a lot of junk like building temporary barracks and things.

C. WALLACE: I don't know.

WILLIAMS: How did the Depression affect you when you were here in Independence?

C. WALLACE: Well, it didn't bother me any. We just did without.

WILLIAMS: What kind of leisure activities were you involved in? You said you didn't go to the study clubs. Did you play cards?

C. WALLACE: Well, I had a group of friends. Oh, and Mrs. Allen was one. We tried to start a little bridge group, and then it got so I couldn't do it because I had other things that I had to look after, and so did somebody else in the group, so we just broke up.

WILLIAMS: Were you involved in any church activities?

C. WALLACE: No, I wasn't that kind of a person. I had some friends we used to bum around with and go shopping. I'd go with Natalie or May. We were all very close in doing things together. I mean, they had some outside things. Especially May and George, they played a lot of bridge with other friends. And Natalie, she was more involved in some church work and so forth. But I had two children to look after.

WILLIAMS: David came along in 1934?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: In October.

C. WALLACE: October the 30th.

WILLIAMS: Did you have any problem with the pregnancy or delivering, any problem?

C. WALLACE: No, not to my knowledge. They just put me out; when I woke up, I had a baby.

WILLIAMS: Okay. On that note, we'll take a break.

[End #4393; Begin #4394]

WILLIAMS: Well, I was getting kind of lost there on the Otts, but . . . [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: So did everybody else, let me tell you. Nobody ever figured them out.

WILLIAMS: Well, what was David—This was almost before Halloween.

C. WALLACE: Mm-hmm.

D. WALLACE: How about almost after? Oh, no, it was before, one day before.

WILLIAMS: It was.

D. WALLACE: See? God, you even know when I was born better than me. That's terrible.

WILLIAMS: Was it a cold day? A warm day?

C. WALLACE: I don't know. I was inside. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: Were you born at the house?

C. WALLACE: No, we were in the hospital. Things had progressed from house births.

WILLIAMS: Well, Margaret was born in the house.

C. WALLACE: Well, that was in those days.

D. WALLACE: It was only ten years before, in those days.

C. WALLACE: Well, a lot can happen in ten years.

D. WALLACE: I think it's that your parents wouldn't hear of it.

C. WALLACE: I don't think they would either.

WILLIAMS: So you went to Kansas City?

D. WALLACE: I had no choice in the matter.

C. WALLACE: I was living in Kansas City. Oh, no, I wasn't. I was out . . . Where was I?

D. WALLACE: Had you moved out and were you living back at your parents' then?

C. WALLACE: No, we had our apartment at the . . . that apartment next—

D. WALLACE: The Sombart.

C. WALLACE: No, next to the Sombart.

D. WALLACE: So you all were living there then.

C. WALLACE: We were living . . . had our little apartment, yeah. My mother was sure I was going to have the baby on the floor of the apartment [chuckling] because I was always trying to get extension cords. And I was crawling around, because we were just moving in this apartment, and I had to hook up the lamps so we could see. [chuckling] Oh, geez!

WILLIAMS: So how did you get to the hospital?

C. WALLACE: In a car.

WILLIAMS: Who drove?

C. WALLACE: Fred.

WILLIAMS: So was he at home, or did you call him?

C. WALLACE: What time were you born? No, I went to the hospital, I think, after he got home. You were born just after midnight on the 30th.

WILLIAMS: So it was in the evening when you went into labor?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: What kind of baby was David?

C. WALLACE: Beautiful. Beautiful curly hair.

D. WALLACE: You sure I shouldn't leave the room?

WILLIAMS: Healthy?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, he was no problem. He was a good baby. In those days, you came home with a practical nurse.

D. WALLACE: A good baby or a bad baby.

C. WALLACE: What was that gal's name? You've heard us talking. All she would do is make Russian salad dressing. [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: Where? There in Kansas City?

WILLIAMS: Why?

C. WALLACE: Don't you remember, after we came . . . [chuckling] Oh, you were . . .

D. WALLACE: Sure I remember just like yesterday.

C. WALLACE: We came home, and I had this practical nurse that stayed there, and all she wanted to do—

D. WALLACE: Vivian?

C. WALLACE: No, no.

D. WALLACE: Marie?

C. WALLACE: I don't know. And I was just big and fat, and she was . . . I think she was a Russian. [chuckling] Anyhow, she'd sit at that secretary and she'd . . . And remember we had . . . Oh, no, you wouldn't. [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: Which secretary?

C. WALLACE: Yes, you would, you remember this. Dad's secretary that was in our apartment.

D. WALLACE: Then it came back out here then.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. Yeah, and we had a floor lamp, a brass floor lamp right by the wing chair. And she'd put her foot on that base—God, I still see her footprint on it—and work jigsaw puzzles. That was while he was taking a nap. She was real good with him, though. She got him started very good.

D. WALLACE: How long was she around?

C. WALLACE: Well, a little bit longer than she should, because I had a few complications I had to take care of. But anyway, she would help get dinner at night, or help do it or something, and she was always making this Russian salad dressing and putting it on lettuce. Oh, geez! I wonder how the food got in the house. [chuckling] I guess Fred must have done the buying. I don't know, I don't remember those little details, but we did eat Russian dressing. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: Do you still like it?

C. WALLACE: Georgian Court. That was the name of that apartment. Sombart was here, my parents lived there, and here was the Georgian Court, and that's where we lived.

WILLIAMS: So you lived right next door to them.

C. WALLACE: On Armour Boulevard, yeah.

WILLIAMS: So, if he was born and you were still down there, how much longer till you moved out here? Because we've always said you moved out here in '34, but . . .

C. WALLACE: No, he was born in '34.

D. WALLACE: No, it was just soon after the beginning of '35. It was very soon, don't you think?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, I had to get over my problems. I had some complications that we won't get into, and then . . . What was that gal's name? Well, anyway, finally her time was up with us, and she went home, and I took care of

myself, and then it was just a few months after that. But I think you were . . . I wonder how old you were when you stood up? [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: Don't ask me.

WILLIAMS: Would it be in his baby book?

D. WALLACE: Yeah, it's all in the baby book. Everything is in there. It's just embarrassing.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, because I remember I put his crib in my bedroom at my parents' in the Sombart, and my mother used to open the door and peek in when he was supposed to be taking a nap and I was elsewhere, and he'd stand up in his crib and laugh at her. [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: It was about the only degree of expression one had in those days in this family.

C. WALLACE: He was a good boy. He was a good baby.

WILLIAMS: Was this the first grandchild for your parents?

C. WALLACE: Yes, the first.

WILLIAMS: So I expect they were pleased?

C. WALLACE: They were delighted. They would like to have kept him.

WILLIAMS: But it wasn't Madge's first.

C. WALLACE: No, Margaret was her first.

WILLIAMS: Did she have any particular reaction when you moved in with a young baby?

C. WALLACE: You mean Mrs. Wallace?

WILLIAMS: Mm-hmm.

C. WALLACE: She was delighted. Oh, she thought, “The more the merrier.” No, she liked it. There’s a cute picture I have of Grandmother Wallace sitting on the back porch holding you.

D. WALLACE: Where is that?

C. WALLACE: Hmm?

D. WALLACE: Where?

C. WALLACE: Well, I guess in your baby book. [chuckling] I don’t know. Some of these pictures, I don’t know where they . . . You know, I move around so much, I’m not very well organized, and I don’t know where anything is. What was I looking for? And I’m still looking for it. See, I can’t even remember.

D. WALLACE: Well, you don’t need to record that for eternity if you don’t remember what you’re looking for.

C. WALLACE: [chuckling] I can’t remember what I’m looking for now, I’ve looked for it so long.

WILLIAMS: What was it like to be related, I guess, to a U.S. Senator?

C. WALLACE: Nothing. Oh, my goodness sake alive, did you ever hear the story when . . . oh, what’s his name? Stark.

D. WALLACE: Stinky Stark.

C. WALLACE: Stinky Stark. [chuckling] I shouldn’t talk like that. Anyhow—

D. WALLACE: Mother, it’s fifty-five years later. You can talk like that.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, but that’s not very ladylike. Anyway, oh, it was the night that Harry . . . It was when Harry ran against Stark, and we all went to—

D. WALLACE: Nineteen forty.

C. WALLACE: And we all went to bed that night, because they . . . as they were telling us—have you heard this story?—over the radio—we didn't have TV in those days, did we? it was radio—that Stark was way ahead. We thought Harry had lost, so we all went to bed. I don't think anybody went to sleep. We were all sort of down in the dumps. In the middle of the night the telephone rang, and Bess came dashing through the hall upstairs, knocked on our door and said, "Harry's ahead!" They'd been holding the returns back.

D. WALLACE: In St. Louis.

C. WALLACE: In St. Louis. [chuckling] By golly, we all rose. Talk about everybody getting up! [chuckling] And that was the first time that I had seen the sunrise. But I remember standing on that back porch with Margaret, and we just enjoyed that sunrise. [chuckling] That's the first time I'd ever seen it. I think it was the first one for her. But it was a tough day. It was touch and go: If this district would come in, what would that do? Different things like that. But he did beat the dickens out of that guy.

WILLIAMS: It sounds like Bess wanted him to win.

C. WALLACE: Well, sure, you don't ever want to lose anything. Whether you like it or not, you want to be a winner.

WILLIAMS: Do you think she liked Washington?

C. WALLACE: She *loved* it when he was in the senate, yes. She'll say that. In anything you read about Bess, she'll say she enjoyed being a senator's wife.

WILLIAMS: Did that change when she became first lady?

C. WALLACE: No, I don't think so. I think she learned to adapt. She was very good that way. But she had a good time in Washington when she was a senator's wife, and she had a lot of good friends. I don't think it carries quite the responsibility that it did being Mrs. Truman, you know, president's wife. She had a lot of other things she had to attend to that . . . I don't know, there's always good and bad of everything.

WILLIAMS: Your first daughter came along when?

C. WALLACE: In 1937.

WILLIAMS: What's her full name? Well, let me ask you first, why did you name your son what you named him?

C. WALLACE: Because his father wanted to have a Junior.

WILLIAMS: So it's David Frederick Wallace, Junior.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: Now you can ask the one question you haven't asked her: What's her name? Full name.

WILLIAMS: Your middle name, I guess we don't—

C. WALLACE: Marian. Christine Marian.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, you didn't say that before.

C. WALLACE: Christine Marian Wallace. My daughter's name was Marian Christine Wallace. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: So you just flipped them.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, I wasn't very inventive when it came to names.

WILLIAMS: Well, it seemed like the family tradition was to recycle names.

D. WALLACE: She was only inventive when it came to the third sister, she named to match the silverware which she was going to get. And then she ended up giving the silverware to me, and the silver I was supposed to get to her.

WILLIAMS: What was that? [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: Charlotte Margaret Wallace, CMW on her silverware. That's Margo.

WILLIAMS: So Marian was Marian Christine.

C. WALLACE: Christine. Marian Christine Brasher. Her last name was Brasher, B-R-A-S-H-E-R. She met Dick when we lived in Albuquerque.

WILLIAMS: When was she born?

C. WALLACE: March 2, 1937.

WILLIAMS: What was her birth? She wasn't born in the house either?

C. WALLACE: No, no. No, but I had changed hospitals because we got a better deal. You know, in those days the hospitals gave you a package deal whenever you had a baby. Did you have one of those? Well, we did. And David was Saint Joseph, and by that time then Menorah came along, and they had a better deal. I think it was a little cheaper, and they gave you more time off or something, I don't know. [chuckling] Anyway, she was born at Menorah. Now, she had a problem when she was born. She had an enlarged thymus gland, and I've often wondered if that had a lot to do with her cancer.

D. WALLACE: Nothing.

C. WALLACE: Well, she had cancer of the lymph glands. They gave her some—

D. WALLACE: Radiation then?

C. WALLACE: Radiation then.

D. WALLACE: Really? When she was a baby?

C. WALLACE: Yes, sir, for the—

D. WALLACE: Probably so.

C. WALLACE: They were enlarged thymus, and they had to do it. That's how they treated it. Anyway, so she otherwise was fine.

WILLIAMS: And she eventually had seven children?

C. WALLACE: Seven children. She had, as I said, cancer of the lymph glands, and I think it must have gone into the bone marrow or something. But she passed away in 1984. She was shopping on Sunday, and Monday she was gone. But she had had the cancer for twelve years. She fought it for twelve years, chemotherapy and the whole thing. But she never lost her hair with the chemotherapy.

WILLIAMS: What time of year did she die?

C. WALLACE: Oh, dear, it was summer. Where's my book?

D. WALLACE: Well, Christopher and I were in Santa Fe.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: We flew up.

C. WALLACE: March the 2nd.

D. WALLACE: Mother, I know.

C. WALLACE: July, wasn't it?

D. WALLACE: Twenty-third.

C. WALLACE: The 23rd of July?

D. WALLACE: Mm-hmm.

WILLIAMS: These are Mrs. Truman's notes that she kept, probably in a Bible or something, and apparently she only kept track of the first four children, but . . .

C. WALLACE: Here's Richard Jamon Brasher. That is Marian's husband—was Marian's husband. What is that word?

WILLIAMS: That's Junior.

C. WALLACE: Oh, well, there is a Richard Jamon Brasher born February 24, 1958.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Dick and Marian were married July 26, 1954.

C. WALLACE: Nineteen fifty-four. Cheryl Ann was the first girl, the first child, and she's the one now who is in England for a while.

WILLIAMS: Okay, then there's Elizabeth Marian?

C. WALLACE: And there's Beth. Yeah, she lives in Evergreen and has three children. And Richard Jamon, Jr., he lives in Arvada, and he has three children. And then there is Lynne Frances. She's not married. She has a condo, and she's living with her boyfriend Tommy. He's a nice guy. A runner. He likes to go out and run. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: And then there's three more that didn't—

C. WALLACE: Then after Lynne was Pam, and after Pam came Jamon, and after Jamon came Kristi Marie. Where's my book?

WILLIAMS: So there's another Christine Marie?

D. WALLACE: Kristi.

C. WALLACE: Kristi. It is Kristi.

D. WALLACE: K-R-I-S-T-I.

C. WALLACE: C-H-R-I-S-T-I-E.

D. WALLACE: Not the way she spells it.

C. WALLACE: What?

D. WALLACE: Not the way she spells it.

C. WALLACE: Birthdays. No, this is my great-grandchildren. You don't want them.
This is Dick's great-grandchildren and my great-grandchildren.

WILLIAMS: Where did Marian meet Dick?

C. WALLACE: At the University of New Mexico. Marian was a senior in high school, and they had a day when they take the seniors to a college and show them the works and so forth. I guess Dick was one of the boys chosen to be one of the guys to show them around, and that's where they met, and evidently it must have been . . .

WILLIAMS: Where was the wedding?

C. WALLACE: At the old church in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

WILLIAMS: Did any of the Trumans come out?

C. WALLACE: No. What's this one? No, they didn't come out.

WILLIAMS: But that was in '54, so they would have been retired.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, but they didn't come. They never came for anything. February
. . .

WILLIAMS: I assume they were invited.

C. WALLACE: Oh, sure. Now what am I looking for?

D. WALLACE: I don't know what you're looking for. They already have the date that Marian got married.

C. WALLACE: Well, that's not what I was looking for.

D. WALLACE: You're looking for Kristi's birthday.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and I don't know when it is.

D. WALLACE: Well, don't look then.

C. WALLACE: Is it July? Do you want those birthdays?

D. WALLACE: I'll look, Mother. You go on with your talking. So you want Kristi and Jamon and Lynne.

C. WALLACE: I thought Dick wrote them all here, but—

WILLIAMS: Pam.

D. WALLACE: Pam, Jamon, and Kristi. No, that's the wrong kind of handwriting.

C. WALLACE: I don't know.

WILLIAMS: So that family has lived in the Denver area?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: No, they lived in Albuquerque for quite a while, and then they moved to Denver.

C. WALLACE: When they moved to Denver, they have never been elsewhere since. And they're all engineers.

D. WALLACE: Actually, did they move to Denver before they moved to Grand Junction?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

D. WALLACE: And he was an engineer with the highway department and retired—this is Dick.

C. WALLACE: Now, he's married again.

D. WALLACE: And he is back again working for the state—

C. WALLACE: For the city. For the city of Denver.

D. WALLACE: His whole retirement thing fell . . . and a whole new job.

C. WALLACE: I don't know, they lived in Denver, and then they moved to Grand Junction. He was a construction engineer for the highway department, and they sent him over there. They were over there for a year or so.

D. WALLACE: No, ten years or so.

C. WALLACE: Not in Grand Junction.

D. WALLACE: The kids went all the way through school there. Dick went to junior high and high school in Grand Junction, so they were at least there six years.

C. WALLACE: High school? He was in high school in Aurora. That's where he met Laura.

D. WALLACE: Well, before. No, he started high school in Grand Junction, because he showed us the pictures of it.

C. WALLACE: All right, he started. He started. Is that those awful pictures they showed us where everybody looked like they were—

D. WALLACE: Yes, Mother. Yes, yes, yes. So four years in Grand Junction, or so.

WILLIAMS: And then you had twins?

C. WALLACE: Oh, you have that down, too?

WILLIAMS: Mrs. Truman wrote it down [see appendix, item 2].

C. WALLACE: Yes. Yes, I had them. They were . . . I don't know.

WILLIAMS: That was in Denver.

C. WALLACE: That was in Denver.

D. WALLACE: Forty-four.

C. WALLACE: Forty-four, November. I remember somebody coming and bringing me a ballot and say, "Here, put your X here. You're voting." Isn't that terrible? I was in a hospital so . . . Yeah, I had what they call, if you want the whole story, a placenta previa. Now, you don't know any more about that than you did before. I woke up in the middle of the night and I was hemorrhaging. Fred went down and called the doctor, and the doctor said, "Well, just keep her quiet." Fred came upstairs, and he wasn't halfway up the stairs—this was during the war—we only had one telephone—and the telephone was ringing and here was him saying, "What did you say?" He said, "Keep her quiet. I'm sending an ambulance." I'll never forget when they took me down those steps. Have you ever been on one of these things that they carry, and you're lying here, and they take you down and hold you up over the bannister? Imagine coming down and you're practically up to the second floor.

D. WALLACE: Now, backing up a little bit, but that's the house that Grandmother would come out and spend the whole summer with . . . starting . . . That was at 411 Williams Street, and then later at 1200 East Third Street.

WILLIAMS: So, when you first moved to Denver it was 411?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, we were in a hotel.

D. WALLACE: When we first moved to Denver it was a hotel for a while, not long.

C. WALLACE: Hotel Ayers. You could only stay so long in a hotel in those days.

D. WALLACE: And then that incredible house, which is still there—incredible, incredible house—411 Williams Street, which they could not afford, bought for \$10,000.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, well, we didn't have the money.

D. WALLACE: And after that was . . .

C. WALLACE: Twelve hundred East Third.

D. WALLACE: No, no, there were a lot of houses after that. You've got Claremont, you've got Gaylord, you've got all that, you've got the Ayers Hotel in 1948.

C. WALLACE: Well, I don't know where they were.

D. WALLACE: Well, then 1200 East Third, then out to Cherry Hills, and from Cherry Hills we moved out here. And Cherry Hills was my father's favorite house, and is a kissing cousin to the architecture on the courthouse here. It's a Williamsburg colonial house—very, very pretty.

C. WALLACE: Well, anyway, so they took me to the hospital. And a placenta previa is when . . . Generally when a baby is born, the baby is first and then the placenta. And this was placenta and then the baby. There was no way for the baby to arrive, so that was my first Caesarian. And it was a little boy and a little girl, and they lived one day.

WILLIAMS: Did you know you had twins before?

C. WALLACE: Just—

D. WALLACE: How early was it?

C. WALLACE: About one day.

D. WALLACE: Six months? Seven months?

C. WALLACE: Oh, it was seven months. They were seven-months babies. When you go to the hospital to have a baby, they always have . . . Well, in those days, they had this nurse, and she'd go around with a stethoscope, you know, and see what she could hear, whether the kid's crying or yelling or what, or kicking. And she caught the two heartbeats. The doctor never had. And she had told me, "You know, I think there's two heartbeats in there." Well, that was before they put me out for the Caesarian. Which one lived the longest, the little girl or the little boy?

D. WALLACE: I don't know.

C. WALLACE: It doesn't make any difference. They both passed away about the first day. I never saw them. They were named. They had to be named. It was Margaret Ann and Charles Gates.

WILLIAMS: Family names.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. If it makes any difference . . . And they're out at Mount Olivet. They have a plot out there called "Plot of the Angels" where they put babies like that.

WILLIAMS: Do you know what day that was in November?

C. WALLACE: November . . . around the 4th. It's in the back in Grandmother's handwriting here in the . . .

D. WALLACE: There?

C. WALLACE: No, no, no. There. Now what is that, if you can read that? I think it's November 4, 1944.

WILLIAMS: You said it was election day, or close to it?

C. WALLACE: I remember this . . . I don't know whether it was that day, or whether I was still in the hospital or what, but I remember this friend of Fred's bringing me this ballot and saying, "Put your X here." [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: Who did you vote for, for president?

C. WALLACE: I don't even remember.

D. WALLACE: You don't even know? She had a baby every time he ran for something new. She had me in '34, she had the twins in '44, which was vice president, forget Marian, and she had Margo in '48. So there.

WILLIAMS: So what's Margo's full name?

D. WALLACE: It's the same as the silverware.

C. WALLACE: Charlotte Margaret Wallace.

WILLIAMS: Charlotte Margaret. How did you get Margo?

C. WALLACE: I have Charlotte from my father, whose name was Charles—Margaret, Charlotte Margaret. Margaret for Mrs. Wallace, whose name Madge is really Margaret.

D. WALLACE: It looks like November 3rd here.

C. WALLACE: How did I get Margo? Because we already had a Margaret, and we just called her Margo, but her official name is Charlotte Margaret Wallace. If I had to do it over, I wouldn't have done it that way, but hindsight,

you know.

WILLIAMS: And she was born in August?

C. WALLACE: August 12, 1948.

WILLIAMS: And that was in Denver still?

C. WALLACE: In Denver.

D. WALLACE: She would have been born on the 13th, but you couldn't get the operating room for Friday the 13th, which is what they wanted. She was also a C-section, obviously.

WILLIAMS: You wanted it on the 13th?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, I thought that Friday the 13th would be kind of fun. [chuckling]
Oh, well, you have to have something to entertain yourself.

D. WALLACE: I was trying to say, considering, you know, living under one house with all this crowd for eight years, I mean, people go mad.

WILLIAMS: Did you ever visit Washington when Mr. Truman was senator?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: Not much.

C. WALLACE: Fred and I came—

D. WALLACE: No, but I never did.

C. WALLACE: No, you didn't. No, Fred had to go to Washington for something, and so they decided that I should go with him. And Grandmother Wallace said, "Now don't worry, I'll take care of the children. There's plenty of people here to look after them. Now you go." So we had a funny little old Ford, and we rattled along.

D. WALLACE: A '39 Ford.

C. WALLACE: Rattled along to Washington. [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: Green.

C. WALLACE: And I think they were in an apartment on Connecticut Avenue then. They moved around a lot, too. Oh, we just had a real nice time. I can't remember what Fred went there for, but he must have gone there for something.

D. WALLACE: Well, that was the War Production Board then. He started with the War Production Board here. Or maybe that was the . . .

WILLIAMS: Federal Housing?

D. WALLACE: The FHA thing, probably. That was FHA then, yeah. Which would make sense.

C. WALLACE: FHA, yeah. And it was nice. And they just went out of their way to show us a good time.

WILLIAMS: Did you go to the Congress and the Capitol?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, we went to the Congress, and we rode the little train from the Senate to the House. Yeah, Harry took us on that.

WILLIAMS: So that was your first taste of Washington?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: What did you think? Of course, you'd lived in Versailles, so . . .

C. WALLACE: Well . . .

D. WALLACE: [chuckling] I never thought of it quite like that.

C. WALLACE: [laughter] What does that have to do with it?

D. WALLACE: It was slumming, yes.

C. WALLACE: [chuckling] What does that have to do with it?

D. WALLACE: Well, it was slumming.

WILLIAMS: It's not like the first time you'd ever left Missouri or anything.

C. WALLACE: Oh, no, I was a traveling woman. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: Compared to the rest of the family, you were pretty cosmopolitan.

C. WALLACE: Oh, I was really something. [chuckling] No, we used to—

D. WALLACE: No, they never went anywhere, these two.

C. WALLACE: We did, too.

D. WALLACE: We went everywhere, but Frank and George never really went anywhere. They just hung around here.

C. WALLACE: No, before I got married I used to drive my mother to Chicago to—

D. WALLACE: Kristi you have misspelled as C-H-R-I-S-T-I-E Marie Brasher.

C. WALLACE: That's how Dick told me to spell it!

D. WALLACE: July 19, 1967.

C. WALLACE: And that's how Dick said he wanted it spelled, C-H-R-I-S-T-I-E.

D. WALLACE: Mother, we're beating that one to death.

C. WALLACE: I used to drive my mother to Chicago so she could trade at . . . buy the Christmas presents at Marshall Field's. She hated to move away from Chicago. See, from Springfield we moved to Chicago—well, Oak Park, which is a suburb.

D. WALLACE: Excuse me, Pamela Sue Brasher, August 2, 1961. Now, somebody's going to separate all this, right?

WILLIAMS: Mm-hmm, and there's one more. Who's between Pam and—

D. WALLACE: Jamon.

C. WALLACE: Jamon.

D. WALLACE: Nice kids.

C. WALLACE: My mother never thought anything was quite like Marshall Field's. So, after I got back out of Versailles, they didn't know what to do with me, so they sent me to stay with a friend of my mother's in Evanston.

WILLIAMS: He went to Northwestern. [pointing to Scott Stone]

D. WALLACE: Oh, really? I had a lot of friends who went there.

C. WALLACE: I had the nicest boyfriend. His name was Johnny Porter. God, he was a . . . But he didn't go to Northwestern; he went to the University of Illinois up at . . . Where is it?

D. WALLACE: Down at Champaign.

C. WALLACE: Champaign, yeah. And both my brothers went to Notre Dame and graduated from Notre Dame, and my oldest brother was there when the "Four Horsemen," Knute Rockne and old . . . what is it? Gip, who died, and they'd always say, "Well, we'll win this one for Gip." Yeah, it was fun.

WILLIAMS: Is that where you learned to like football, at Notre Dame?

C. WALLACE: No, no, no. And then when I went to Finch in New York, I had this friend that lived in Denver—her name was Carol Sutter—and she'd buy her ticket in Colorado, and I would buy my ticket in Kansas City—well my parents would—and we'd get in the same car right next to each

other. So, in getting up in the morning, [chuckling] she would get under . . . you know, the curtain, you know how it is under there—and come through, and she'd get in mine or I'd get in her bed, and then we'd order breakfast. [chuckling] Oh, God, I'll bet that porter was ready to kill us. And then we'd tell the school we were coming in on the Lakeshore Limited, which got in New York at 5:30 at night—in the afternoon, rather.

D. WALLACE: But you really got in early.

C. WALLACE: And we took the New York Central that got us in at ten o'clock in the morning. [chuckling] Because they would always say, "Well, meet us at the information booth," so they didn't know where we came from. When we all of a sudden appeared, here we were. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: So what did you do in the meantime?

C. WALLACE: Oh, have fun.

D. WALLACE: Doesn't it sort of strike you as odd that anybody with the sense of humor that Mother had then, and still has, would bury herself in a house out here with a bunch of people?

C. WALLACE: Well, maybe that's my problem.

D. WALLACE: Something is. I mean, it's very strange. It's very strange.

C. WALLACE: So we had fun, Carol Sutter and Polly Merritt—she was from Minneapolis—and me. Oh, dear, what did we do? Oh, and then on Sunday we'd go to church, and everybody wanted to go to church with me because it was a fast service. [chuckling] So we'd all go to church,

and then we'd go over to the Biltmore Hotel, and we'd all buy all these newspapers and sit there and read the whole newspapers and drink coffee.

WILLIAMS: At the Biltmore.

C. WALLACE: At the Biltmore. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: Did that include the Kansas City paper?

C. WALLACE: I don't remember. I don't even think we read them. [chuckling] We just got them. And then what else did we do? Oh, and then we used to have to take a walk every afternoon. Well, after the first year, we had to walk with a chaperon, but after the second year, before we went to Europe, we got to go out by ourselves. And you know, I never have smoked a lot in my life, but that was the big deal. You had a cigarette you know, we didn't really care. And we'd go down to a place called Alice Foot McDougals, and have uh, . . . what was it, waffles and eggs. This in the afternoon. I guess smoke a cigarette.

D. WALLACE: It was real high living back in 1926 here right?

C. WALLACE: Or hang out of the window at school.

WILLIAMS: We're out of tape.

C. WALLACE: Oh, it was fun.

[End #4394; Begin #4395]

C. WALLACE: And then we'd have to be careful when we were going. We'd run down to Fifth Avenue and get on the double-decker bus. And we had to watch we didn't—that first year girls then who were walking with a

chaperone didn't see us or the chaperone didn't see us.

WILLIAMS: They kept a close eye on them.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And then when I went to Europe, we went on a boat. And we, we'd go into the lounge and order, champagne cocktail and we'd have it in a cup, a teacup. So that when Madame May Hardwood came by, she'd think we were drinking sweet tea. I don't know.

WILLIAMS: This is when you were nineteen or something.

C. WALLACE: Doesn't that sound like kids. That we really didn't care. I think if we had one drink a month, why big deal. They had good food at that school.

WILLIAMS: Don't you have to drink when you were in France, wine at least?

D. WALLACE: Well, then it's okay.

C. WALLACE: Well, we didn't know that. We had a good time.

WILLIAMS: Was it kind of a letdown to come back to Kansas City?

C. WALLACE: Well, no.

WILLIAMS: You didn't have big aspirations to live on the East Coast?

C. WALLACE: No. We had fun.

WILLIAMS: Well, so back here in Washington and riding the train—

D. WALLACE: You should see a picture of her taken at this time—I mean, *the* classic flapper picture of all time, with the cloche hat and everything—which we have.

WILLIAMS: Well, apparently the Truman Library thought they had some pictures of her at that time.

D. WALLACE: Well, yeah, but I mean, you'll see this, and you'll see how far-ass wrong they were.

C. WALLACE: Don't you dare send that picture to them.

D. WALLACE: Well, it was gorgeous, and it really is amazing.

C. WALLACE: Oh, sure. Oh, I don't know. We had fun.

WILLIAMS: So how often would you go to visit them when they were in the senate?

C. WALLACE: Just once—I think just once—with Fred. We drove.

WILLIAMS: When would they come back each year?

C. WALLACE: We always were together at Christmas, regardless of where they were. Either we went to Washington, or they came to Independence.

D. WALLACE: No, Mother, we're in the senate. He's talking about the senate.

C. WALLACE: Oh, the senate? Oh, they always came to Independence.

D. WALLACE: When? he's saying.

C. WALLACE: When he was in the senate.

D. WALLACE: July.

C. WALLACE: They came for Christmas. Oh, they came for the summer! Don't you know, I said it was half and half, yeah.

WILLIAMS: So they would get back here in June or July?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. Yeah, I'm sorry.

WILLIAMS: And stay through Christmas?

D. WALLACE: Through Christmas.

C. WALLACE: Through Christmas, and then go back for the . . . when the Congress would convene.

WILLIAMS: What would Harry do while he was back here?

C. WALLACE: Oh, see his buddies.

D. WALLACE: Fence mending.

C. WALLACE: See his buddies.

WILLIAMS: Would they be in the house?

D. WALLACE: Didn't he have to drive all over the state all the time? I mean, you know, he had to cover the state.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, so I have a little antique chair that was Grandmother Wallace's, and she had it there in the parlor or music room or whatever you want to call it.

D. WALLACE: Which was always called the parlor, by the way.

C. WALLACE: Parlor. It was the only time I ever saw Grandmother get mad. She said, "If those big, fat politicians would stop coming in. They always pick that chair to sit on!" [chuckling] It made her furious.

WILLIAMS: So they would come to the house?

C. WALLACE: Once in a while. Once in a while.

WILLIAMS: Did he try to avoid that?

C. WALLACE: Yes, anything to keep peace. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: So that did bother her?

C. WALLACE: That's the only time I heard her. But it was such a pretty, fragile chair. [chuckling] And isn't that funny? Why do great big, fat people always pick the wrong kind of chairs to sit on?

WILLIAMS: Is that where, when people came to visit, would they be in the parlor?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, because they'd talk politics. And Grandmother was always in the living room, and that was her room and her chair, so naturally Harry would come in and they'd go that-a-way.

WILLIAMS: Would she use the living room because her bedroom was right next to it?

C. WALLACE: I think so. I think that was it. And after all, it was her house, and where else would she sit?

WILLIAMS: Was she always in that first-floor bedroom, as long as you were there?

C. WALLACE: As far as I know.

WILLIAMS: Did you ever hear what her room was before that?

C. WALLACE: No. No, I don't know.

WILLIAMS: Did Mrs. Truman play bridge?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: As long as you remember her?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, she belonged to the bridge club. That's an institution practically, you know.

WILLIAMS: Okay. The Tuesday bridge club?

C. WALLACE: Is that when they played it?

WILLIAMS: Well, that's what they called it when she was first lady. I don't know if that's what they always called it.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and they went to Washington.

WILLIAMS: Would they take turns coming to the Truman home, the Wallace house?

C. WALLACE: You mean, to play bridge?

WILLIAMS: To play.

C. WALLACE: Well, say there were ten people, and everyone had their turn. I don't know—

D. WALLACE: They rotated it.

C. WALLACE: Rotated it.

WILLIAMS: So there would be times when they would come to the Wallace—

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: What did she serve them when she did that? Lunch before, or candy with it, or what?

C. WALLACE: I think, if they had food, they'd have something like a fruit salad.

D. WALLACE: Oh, I remember those awful fruit salads.

WILLIAMS: Was it like a Waldorf salad?

D. WALLACE: Oh, no, it was that canned, mixed fruit.

C. WALLACE: I don't know. I don't like fruit salad.

D. WALLACE: Well, no wonder. No, I mean, some of the food was the most abysmally awful on the face of the planet, because that's what everybody did at the time—that awful canned, mixed fruit salad.

WILLIAMS: Fruit cocktail?

D. WALLACE: Yeah. And then something that was a slight cut above it came along, which was cottage cheese shoved in the hole in canned pears. That was a real classy salad. You had that when you were really entertaining.

WILLIAMS: On a bed of lettuce?

D. WALLACE: On a flat leaf of iceberg lettuce, yeah. Which, of course, in this weather

lasted crisp for about thirty seconds. I don't know how Vietta stood it in the kitchen, though, with that heat and the gas stove—I mean, the wood stove out there—which she didn't have on in the winter. Was the stove always a gas stove, or was it coal before that? Because we had an icebox until I was like . . . Till like 1940, it was still an icebox.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and Fred had to take the thing out from underneath it and empty the water, and sometimes he'd forget. [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: Well, and the guy came with the ice blocks.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, it was always a gas stove. The only time I ever cooked on anything was the time we went to Buena Vista, and Fred had to go someplace—Pueblo or someplace—and we had rented this cottage and—

D. WALLACE: Summer vacations in the thirties.

WILLIAMS: Buena Vista?

D. WALLACE: Colorado.

C. WALLACE: Buena Vista. David and Marian. I didn't have Margo in those days.

WILLIAMS: Why did people tend to go to Colorado for a vacation?

D. WALLACE: Cooler.

C. WALLACE: Cooler.

D. WALLACE: It's the only way you can go from here that's cooler. It's a twelve-hour drive to Denver from here, even then, or less, you know, and suddenly you've gone from ninety-degree and high humidity to basically seventy-five and much different.

C. WALLACE: Well, I didn't have Margo at this time, and we had rented this cottage. And Fred's grandfather had some property in Buena Vista, and I think they all thought that's where we were going to get our million. Anyway—

D. WALLACE: A gold mine.

C. WALLACE: Gold mine. And so we rented this apartment—I mean, this cottage—and this little old Tommy Caskey was a little mountaineer, and he knew Grandfather Gates. In fact, he used to go with him when he went out looking for this gold mine or something on this mountain. He had the best raspberries—great big, red raspberries—that he'd bring to us, and then he'd go for the day and he'd come back and he'd have a whole mess of trout. He even showed me how to cook them. I didn't know how to cook them. You just put them in a pan of bacon grease and take . . . Anyway.

D. WALLACE: This is really elevated cuisine. You know, I can't find Jamon, and I've got to call my machine.

C. WALLACE: [chuckling] And anyway, we had a wood stove in the kitchen, and he left town. I didn't know how to cook on that cook stove. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: Well, who did the cooking in the house?

C. WALLACE: Well, you mean when we were there? He did, or I did, but I had Fred to start the fire. Anyway, I couldn't get the fire to start. But you know how I did, finally? Well, I put the wood and the paper in and it still wouldn't start. I'd take and throw some bacon grease on top of it, and it

was just beautiful. We ate. [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: Now, Mother!

C. WALLACE: What?

D. WALLACE: Before you get on to the next thing, the Trumans then would come out to Buena Vista and visit during the thirties.

C. WALLACE: And we had a picture of Uncle Harry hanging his socks up on the clothesline. You don't have that one. I don't know who has it. Uncle Harry hanging up socks. He always said, "No man should expect his wife to wash his underwear and his socks." You remember that, girls. [chuckling] Somehow it never got through on my family. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: Well, when you were here in Independence, who would do the cooking?

C. WALLACE: Vietta.

WILLIAMS: So she was there in '34?

C. WALLACE: Oh, yeah. I've never known anybody there. The only time we didn't have somebody there was when she was sick.

D. WALLACE: Who did the cooking when she quit and went to Katz Drug?

C. WALLACE: What?

WILLIAMS: Who did the cooking when she quit?

C. WALLACE: When did she quit?

D. WALLACE: You remember, like about '38 or '39.

WILLIAMS: Then she came back, right?

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

C. WALLACE: I don't know. I guess Grandmother Wallace could cook.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, she did it.

C. WALLACE: Bess could cook. Chris? No, she couldn't.

D. WALLACE: No, that's what happened. I think then everybody just pitched in then.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: No, she got mad because . . . she got mad.

C. WALLACE: I always had to set the table.

D. WALLACE: And I don't blame her. I don't know how she stood it.

C. WALLACE: And I always said, "Well, Grandmother, I don't see any sense to put butter plates on." "Christine, do you want your children to go out someplace and ask somebody what that plate's for?" [chuckling] "Put them on." Oh, she was very proper.

WILLIAMS: Did you have place mats?

D. WALLACE: Oh, and I remember rolls rising all the time in the refrigerator, because Vietta would make them the night before. I mean, I don't know how that poor woman survived!

C. WALLACE: And how she did all the dishes!

D. WALLACE: After dinner, then she'd make rolls and shove them in the refrigerator to slow down the rising. And then the next day—I mean, she was cooking bread every day, in addition to two meals for this herd. And all the dishes—by hand—there was no dishwasher, of course.

C. WALLACE: But now, George or Frank used to take her home nights, or call a jitney and pay for it for her. Or a taxi.

D. WALLACE: Yeah. Yeah, but still, I mean, it was bond labor.

C. WALLACE: I don't see how she did it. I couldn't. That's a lot of dishes. Say, by the way, you had a lot of dishes this morning, too, didn't you?

D. WALLACE: They have a machine to wash them, too.

C. WALLACE: Smart girl.

WILLIAMS: So you didn't learn to cook when you were at Finch?

C. WALLACE: Why no. They didn't have that course.

D. WALLACE: The meals were cooked for them at Finch.

WILLIAMS: They just always assumed that you would have a cook?

C. WALLACE: I don't know what they assumed, but they just thought we were a bunch of brats.

WILLIAMS: I have a list of the Tuesday bridge club. Could I read the names and see if you recall these ladies?

C. WALLACE: Uh-huh.

WILLIAMS: In 1946, it was Mrs. J.C. Noel.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Any recollection of her?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. I can't remember her first name, but I know a Miss something Noel. I can see her face, sort of, vaguely.

WILLIAMS: Mrs. Mize Peters.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, that's Lucy Peters.

D. WALLACE: That's Lucy Peters, "beaten biscuit" Peters.

WILLIAMS: Did we get that on tape?

C. WALLACE: "Beaten biscuit"?

D. WALLACE: No, you've got to be sure and do it. Also, you must get Mother on tape. We're ahead of ourselves, so back up for a minute about when I came from the hospital and you had Pauline. Then you had the RLDS woman who had to wash the diapers out and boil them in the copper tub down in the cellar.

C. WALLACE: Yeah?

D. WALLACE: Well, that's not on tape.

C. WALLACE: Well, even I did that.

D. WALLACE: Well, talk about it. This is another lifestyle.

WILLIAMS: You'd be in the cellar?

C. WALLACE: Well, in the basement.

WILLIAMS: Boiling diapers?

D. WALLACE: Yes.

C. WALLACE: Well, they had a double-boiler down there and a big copper tub. That's how they did it.

D. WALLACE: That was a double burner, not a double-boiler.

C. WALLACE: A double burner.

WILLIAMS: With like gas or coal or . . . ?

C. WALLACE: Well, gas, and you'd put a match on it and it burns. And the copper tub.

D. WALLACE: In a big, oval, copper tub.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and then you have a big stick like this, and you do like this, you know? [chuckling] And then right here was the built-in washtub. Didn't you have them in your basements?

D. WALLACE: There are two washtubs down there.

C. WALLACE: And you had one of these things, and you'd fill that—

D. WALLACE: And then there was also the . . . you know, those. But then there was also the washing machine with a wringer down there.

C. WALLACE: Well, that's my Mother's old one.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, and you had to shove everything through the wringers.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. Well, you had to get the—

D. WALLACE: But it was electric wringers, so they were always, you know, yelling at me to keep my hands out of that because it would drag my hands through—you know, realizing, of course, that they immediately spread. Also, before you get too far ahead of the “beaten biscuit,” about me hanging out in the kitchen and catching fire, and all that sort of thing.

C. WALLACE: When did you catch fire?

D. WALLACE: My bathrobe caught fire. You know that.

C. WALLACE: I don't remember that.

D. WALLACE: You had to put it out. Mother, I don't know where you've been.

C. WALLACE: Who put it out?

D. WALLACE: You.

C. WALLACE: The only thing I knew, you crawled in the hall and burned your little hands. Oh, they were so . . . He was crawling, and there was a hot register on the floor, and before you could get to him, here were the two little hands on it. Poor little thing.

WILLIAMS: It got that hot that it would burn you?

C. WALLACE: It was winter. Yeah, they got hot.

D. WALLACE: It was the main vent up from the furnace right below—that wonderful dinosaur of a furnace.

C. WALLACE: And then we had that thing in the dining room we all took turns sitting on to get warm in places. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: So where would the exhaust go from when you were down there boiling diapers?

C. WALLACE: Well, I guess it went out the door. [chuckling] I don't know.

WILLIAMS: Would you be down in the basement much?

C. WALLACE: Well, just to boil the diapers. You'd put them on and let them boil for a while. Then you'd go down, do a few things, and then you'd go away. Then you'd hang up the clothesline outdoors . . .

WILLIAMS: Where was it?

C. WALLACE: Oh, God! [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: There, sort of out toward the pergola.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, from about the pergola . . . I don't know, over right just—

D. WALLACE: Just sort of like how you tied it on the pergola a lot of the time, I know.

C. WALLACE: But the time that the clothesline broke with the diapers on it, that's when I was ready to leave home.

WILLIAMS: Why did you boil the diapers? Why couldn't you just wash them?

C. WALLACE: Because that's how you did them in those days. God, if you didn't boil them, I guess they'd . . . I don't know, they'd get rashes on their behinds. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: So did you do all of your own laundry?

C. WALLACE: Did I do my own laundry?

WILLIAMS: There wasn't somebody to do the laundry?

D. WALLACE: Everybody did their own, basically. I mean, they didn't have help.

C. WALLACE: Well, until I got this Pauline there to help me with him, and she did the diapers then and helped with it. And then, of course, with the other two children we finally had diaper service. It made a difference, let me tell you. Oh!

WILLIAMS: Did Bess do the same things with Margaret?

C. WALLACE: I'm sure she did. I don't know. I wasn't there, but you didn't have diaper service and you didn't have . . . What am I thinking of? The ones you buy, like Luvs and—

WILLIAMS: Oh, disposable.

C. WALLACE: Disposable. They didn't have them, did they? What did you . . . Oh, you weren't old enough. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: And you didn't sew much?

C. WALLACE: No. Grandmother Wallace. Everybody brought something to Grandmother Wallace to sew. She always did. But she said that when she was raising her children she had to make all her children's little undershirts and everything. God, it's just as well I didn't live then; the kids would go naked. [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: So she made all that stuff? She didn't use a sewing machine.

C. WALLACE: No, she did them by hand. Well, maybe she did, David, before we got

there.

WILLIAMS: But you said she did have an antique sewing machine?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, a treadle, and she gave it to me and I—

D. WALLACE: It was out on the vestibule.

C. WALLACE: And I traded it in for my little portable one, which is in storage in Margo's basement, and it is mine.

WILLIAMS: So who would clean the house?

C. WALLACE: Well, Vietta and—

D. WALLACE: Oh, after lunch and before dinner, Vietta, you know, could hustle through and clean it.

WILLIAMS: Like dusting and vacuuming and sweeping?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, Vietta would—

WILLIAMS: Would you do any of that?

C. WALLACE: Vietta did. We all took our turn. Yeah, I remember dusting lots of times.

WILLIAMS: Was there an annual big spring cleaning, something like that?

C. WALLACE: Maybe that's when Fred did the painting on the floors.

D. WALLACE: When the rugs were taken out and beaten outside, or . . .

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: Well, they weren't beaten then, really, but they would have been taken out for spring cleaning.

C. WALLACE: And shaken real hard. But we used to have rug-beaters, didn't you.

D. WALLACE: And the floors were painted. Not only the floors inside, but all the

porch floors too outside would be painted every year or couple of years.

C. WALLACE: Well, that was paint, but this was Floor-lac in the house. Oh, gosh.

D. WALLACE: And the linoleum in the kitchen—

WILLIAMS: Would you also do the grates over the vents, paint those or lacquer those?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and all around them and everything, and up the steps and in the upstairs hall. And I know our . . . Fred and my bedroom got it, and I guess the others did.

D. WALLACE: No carpeting anywhere in the house, just a few rugs.

C. WALLACE: Just rugs, throw rugs. Of course, it's all carpeted now, and it looks so nice.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, but the wood's right underneath it.

C. WALLACE: But you still have the funny lady at the foot of the stairway holding the light. God, that's so strange.

WILLIAMS: Why is it strange?

C. WALLACE: I don't know, it's just sort of strange.

D. WALLACE: It's very Victorian.

WILLIAMS: Did Mrs. Wallace like to keep the house as a dark, Victorian house?

C. WALLACE: She never said.

WILLIAMS: Did she redecorate much?

C. WALLACE: No.

WILLIAMS: Getting wallpaper or drapes?

C. WALLACE: No, I don't ever remember doing it.

D. WALLACE: There's that blue wallpaper in the dining room, bluish. The pattern [unintelligible].

C. WALLACE: We had a bathroom upstairs. [chuckling] That's the one I used to work in with paint. It had wood up so high, you know, and then the wall. Well, I didn't do anything up there, I couldn't reach it, so I'd just do the wood up so high. And sometimes they'd come home from—

D. WALLACE: Then you did the corner cabinets, too, didn't you?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. They'd come home from back East, and it might be blue, and the next time it might be green. Well, one time—I told you this—I painted it black up so far, [chuckling] and the cupboards and everything. And then it was the old-fashioned bathtub, so you could have fun painting that. So I painted it black. So, when Mrs. Truman got ready to go back East, she said, "Chris, for heaven's sake, when you get ready to paint again, please paint the bathtub something other than black. I feel like I'm stepping into my coffin every time." [chuckling] So I did.

WILLIAMS: Would they usually call you Chris?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, everybody calls me Chris, [chuckling] but my children.

WILLIAMS: And would you like to tell us about being set on fire in the kitchen?

D. WALLACE: I just caught on fire in the kitchen.

WILLIAMS: How would you catch on fire?

D. WALLACE: Fooling around the stove.

C. WALLACE: He liked to be in the kitchen and—

D. WALLACE: With Vietta.

C. WALLACE: Vietta would always give him little things to mix up, and I think that's why he's such a good cook now.

D. WALLACE: Well, and she was [unintelligible].

WILLIAMS: Would you lick the spoons and all that stuff when she baked?

D. WALLACE: All the time, all that stuff. There was one very memorable thing when I took a big spoonful of what I thought was hard sauce after Christmas dinner or Thanksgiving dinner in a bowl in the refrigerator. And it was uncolored margarine. [chuckling] White margarine. You've got to understand, they got everything before the country got it all—I mean, margarine first, and when we were in Denver, people were bringing out instant coffee before the unfortunate day people ever thought of that commercially. Her, she still drinks it. But all that. We had a lot of game around the house all the time. Tell the Bambi story.

WILLIAMS: Game? Who would kill it?

C. WALLACE: We were sent some—

D. WALLACE: Well, he was sent everything.

C. WALLACE: Some venison. And how was that, David?

D. WALLACE: This is an easily dated thing. I started crying.

C. WALLACE: Marian, too.

D. WALLACE: No, it was Marian. I'm the one who told you it was Bambi's enemy.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and then she'd eat it before . . . She wouldn't eat it because it was a little deer, Bambi.

WILLIAMS: And what did you tell her?

D. WALLACE: It was Bambi's enemy.

C. WALLACE: Oh, that's the thing that Caroline Carnes wrote up in the *Examiner* about that. Oh, dear.

D. WALLACE: She did a story on it in the *Examiner*.

WILLIAMS: But nobody in the family would go hunting or fishing?

C. WALLACE: No. They weren't hunters, and they weren't fishermen.

D. WALLACE: They were very strange people. They didn't do anything like that.

WILLIAMS: I understand that Mrs. Truman liked to fish.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, but she certainly had her . . . It was before our time with her. She never went to anyplace to fish.

WILLIAMS: When they went to Colorado?

D. WALLACE: She didn't fish when she came out? Of course she did.

C. WALLACE: I don't know where she fished.

D. WALLACE: When we were at Buena Vista and stuff.

WILLIAMS: Any streams or lakes?

C. WALLACE: Well, could be.

D. WALLACE: I'm sure she held a fishing rod now and then through all of that.

C. WALLACE: Well, she came out to Colorado to see us a lot and brought Grandmother Wallace out.

WILLIAMS: Back to the bridge club. There's Mrs. Frank Wallace and Mrs. George Wallace. Mrs. Oscar King.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, Linda. Linda King.

WILLIAMS: Now, she lived in Kansas City. How did she get involved?

D. WALLACE: Well, “beaten biscuits.” We haven’t got back to it. Lucy Peters’s beaten biscuits.

C. WALLACE: I’ve told them about that.

WILLIAMS: I don’t think we got it on tape.

D. WALLACE: Not on tape.

C. WALLACE: Oh. Well, every Christmas, Lucy Peters, who lived down the street and was part of the bridge club and everything—

WILLIAMS: At 631 North Delaware.

C. WALLACE: At 631 North Delaware, would make a lot of beaten biscuits. Now, have you ever eaten a beaten biscuit? Well, they’re about so big around, and they’re about like that, and they’re hard as a rock, but oh, are they good. And she’d always bring this boxful. Well, after Christmas dinner the turkey was always so big you couldn’t put it in the refrigerator—or the . . . whatever we had in those days—so they left it on the platter and put it on the kitchen table. Well, that was all right. I mean, nowadays they say you ought to put it in the refrigerator right away or you’ll get ptomaine poisoning or something. But that kitchen would get so cold at night, so it was the same thing. But that didn’t bother any of us. We’d still go out . . . And, you know, there’s nothing better than cold turkey, I don’t think. And we’d get turkey and a beaten biscuit, and it’s good eating. Maybe someday you’ll find out what I’m talking about. I don’t know who makes beaten biscuits now.

D. WALLACE: You can buy them everywhere.

WILLIAMS: So that's how you remember Lucy Peters.

D. WALLACE: "Beaten biscuit" Peters, yes.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, but she was a good friend. She'd come up a lot to see Grandmother Wallace—Lucy and Mize, and then they had one daughter.

D. WALLACE: And Mize had a casket company?

C. WALLACE: Mize Peters?

D. WALLACE: Where did you get that?

WILLIAMS: That was someone else.

C. WALLACE: That's Oscar King.

D. WALLACE: Oh, King, Oscar King's Cozy Casket Company.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, he had the casket company.

WILLIAMS: The Cozy . . . ?

C. WALLACE: Cozy Caskets. King's Cozy Caskets.

WILLIAMS: That was something Marian invented, that expression? [chuckling]
Now, she lived in Kansas City. How did they get involved with the Trumans, do you know?

C. WALLACE: They used to live out here at one time. And then that Marjorie Nicks was their niece, that I talked about.

WILLIAMS: Okay, Mrs. Tom Twyman.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, the Twymans.

WILLIAMS: Adelaide.

C. WALLACE: Adelaide Twyman, yeah.

WILLIAMS: Anything you remember in particular about them?

C. WALLACE: Well, there was a Twyman that was a Dr. Twyman, but I don't know how he was kin to her. Was it a brother-in-law? It wasn't this one. I don't know what this one did.

WILLIAMS: I think it may have been Tom's father.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Mrs. Mell—Thelma—Palette.

C. WALLACE: Now, that was a good friend of May's, and Mel and Thelma and George and May did a lot together. I mean, she not only belonged to the bridge club, but then they would play bridge at other times and do things together. And then Mel died, and Thelma remarried and went elsewhere. Now, where she is and whether she's still alive now, I don't know.

WILLIAMS: Mrs. John Hutchison .

C. WALLACE: Yeah. Now, what they did, I don't remember.

WILLIAMS: Mrs. E.K. Crow.

C. WALLACE: Yes, yes. And it was all the old crowd, isn't it, every one of them.

D. WALLACE: And your old crowd, huh?

C. WALLACE: Not my crowd, but theirs.

WILLIAMS: Mrs. Leslie Shaw. Shawsie's mother.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, Shawsie's mother. She was a Gentry, I think. And that group had been together for years. How many do you think, Jim?

WILLIAMS: I don't know.

C. WALLACE: But that was the whole group that went to the White House together.

WILLIAMS: Yeah, there are some articles about them going to . . . Now, here we have an article about in 1945 [see appendix, item 3], and it says, “A flurry by the Trumans. Family settles down to rearranging the home.” Apparently, when they came back or he became president, they sent some belongings back here?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, I guess so.

WILLIAMS: And it says, “Workmen added to the contents of the van an electric washer, a small red toy automobile, several large clothes hampers, a wicker table, several barrels and two old trunks. These apparently were the excess possessions of the Fred Wallace family”—

D. WALLACE: That was that pedal fire engine.

WILLIAMS: [reading] —“stored there when they moved to Denver and obtained a furnished apartment. The toy automobile probably belongs to David Wallace, small son of Fred Wallace, who spent the summer with his grandmother two years ago. The van rolled off to the storage headquarters.” So this was apparently when they were fixing up the home and clearing out some of the stuff.

C. WALLACE: The things that didn’t belong there, yeah.

WILLIAMS: So did you leave things here when you moved to Denver?

C. WALLACE: I don’t remember, but we must have. I certainly didn’t leave the washing machine.

WILLIAMS: This was in the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, June 4, 1945.

C. WALLACE: Maybe it was that awful, awful, old washing machine I had that had belonged to my mother that wasn't worth a darn. It might have been that one.

WILLIAMS: [reading] "They also carried from the home a large upholstered chair and a large walnut cupboard." Okay, and in December 20, 1945, I think they were decorating for Christmas, the first Christmas when he was president. [reading, see appendix, item 4] "The lights of the cars pulling into the drive illuminated a 16-foot crated Christmas tree standing in front of the garage."

C. WALLACE: Oh, didn't we tell you about that?

WILLIAMS: [reading] "The tree was sent to the nation's first family by a niece and nephew, Marian Wallace, 8, and David Wallace, 11, the children of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wallace of Denver. The tree, a Douglas fir, was cut in the Pike National forest of Colorado."

C. WALLACE: Well, a friend of Fred's crated it, and it was a big thing in the backyard. It looked like a . . . what shall I say? Like an oil well standing up there, you know, like this? [chuckling] But it was a beautiful tree, and that's the one that marked the ceiling and upset Grandmother. That's the only thing . . . one of the only things that really bothered her. She didn't like that big black mark up on the ceiling.

WILLIAMS: It says later that [reading] "It had not been moved indoors, awaiting the decision of Mrs. Truman as to whether the top or bottom should be cut to fit the 16-foot tree under the 14-foot ceiling of the Truman home. [¶]"

Also hurrying from the train to the Truman house was Miss Vietta Garr, the Negro family cook who came along from Washington to prepare the Christmas dinner.[¶] Confronting Miss Garr is the problem of roasting a huge young tom turkey that will be presented the official family by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Capps. . . .” It was a thirty-five-pound turkey. How would you cook something like that?

C. WALLACE: I don’t know, but she sure did a good job.

WILLIAMS: What was the family reaction when he ran for vice president?

C. WALLACE: There was no comments; they just listened. I don’t know, what do you think?

D. WALLACE: No, everybody was excited.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, they were excited. They thought, “Well, gee, good.”

D. WALLACE: They weren’t thinking ahead, though, I don’t think anybody was . . .

WILLIAMS: They didn’t anticipate him becoming president?

D. WALLACE: And we all went back for the inauguration in ’44, and stood around on the lawn in front of the south portico because they didn’t have a canopy, and it was raining. Remember? And then there was a reception line inside in the hallway, and Roosevelt went on upstairs because he was too tired, so Eleanor was alone.

C. WALLACE: I remember that time meeting Dwight Eisenhower.

D. WALLACE: On that trip.

C. WALLACE: On that trip.

D. WALLACE: Yeah. He subsequently came to the house [unintelligible].

WILLIAMS: Why do you wrinkle your nose?

C. WALLACE: Oh, well, he was strange. And then, see, Mamie lived in Denver, and they'd come out. We had them out for dinner one night, Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower, and . . .

WILLIAMS: Could we wait a minute for this story so we can change?

[End #4395; Begin #4396]

WILLIAMS: So why would you invite the Eisenhowers to dinner?

C. WALLACE: Well, we were living out in Cherry Creek, and—

D. WALLACE: Cherry Hills.

C. WALLACE: In Cherry Hills, and we had met them before, and they were nice and friendly. Anyway, we asked them to dinner, and they accepted. They came to dinner. And as I said, I went up to . . . Mrs. Eisenhower wanted to see Margo, so I went up and got her out of bed and brought her down, as I was telling you then—

D. WALLACE: So this is '49 we're talking about.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. She was the same age as her grandson David, who is married to Julie Nixon. Anyway, Mrs. Eisenhower liked to play canasta. Gene Cervi—what would you say he was? He liked—

D. WALLACE: He had a column in the *Rocky Mountain News*.

WILLIAMS: How do you spell Cervi?

D. WALLACE: C-E-R-V-I.

C. WALLACE: C-E-R-V-I. And he and Fred and Ike . . . Oh, Ike was the best-talking Democrat you ever heard then.

D. WALLACE: Then, oh, yeah.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: That's all right.

C. WALLACE: And so they talked politics, and we all played canasta. It was a nice evening.

D. WALLACE: You and Eulalia Cervi and . . . E-U-L-A-L-I-A.

C. WALLACE: E-U-L-A-L-I-A, Eulalia.

D. WALLACE: Right. And Mamie. You needed a fourth, and I think Marian was too young for a fourth.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, I think.

D. WALLACE: This was '49, I mean, so she was twelve years old.

C. WALLACE: Well, she could play.

D. WALLACE: Oh, well, maybe she did.

C. WALLACE: I mean, canasta didn't take any brains.

D. WALLACE: But you didn't have anybody like Oscar Brannon over, or any of those people out there?

C. WALLACE: Not that time.

D. WALLACE: The Brannons were from Denver. Secretary of the Interior.

C. WALLACE: And then there was Secretary of Agriculture. Who was that?

D. WALLACE: Well, Clint Anderson.

C. WALLACE: Clint Anderson from . . . ?

D. WALLACE: New Mexico.

C. WALLACE: And then they had one . . . I thought Brannon was—

D. WALLACE: Charlie Brannon was Interior, I think.

C. WALLACE: I thought he was the one when . . . Are you sure?

D. WALLACE: Was Brannon the Mormon? Because it was a Mormon that was agriculture secretary.

C. WALLACE: I don't remember that.

WILLIAMS: Did you know these people because you were—

D. WALLACE: No, no. No, he had little glasses, the agriculture—

C. WALLACE: The pince-nez.

D. WALLACE: Yeah. But it wasn't Charlie Brannon, I don't think. Anyway.

WILLIAMS: Did you know these people because of your relationship to the Trumans, or—

C. WALLACE: Well, that's how we met them, yeah.

WILLIAMS: So then, once you were in Denver, you just—

D. WALLACE: Well, we were there in—

WILLIAMS: But when you were in Denver, you had met them someplace else?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. There's something I want to ask David. Excuse me. I saw him on TV the other night, and I just can't believe how old he looks.

D. WALLACE: Clark Clifford.

C. WALLACE: Clark Clifford. How did you know that's what I was going to say?

D. WALLACE: You know, because he's in a scandal right now.

C. WALLACE: Oh, but he was such a good-looking person when we were there, in his white uniform and everything.

D. WALLACE: White suit.

C. WALLACE: Suit? I thought he was in uniform, wasn't he?

WILLIAMS: He was a naval aide.

C. WALLACE: Yes, he was.

D. WALLACE: Maybe it was a white uniform, but that's way back, and much before, in the opinion of Aunt B., that he double-crossed them, you know.

C. WALLACE: Well, he was waiting there at the *Williamsburg* when we got on the *Williamsburg*. And that was another thing, whenever you go down the Potomac, you know, as you go along and you pass a military camp or something or place, they all have to stand at attention and then they pipe you through . . . by. It was kind of fun. [chuckling] And they'd take some of the Filipino help from the White House to cook the dinner, and they made this dessert Margaret wanted. It was the kind of ice cream thing that you cook.

D. WALLACE: Baked Alaska.

C. WALLACE: Baked Alaska. And they made one with chocolate ice cream because she liked it better. Boy, that was good eating. Imagine all that chocolate.

WILLIAMS: I think you said at lunchtime that Madge Wallace would go out on the *Williamsburg*?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, she went on it. There's pictures. Don't you have those pictures where we're all standing on the *Williamsburg* and—

D. WALLACE: On the fantail.

C. WALLACE: And Grandmother right there in front?

WILLIAMS: Do you know why she liked that enough to go out when she otherwise—

C. WALLACE: Because she was just with her family and no other people—outsiders—I guess. Wouldn't you think so? I think that's . . .

WILLIAMS: And nobody could see her?

C. WALLACE: No, I don't think she cared about people seeing her. It's just that . . . I don't know.

WILLIAMS: How did the Trumans change when he became president?

C. WALLACE: They didn't.

D. WALLACE: Just busier.

C. WALLACE: They just got more to do. I don't think they . . . They just took it all in their stride.

D. WALLACE: Well, I think it affected Margaret a great deal. I don't think it bothered them at all.

C. WALLACE: Well, not as much as you think it would bother Margaret. Margaret was pretty good until she started being a concert singer.

D. WALLACE: Well, no, it wasn't that. No, it's when she started being the holder of the flame after he died. Well, anyway . . . But when we were in Denver she would come out, too, and stay, and she sang in a production of "The Countess Moritz" at Achievement Park, which of course Mother overlooks now in her apartment many years later.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, but she'd always stay with us, and when we lived there—

D. WALLACE: We were living in the house on Williams then, or Claremont.

C. WALLACE: We did not. We lived out in Cherry Hills.

D. WALLACE: Not when she did “The Countess Moritz.”

C. WALLACE: I don’t even remember that. When did she do the opera and she stayed in that . . . and Reathel was with her? And I have a picture of Margo, and Charles and Sue’s daughter—they came up from Dallas—sitting on the sofa in the living room.

D. WALLACE: She didn’t do any operas.

C. WALLACE: Yes, David, she—

D. WALLACE: She did a concert. Well, that’s different.

C. WALLACE: And they’re sitting . . . Well, it’s singing.

D. WALLACE: A different time. She did “The Countess Moritz” in about 1944. It was right after we were out there, and we were still in the house on Williams.

C. WALLACE: Well, this was when we were living in Cherry Hills. Because you know how they had those bookcases . . . Well, anyway . . . And Reathel was with her. And I still hear from Reathel every now and then, at Christmas time.

WILLIAMS: Reathel Odum.

C. WALLACE: Reathel Odum, yeah. I came across her address the other day.

WILLIAMS: She lives in Illinois, doesn’t she?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: After you moved to Denver, how much would you see the Trumans? You said every Christmas.

C. WALLACE: Every Christmas, yeah.

WILLIAMS: Was that about it?

C. WALLACE: I think so. They were so busy, and it takes—

D. WALLACE: Well, I was here all summer.

C. WALLACE: And it takes money to travel, and we didn't have that kind of money, and—

D. WALLACE: No, but she would bring Grandmother out and stay.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, she'd bring Grandmother out, and we always corresponded.

D. WALLACE: They'd sort of planted Grandmother with us while they went back then, you know, or something during . . . I don't understand that.

C. WALLACE: And we always wrote back and forth and so forth.

D. WALLACE: It would be fall that they'd spring for her [unintelligible].

WILLIAMS: Well, it's funny you should mention that, because I have an article from the *Littleton Independent* [see, appendix, item 5].

D. WALLACE: Wonderful.

WILLIAMS: In Arapaho County, Colorado. July 18, 1947, [reading] "Mrs. Harry S. Truman is pictured here with members of her family, after arriving at the Littleton depot aboard the Colorado Eagle. . . . From left to right are Mrs. David Frank Wallace, her sister-in-law; Mrs. D.W. Wallace, Mrs. Truman's mother; David Frank Wallace, her brother; David Wallace, her nephew; her niece, Marian Wallace; Mrs. Truman; and Miss Virginia Ann Marshall, Independent reporter." And it says, "FIRST LADY OF LAND IS JUST PLAIN 'AUNT BESS' TO NIECE AND

NEPHEW.”

C. WALLACE: They sure got the names wrong, didn't they?

D. WALLACE: I don't know why she got off the train in Littleton, though, when we were still living in town. That was before we moved out to Cherry Hills. No, we must have just been in Cherry Hills then. That's right, that's why. That's why.

WILLIAMS: It says something about Cherry Hills.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, that's where we lived then.

C. WALLACE: [reading] “. . . Family, in Cherry Hills.”

WILLIAMS: And it says you were active in Girl Scouts?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, I was a Girl Scout . . . whatever you are.

D. WALLACE: But there's the *Eagle* . . .

C. WALLACE: Yeah, I did that.

WILLIAMS: And Marian was proud of being in Troop 3 or something?

C. WALLACE: Marian was in scouts, and I also was a den mother when he was a Cub Scout.

D. WALLACE: See, 3751 South Gilpin. So this is right after we moved out to Cherry Hills.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, Cherry Hills.

D. WALLACE: I mean right after, like the day after, nearly. We lived there until 1950 when we moved to Albuquerque. I didn't think we moved out there until '48, but we were there for the '48 election.

WILLIAMS: What would they do when they came out? What would Mrs. Wallace

do?

D. WALLACE: I said that *Eagle* was the best in the country then. It still is.

C. WALLACE: Well, she'd pitch in, and she'd do everything. She'd cook, or she'd wash dishes—anything to help.

WILLIAMS: Well, she was in her nineties at this time?

C. WALLACE: Oh, Grandmother Wallace? I thought you meant Bess.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, close to it, though. She died at ninety-two, wasn't it, or ninety what? So she was eighty-eight or eighty-nine here.

WILLIAMS: Was she still pretty spry?

C. WALLACE: She looks pretty good, doesn't she?

D. WALLACE: Yeah, pretty good.

C. WALLACE: Oh, she'd sit, and she'd read to the kids. She was good at reading to the children. I don't know, it was nice having her.

WILLIAMS: And Bess would just . . .

C. WALLACE: She'd just pitch right in and help. She'd make beds. She'd do anything.

WILLIAMS: Now, would the Secret Service have been with them?

D. WALLACE: Oh, yeah.

C. WALLACE: Oh, yeah.

WILLIAMS: So what happened with them?

D. WALLACE: They were there.

C. WALLACE: Well, they just were in the background somewhere. One time she drove out, and Tommy, her . . . Wasn't his name Tommy?

D. WALLACE: Dorsey.

C. WALLACE: Dorsey?

D. WALLACE: Mm-hmm, Tommy Dorsey.

C. WALLACE: Oh, Dorsey was the Secret Service man.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, well, that's what we're talking about.

C. WALLACE: The driver of the car when they brought Vietta out one time.

WILLIAMS: They brought Vietta out to Colorado?

C. WALLACE: Uh-huh.

WILLIAMS: Why? So she could cook when she was out there? [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: To visit.

C. WALLACE: And she wanted to see. And David and Marian took Vietta downtown in Denver shopping. They just loved her. It didn't make any difference whether they were black or white.

WILLIAMS: Is that because she spoiled her, probably?

C. WALLACE: She was Pete. No, it was just plain Pete.

D. WALLACE: That was a really bad comment, Mother.

C. WALLACE: What?

D. WALLACE: Nothing.

C. WALLACE: And they just loved her, and she loved them.

WILLIAMS: Was she married? Did she have children of her own?

C. WALLACE: No, no, she never married.

WILLIAMS: Is there anything of interest in that article?

D. WALLACE: [reading] “. . . Mrs. D.W. Wallace of Grandview, Mo. . . .”

WILLIAMS: [chuckling] Obviously, that reporter there got her . . .

D. WALLACE: She didn't have much of a future, did she, in reporting? That's charming. It's nice to see that.

WILLIAMS: Mrs. Wallace would have been pleased to have . . .

C. WALLACE: Especially their name is Frank in the middle.

WILLIAMS: Could you maybe explain why you were in the *Kansas City Social Register* in 1948 [see appendix, item 6]?

C. WALLACE: Because I had a baby. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: But it's listed as: "Truman, President and Mrs. Harry S., 219 North Delaware." And they have Miss Margaret Truman living with them. And then there's "Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. David Frederick (Christine Marian Meyer). *Residence*, 219 North Delaware." He went to the University of Missouri; you went to Finch.

D. WALLACE: Well, we were long gone by then.

C. WALLACE: I don't know.

WILLIAMS: You have children, David, Jr., and Marian, and living with you is Mrs. David Willock Wallace.

C. WALLACE: I don't know.

D. WALLACE: Well, they obviously didn't do any updating, did they?

WILLIAMS: Well, they updated it to President Truman, but they didn't . . .

D. WALLACE: They didn't clean up the rest of it.

C. WALLACE: Oh, well, big deal.

WILLIAMS: So you were considered high society?

C. WALLACE: I don't know. [chuckling] Who cares?

WILLIAMS: Frank and George aren't in here.

C. WALLACE: Well, they didn't live in Kansas City.

D. WALLACE: Well, nor did you. You were living in Denver.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, but I had lived in Kansas City.

WILLIAMS: So that's just an error on their part.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. What difference does it—

WILLIAMS: Here's another visit, apparently, to Denver, September of '48. [reading, see appendix, item 7] "First Lady at Niece's Christening."

C. WALLACE: Oh, yeah. Now, let me see, where did we live then?

D. WALLACE: Cherry Hills.

C. WALLACE: Oh, that was fun. We had fun with that dress. When I had Marian christened, I had . . . What did I do? I went and bought a dress for her. Then I found that I had my christening dress—that was my christening dress—and we needed a slip to put under it. So I had some of that same kind of material that my mother had a petticoat . . . I don't know how it got in my cedar chest, but she had had a petticoat. So Bess and I—well, Bess especially—cut it and made a little slip to go under that dress. And I'll never forget when she was christened in that little old church at Saint John's, and Monseigneur Moran christened her, and he kept calling her Marguerite or something. And Bess said, "Margaret. Margaret!"

D. WALLACE: "Margaret!" She yelled it right at him, too.

WILLIAMS: [chuckling] Was she like that?

C. WALLACE: Oh, I don't know. It didn't bother me any the first time I heard it either.

D. WALLACE: Good grief! What's today's date?

WILLIAMS: August 26th.

D. WALLACE: Well, that was August 29, 19 . . . whatever it was, '48.

WILLIAMS: Did she make a special trip out for that, or was this just during one of her regular visits?

C. WALLACE: Well, I don't know. I guess—

D. WALLACE: Who's Ralph Zimmerman?

C. WALLACE: That was a cousin of mine.

D. WALLACE: It says, "Sponsors were Charles Meyer of Dallas, Texas, Mrs. Ralph Zimmerman of Evanston, Illinois."

C. WALLACE: Oh, that was his wife, Gretchen Zimmerman, yeah, in Springfield. She's dead. But anyway, that dumb church.

D. WALLACE: This is the Catholic Register.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. I told old Moran then I wanted my sister-in-law to be a sponsor. We had to get special permission [whispering] because she wasn't a Catholic.

WILLIAMS: So being first lady didn't count?

C. WALLACE: Oh, I guess they got special permission. I don't know.

D. WALLACE: I don't know. You saw this side of it, too?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. Well, see how pretty that dress was?

D. WALLACE: Yeah, isn't that nice?

C. WALLACE: See? One of those longie things? See, a long, long dress. A long dress.
That was a pretty dress.

D. WALLACE: Where is it now? Margo has it?

C. WALLACE: It's in my cedar chest at Margo's. I have to keep things some places.
It's mine, though.

WILLIAMS: So this photo was in your house?

D. WALLACE: That's at . . . yeah, at 3751 South Gilpin.

C. WALLACE: We're sitting on the sofa.

D. WALLACE: That's the sofa from here.

C. WALLACE: I thought I had three of those pictures all in a row.

WILLIAMS: Well, and Madge was there, too, huh?

D. WALLACE: Who?

WILLIAMS: Madge Wallace.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, Grandmother Wallace.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, she just came out.

WILLIAMS: Where's Margaret?

C. WALLACE: She wasn't there.

D. WALLACE: That's right.

WILLIAMS: Could you talk about your visits in the summertime, why you would
come back in the summer here?

D. WALLACE: Oh, because of polio.

C. WALLACE: He did.

WILLIAMS: That was the reason? It wasn't for recreation or to see your cousins?

D. WALLACE: Around there? Are you kidding? “Hello, Aunt and Uncle. Hello, Aunt and Uncle.” Then you’d just sit and read for the whole summer. You know, they were not stimulating summers, but they were—

C. WALLACE: There weren’t any cousins except Margaret, and she couldn’t be bothered with him.

D. WALLACE: There was nothing. No, she never bothered with that. Well, she wasn’t around that much in the summertime then. You know, I mean she was ten years older. She was twenty-five years old at this point.

WILLIAMS: We thought that Margaret and Bess would come back every summer and spend the summer.

D. WALLACE: Well, I think Margaret . . . I guess maybe she was back for part of it, but I think she stayed in Washington for some time. I mean, she was old enough to get around and do her own things now.

C. WALLACE: She was in New York then, wasn’t she?

D. WALLACE: She was twenty-one. No, she wasn’t in New York. She was twenty-one when all that was going on, so she was here part of the time. And I don’t know why I was here. It was the stupidest thing in the world.

WILLIAMS: You didn’t come out by choice then?

D. WALLACE: Well, I guess I did, but I mean, it was awfully stupid in retrospect.

C. WALLACE: Why did Margaret come see us in Albuquerque? I have a picture where we’re meeting her at the station, and I have Dr. Loveless and you and me and Dad.

D. WALLACE: That was Aunt B. She was with them.

C. WALLACE: No, it was Margaret by herself, and standing in front of her was Margo, and Margo wasn't any bigger than—

D. WALLACE: Well, maybe she had a concert in Albuquerque.

C. WALLACE: I don't remember that.

D. WALLACE: Probably, though. That's probably the reason.

C. WALLACE: I don't think so. Well, Reathel wasn't with her.

D. WALLACE: Or maybe she stopped off on the way to Los Angeles, which is far more likely because it's on the train.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. No, we were standing on the platform.

D. WALLACE: Well, that same point is just as valid. But I mean, I don't remember much of those summers because there was nothing to remember of those summers. You know, rides with Uncle Frank and Aunt Natalie at night, and Grandmother, and, you know, the heat.

WILLIAMS: Was that every summer until . . .

D. WALLACE: Forty-five, forty-six, and forty-seven. It may have been '46, '47, and '48, but I think '45 was . . . I think, too.

WILLIAMS: What happened in the later . . . during the second term? You wouldn't come out?

D. WALLACE: Well, I was getting old enough. I mean, polio wasn't a problem. And I think, you know, probably they needed me around the house to help out, and I just didn't want to do it anymore. Oh. I mean, I don't know what was going on. I really don't know why. I think it was, you know, demented.

C. WALLACE: Well, you came for Margaret's wedding.

D. WALLACE: Mother, that's another decade later.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, I know.

WILLIAMS: When would you go to Raytown for chocolate sodas?

D. WALLACE: Oh, that's back.

C. WALLACE: That's back . . . the eight years we lived there.

D. WALLACE: Well, it was sometimes when I was here in the summertime, too, with Margaret. But it all started back there.

C. WALLACE: Back in those days.

D. WALLACE: Raytown Drugstore, which is probably still there. If you want to drive to Raytown we can check it out. I don't really need to.

WILLIAMS: Why would you go to Raytown?

C. WALLACE: Because that's where they were good, and they were twenty-five cents.

WILLIAMS: Was that cheap?

D. WALLACE: No, actually that was high.

C. WALLACE: That was high in those days.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, I think it was about five cents more there, but they were really the best on earth, until I found them at the Westwood Drugstore, and now that's gone.

C. WALLACE: Where is Westwood Drugstore? There in Los Angeles?

D. WALLACE: It isn't there anymore, Mother.

WILLIAMS: So Margaret had a fondness for chocolate sodas?

C. WALLACE: We all did.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, Margaret instigated that. And we'd go to movies a lot, you know.

WILLIAMS: Would she drive when she was old enough?

D. WALLACE: Oh, yeah.

WILLIAMS: How old did you have to be?

D. WALLACE: Here? Eighteen, I think.

C. WALLACE: I helped her to learn, and so did Uncle Frank Wallace. The two of us taught her.

WILLIAMS: Were all the cars the stick shifts?

C. WALLACE: Stick shift, yeah.

D. WALLACE: That would give one pause, teaching her how to drive a stick shift.

C. WALLACE: She was all right. She did real well.

D. WALLACE: She was?

C. WALLACE: Mm-hmm.

WILLIAMS: When Madge Wallace died, this is one of her obituaries [see appendix, item 8]. I'd like to see if you agree with what they say. [reading] "When Elizabeth Wallace was married to Harry Truman, Mrs. Wallace's sons already had established homes of their own. One of the conditions of the marriage was that the young couple live with her in the family home." Did you ever hear that?

C. WALLACE: Well, I assume probably there was something more to it than met the eye.

WILLIAMS: [reading] "Mrs. Wallace gave hearty"—

D. WALLACE: Well, I think, for one reason, he didn't have a job, did he, when they got married?

C. WALLACE: Not at first.

D. WALLACE: So I don't know whether it was a condition that was laid on from the outside, or a condition of necessity. I would suspect it was a condition of necessity, or desire and necessity met right in the middle.

C. WALLACE: I think a lot of it was necessity, because you read some of those books and it was Harry trying to find a job and how much he would make and—

D. WALLACE: Well, there was the haberdasher, the oil business, and all that junk going on for years, and there just wasn't any money. I mean, there wasn't any other place to live. So I suspect it might have been, "Oh, isn't it wonderful you're going to be able to live with us." When Bess said, "We're going to get married, but he doesn't have a job, he just got back"—you know, da, da, da, da. I don't think it was *a* condition, ipso, you know. What did Margaret say about that? I don't think it was a specific, "You live here, or you don't get married." I don't think it was that.

WILLIAMS: Then it says, "Mrs. Wallace gave hearty approval to her new son-in-law. . . ." See, we hear all these stories that they didn't get along.

C. WALLACE: Who, Grandmother and Harry? Well, if they didn't get along, they sure covered it up well. I mean, of course you felt like there was a little iciness maybe between them, but Harry was always a perfect gentleman.

And I remember after dinner he would say . . . talk a little bit and then go on up. And it was always “Harry,” and he called her “Mrs. Wallace.”

D. WALLACE: Well, it couldn't have been easy for him living in his mother-in-law's house, either.

C. WALLACE: I think it was darn hard on Harry.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, and I'm sure he wouldn't have done it if he could have financially gone somewhere else. It was a hell of a nice . . . you know, way of living inexpensively.

WILLIAMS: Were there ever disputes, that you know of?

C. WALLACE: If there were, I never heard one of them. And you can't tell me that Harry and Bess didn't have a few fights. Don't you think it's normal?

D. WALLACE: Well, yeah.

C. WALLACE: But it was always quiet. It was done up in their room. You never heard any shouting. The only time I heard Bess shout at anybody was at Margaret because she was trying to cheat at croquet. [chuckling] And she sent her to bed, and you never heard such a racket in your life as the way she screamed and cried. That was Margaret that screamed and cried.

WILLIAMS: How do you cheat at croquet?

C. WALLACE: I don't know.

D. WALLACE: You move the balls.

C. WALLACE: I don't play croquet. But she was really . . . And isn't it funny how you

remember those things? But boy, did Margaret ever put on a show. Now, that's the only time I ever heard any dispute between any of them.

WILLIAMS: Why wouldn't Mrs. Wallace like Harry Truman? What was there not to like about him?

C. WALLACE: I really don't think Mrs. Wallace would have liked anybody to marry Bess. I think she was perfectly satisfied having somebody live in that house and take over the responsibility.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, I don't think it was the poor farm boy thing at all because, I mean, that was sort of in the past then. He'd just come through the war and everything.

C. WALLACE: I think it's because she got Bess to run . . .

D. WALLACE: Yeah, got her to do all the work.

C. WALLACE: And look after the kids. You've read those stories.

D. WALLACE: No, I think she was terrified that Bess would get married and disappear. So there may have been that, you know, "Can you please live here for a while and see how it goes?" And then, you see, as a semi-condition. That's exactly probably what happened.

C. WALLACE: But I think, really, it's because she wanted somebody to help take the responsibility.

WILLIAMS: What would have happened if they had moved out?

C. WALLACE: I don't know.

WILLIAMS: Could Mrs. Wallace have taken care of the house? Or survive?

C. WALLACE: I don't know. I did not know Mrs. Wallace—

D. WALLACE: I think there would have been a lot of pressure on Frank and Natalie then. Frank would have been the next closest one.

C. WALLACE: And I think, of course, at that time her parents were alive, so that was a houseful even in those days. There would be her parents and—

D. WALLACE: They weren't alive in 1919.

WILLIAMS: Mrs. Gates was alive.

D. WALLACE: She was? So she was there, too?

C. WALLACE: Anyway, it was a full house. She moved up there after her husband died, and it was Madge Wallace and the four children—there was five people—and then her parents, five, six, seven. There were seven in the house then. Now, if there were any brothers . . . I think there was a brother living there, Madge's brother. I don't know, maybe seven, eight people living there. That's a houseful of people. But Mrs. Wallace was a young woman then, too. That makes a difference.

WILLIAMS: What did your husband think of his mother? How was their relationship? I know how you—

D. WALLACE: He wrote a letter every day. Every day.

C. WALLACE: He was mama's boy.

WILLIAMS: So he reciprocated her feelings?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And then they took a trip back East and he took her along. He had a car—he had a Packard—and they went back to see some kinfolks back East, and I don't know where they were. Read that book. Margaret tells about it. There's a lot of information in that book.

D. WALLACE: And just where do you think a twelve-cylinder Packard convertible was coming from?

WILLIAMS: Her?

D. WALLACE: Of course. When he was in school? You know, and they were out working at a job, Frank and George.

C. WALLACE: It didn't sit very good, I don't think.

WILLIAMS: That she favored Fred?

D. WALLACE: Very much the spoiled son. But of the others, I think Frank was closer to her than George, don't you?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. Frank would always come up after work.

D. WALLACE: That's why I said, had the whole Truman thing blown up, I think that she would have lived with them, you know.

C. WALLACE: Oh, yeah, but there were a couple remarks about Natalie.

D. WALLACE: Natalie, I don't think, would have it. That's the other thing.

C. WALLACE: Because Natalie was walking around . . . Instead of going one way, she went all the way around the block, and somebody saw her and said, "What in the world are you doing?" She said, "Well, I just get tired of going by that house and having somebody say, 'Where are you going, Natalie? What are you going to do, Natalie?'"

WILLIAMS: Was that Mrs. Wallace?

D. WALLACE: Mm-hmm.

WILLIAMS: She'd do that to you?

C. WALLACE: No, all of us, but—

D. WALLACE: She did it to all of us. She did it to me when I was here in the summers: “Where are you going? How long are you going to be?” You know, and there was always this insecurity about it. It was like my dog: was he going to come back, you know?

C. WALLACE: But you get sort of . . . you live with it.

WILLIAMS: It never got on your nerves too much?

C. WALLACE: A little bit, yeah. If Fred and I had any fights, it was because I’d get so damn sick of living here [lowers her voice] with their mother.

D. WALLACE: That’s okay, you can say it.

WILLIAMS: She’s long gone.

C. WALLACE: I know, but it doesn’t sound very nice.

D. WALLACE: No, but it couldn’t be otherwise. How could it be otherwise?

WILLIAMS: I think people really relate to that. When they come in and we say Harry Truman lived with his mother-in-law for thirty-three years, and they say . . .

C. WALLACE: My lord, how did he stand it?

D. WALLACE: Good God!

WILLIAMS: He was a saint.

C. WALLACE: Well, he was practically.

D. WALLACE: Well, actually I think he probably handled the living there better than anybody else, I just have a funny feeling.

C. WALLACE: Because he just went upstairs and read.

D. WALLACE: Because two sons wouldn’t. Frank and George wouldn’t—didn’t.

Their wives wouldn't let them. And so, to that extent, I think that was part of Harry's compromise there. And I think, you know, Dad wouldn't think of living anywhere else when he needed a financial base, a place to live inexpensively.

WILLIAMS: So you didn't move to Denver to flee her?

D. WALLACE: Oh, no.

C. WALLACE: No, we moved to Denver because he had a job that sent him to Denver.

D. WALLACE: But it was good.

C. WALLACE: But I was kind of happy to get out from under.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, I think it was the best possible thing, but I think it was too late for him.

C. WALLACE: I think eventually we would have exploded.

WILLIAMS: When you first look at it, the three children were there, and then the fourth one moves off, and it kind of looks like—

C. WALLACE: The only thing that used to drive me crazy, if this kid would scream and yell and cry . . .

D. WALLACE: She would start throwing a fit.

C. WALLACE: She'd call up to me, and she'd say, "Christine, is there anything I can do to help?" [chuckling] And you'd think . . .

D. WALLACE: She was always doing that, and it was driving people mad.

C. WALLACE: I don't know why it is.

D. WALLACE: Well, Margaret, too. I think she drove Aunt B. absolutely wild. Because the minute Margaret would cry or something, Grandmother

would come to her defense: “Poor little Margaret. Poor little Margie.”

WILLIAMS: “What did you do to her?”

D. WALLACE: She did the same thing with me: “Poor little David.” You know, a little less with Marian.

C. WALLACE: And “What can I do to help?”

D. WALLACE: “What can I do?” because she was always there, Miss Solicitation, and I think it probably drove Bess and Mother absolutely mad. And Harry just went out of the room and slammed the door and read, you know.

C. WALLACE: But that is the one thing that I—

WILLIAMS: Did she think that you were doing something wrong when they cried?

C. WALLACE: Who knows? Who knows?

D. WALLACE: No, I don’t think that, but I think she just wanted everything to be—

C. WALLACE: Peaceful and quiet and happy.

D. WALLACE: Peaceful and quiet and happy.

C. WALLACE: Well, with kids you don’t have it always peaceful. You’d think that we’d been beating the devil out of your kid, and all they were doing was crying because they didn’t want to go to bed. You know, don’t you?

D. WALLACE: Mother, you don’t need to defend it.

C. WALLACE: I know, but I just want to be sure everybody else understands.
[chuckling]

WILLIAMS: Well, after it says that she gave hearty approval to her son-in-law, it says, “. . . and when Margaret Truman was born, her happiness was complete.”

C. WALLACE: Oh, God, that stinks. [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: I'm sure it was very exciting for her.

C. WALLACE: I wonder if she was there and helped born the baby.

WILLIAMS: It says, "Taking an active interest in her granddaughter's life, there remained a close bond of affection between Margaret and her grandmother."

D. WALLACE: Yes.

C. WALLACE: I guess up to a point.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, but I mean *really* read between the lines in this. I mean, this sounds like something Pravda would have written, you know. Just like it went too far the other way with the dragon lady stuff, too.

WILLIAMS: This is the *Star* piece. The uh, *Kansas City* . . .

C. WALLACE: She wasn't a mean woman, she just . . . wanted things quiet and peaceful and happy.

D. WALLACE: [unintelligible] Roy Roberts thought [unintelligible].

WILLIAMS: Her own way.

C. WALLACE: Her way. And you all should go along.

WILLIAMS: Okay.

C. WALLACE: But she wasn't mean.

D. WALLACE: Changing the tape.

STONE: I think we are going to set a record.

C. WALLACE: Are we talking too much?

STONE & WILLIAMS: No.

D. WALLACE: You don't turn it over and run it back the other way? What do you want—I mean, the sound is perfect? And then who gets to transcribe all this? How many hours—that is going to take a year.

WILLIAMS: The people in Fullerton do.

D. WALLACE: In Fullerton, California? You send it out there and they transcribe it?

WILLIAMS: UC, they have some kind of . . .

D. WALLACE: What, for mentally handicapped people or something?

C. WALLACE: You mean people really do it with their fingers? Or do they . . .?

WILLIAMS: They use computers, but . . . type.

C. WALLACE: Computers.

D. WALLACE: But how could they not go insane? I mean, do they go out there . . . they, "I'm going to college to copy stuff like this?"

WILLIAMS: They find it's very interesting.

STONE: Some people do.

WILLIAMS: That's what they tell us.

D. WALLACE: Really?

WILLIAMS: So, do you flip them over and use the other?

D. WALLACE: Well, it's going one way and then you turn it the other way and it comes back going the other way.

WILLIAMS: [unintelligible]

[End #4396; Begin #4397]

D. WALLACE: It only records on half the tape. So you still have half the reel left.

WILLIAMS: I don't know why we . . . probably because we'd be afraid to.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, I know, it's safer that way. Anyway, you were saying? You think she was afraid . . .?

WILLIAMS: She wasn't mean?

D. WALLACE: No, she wasn't mean at all. She really wasn't. She was a wonderful grandmother.

WILLIAMS: How about this? [reading] "In her prime, Mrs. Wallace was a regal woman of the Victorian dowager-type."

C. WALLACE: Very regal.

D. WALLACE: I think that's very accurate, and I don't know why she wore the uh . . .

C. WALLACE: The little black ribbon around her throat.

D. WALLACE: Why? Did she ever say why?

C. WALLACE: They all did that in those days, all older women.

D. WALLACE: A black ribbon, always.

C. WALLACE: A little black velvet ribbon right around here. You know how they did, you see pictures of . . .

WILLIAMS: Here's her picture.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, look.

D. WALLACE: Well, that's only her. She's the only person who ever wore it.

WILLIAMS: With the cameo.

C. WALLACE: See there?

D. WALLACE: Yeah, I know.

WILLIAMS: And says in the next sentence, "She wore black velvet bands around her neck and prided herself on her erect carriage."

C. WALLACE: Yeah, she was very erect.

WILLIAMS: [reading] “She believed a woman’s place was in the home but she had many outside charitable interests.”

C. WALLACE: What?

WILLIAMS: [reading] “She didn’t care much for politics although her husband was county treasurer at one time.”

C. WALLACE: What were her outside interests?

WILLIAMS: [chuckling] I don’t know. [reading] “She liked to keep busy in her home. She had no time for idle gossip.”

D. WALLACE: I think that’s about all that made the house go around, actually.

WILLIAMS: Was the idle gossip?

D. WALLACE: Was talking about everybody, yeah.

WILLIAMS: Or the town go around?

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

C. WALLACE: We didn’t talk about each other much.

D. WALLACE: I can’t believe that.

WILLIAMS: [reading] “She was an excellent housekeeper and she reared Mrs. Truman to be capable of cooking a meal with ease. And she saw to it that Margaret had the same training.”

D. WALLACE: Oh, sure. Margaret can’t even boil an egg.

WILLIAMS: [reading] “Musical herself, she encouraged Margaret’s aspirations to be a singer.”

D. WALLACE: Oh, I’m sure she did.

C. WALLACE: Oh, she fought it every inch of the way.

D. WALLACE: No, she didn't, did she?

C. WALLACE: Oh, she thought a woman didn't go on the stage, not a good woman.

WILLIAMS: [reading] "When Margaret sang on her first concert tour at Constitution hall in Washington, Mrs. Wallace went."

C. WALLACE: I didn't know that.

WILLIAMS: [reading] "It was one of her few public appearances in recent years. That night she sat in the presidential box, proudly wearing three white gardenia corsages—one from her son-in-law, one from her daughter and the other from Margaret.[¶] Mrs. Wallace was a member of the Trinity Episcopal church. . . . She had few other interests outside the home"—
Well, they just said she had all these charities.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, how about those?

WILLIAMS: [reading] —"her family and its activities were her hobby."

D. WALLACE: That's it. That's very accurate.

C. WALLACE: Oh, yeah, we were a hobby all right.

WILLIAMS: Well, what was it like visiting the White House? Would you go every Christmas?

D. WALLACE: No, we went here every Christmas.

C. WALLACE: We did every Christmas we didn't come here. They came here some.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, it was like half and half. You've seen the pictures. I got thrown out of the kitchen.

C. WALLACE: At the White House.

WILLIAMS: Not because you were on fire? Why would you get thrown out of the kitchen?

C. WALLACE: He was in the way.

D. WALLACE: I was a little kid, and I was in the way.

WILLIAMS: They didn't let you have the run of the house?

D. WALLACE: Anywhere except the kitchen, and, boy, was that boring.

[interview interrupted—miscellaneous chitchat not transcribed]

D. WALLACE: It was just very nice, you know. It was just like Independence moved to Washington; it was the same people, you know, again.

WILLIAMS: Oh, it's always the same crowd?

D. WALLACE: The same aunts and uncles, all year, all the time.

C. WALLACE: And we'd always have the Christmas tree down at the end of the hall. You know where the window does this? The second floor?

D. WALLACE: In the East Wing.

WILLIAMS: In the family area?

D. WALLACE: Yeah, in the family area, the East Wing.

C. WALLACE: The big hall in the center was where the family sat. It was in the center, a big Christmas tree. We did everything like we did it here. Everybody had a chair.

D. WALLACE: Including presents on the chairs, the various chairs.

WILLIAMS: So you'd have to haul all the gifts out there on the train?

C. WALLACE: Yes. [sighing] Yes, and when we came from Denver to Independence, then—I told you—Marian's bicycle was shipped out so it would be

under the tree—Santa Claus brought it.

D. WALLACE: Well, one time when we went to Washington, there were so many presents in the bags. They were in shopping bags from the grocery store. And get on the B & O, arrival in Washington station with all this junk. It was nice.

WILLIAMS: They'd have cars for you?

D. WALLACE: Oh, they'd come down and meet us.

WILLIAMS: He would?

D. WALLACE: No, Aunt B. and Margaret.

C. WALLACE: I liked when we were over in Blair House. I liked it over there. It was nice. And when we were there—What were we there for? Inauguration.

D. WALLACE: The inauguration, and Christmases after that because the White House was torn down.

C. WALLACE: And that's when Fred decided the children should see Mount Vernon in wintertime. He ordered an open car, and we drove to Mount Vernon. I think I had two lap robes on me up to here. Oh, geez! Sometimes I wondered about your father at times.

WILLIAMS: Did they treat you royally in Washington?

C. WALLACE: They treated us very nicely, just like you want to be treated.

D. WALLACE: Well, that didn't always work out that way. [chuckling] Yeah, you might imagine. But it was very insular. As I say, it's Independence lifted and moved into Washington. They didn't have really . . . I mean,

that was the circle. There were very few orbits that intersected it, you know.

C. WALLACE: And Bess, for that last Christmas dinner, she had it in the State Dining Room.

D. WALLACE: Those were the pictures we looked at last night.

C. WALLACE: With all the gold service, the whole bit. Margo was a brat. She was four years old; she wouldn't eat. I finally had to . . . Upstairs on the second or third floor they had a kitchen.

D. WALLACE: The third floor, a little kitchen.

C. WALLACE: Third floor. So Vietta took her up there. The child had to eat something. Blulette. Blulette was the maid there that everybody just loved, too, and she was so good to . . . I wonder what ever happened to that doll she gave Margo? Anyway, so we just put her away because she was just obnoxious. God, she was terrible.

WILLIAMS: Now, Vietta went to the White House, didn't she?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: She lived back there with them.

C. WALLACE: She lived with them.

D. WALLACE: And Blulette, too.

WILLIAMS: So you'd see her?

C. WALLACE: Blulette?

D. WALLACE: Was Blulette here? No, Blulette was only here.

C. WALLACE: Blulette just came here to help, but she was a Washingtonian.

D. WALLACE: And where was Leola in all of this?

C. WALLACE: Leola was just somebody that helped work in Independence.

D. WALLACE: Here. And she's in Los Angeles.

WILLIAMS: Leola Estes.

C. WALLACE: She's in Los Angeles now.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, wonderful.

WILLIAMS: Do you know her address?

D. WALLACE: Oh, yeah. I haven't seen her in six or seven years. I used to see her out there. And her son was the gravedigger at Woodlawn.

WILLIAMS: I think she writes to Mrs. Allen, because she worked for them, too.

C. WALLACE: Did she?

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: They mentioned that.

D. WALLACE: I've got to call her up and see her. A real sweetheart—I mean, a real sweetheart.

C. WALLACE: You ought to call her sometime when you're back.

WILLIAMS: Was it ever a bother to be related, from the press or anything like that?

C. WALLACE: I don't know.

D. WALLACE: When they weren't around, nobody really paid any attention. You know, it's just they go to where the honey is. That's what it was.

C. WALLACE: It all worked out real well.

D. WALLACE: One was Charlie Brandon and one was Oscar Chapman. Which was which?

WILLIAMS: Chapman was Interior.

D. WALLACE: So Brandon was . . .

C. WALLACE: Was the Agriculture.

D. WALLACE: Agriculture, yes. Brandon was the Mormon, and nobody [unintelligible].

C. WALLACE: Because I had an argument with somebody there. Somebody from Denver said, “Oh, Charlie . . .” No, Charlie Brandon was Denver, and he was—

D. WALLACE: So was Oscar Chapman, I think.

C. WALLACE: No, he was Agriculture.

D. WALLACE: Brandon was Agriculture.

C. WALLACE: From Denver, all right, and I saw somebody who I was talking to, and I said, “Yeah, and so was . . .” Who’s the one from Albuquerque?

D. WALLACE: Clint Anderson.

C. WALLACE: Clint Anderson also was. “Oh, well, you mean there was more than one?” I said, “Well, only one at a time, but one was from Albuquerque and one was from Denver.” Well, this Denverite just thought there was nobody but Denver. Some people. Now I can’t even remember their names. [sighing] I don’t know . . .

WILLIAMS: These are a few pictures that apparently Mrs. Wallace had, May Wallace had [see appendix, item 9]. And it says, “Arlington, May 1946.”

D. WALLACE: That’s who they went out and visited.

WILLIAMS: But I'm not sure, I know that's May, and . . . ?

C. WALLACE: George. And I don't know who those other three people are, but we weren't there. Written on the back, "Arlington."

WILLIAMS: And this, I think, is George. At the White House.

C. WALLACE: That's George; that's right. And that's May and Harry and . . . Who's that, David, next to May? I don't know.

D. WALLACE: It sure looks like General Westmoreland, but it's not.

C. WALLACE: But see how much . . . how fatter her face was than it is now.

D. WALLACE: Well, Mother, that's forty years ago.

WILLIAMS: And here's Margaret's family.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, that's Clifton. Oh, that's another thing. [chuckling] Where did Aunt B. see you?

WILLIAMS: Did you have long hair?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, he had kind of longish hair. And she just called me up and said, "Chris, why do you let him have that long hair?" And I said, "Well, Bess, I can't cut his hair."

D. WALLACE: That's Spot.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, that's Spot. She said, "I'm just embarrassed as I can be to introduce him as my nephew with that kind of hair."

D. WALLACE: Well, did you say, "Wait a little"?

C. WALLACE: Wait a minute. So, along comes the funeral of Uncle Harry. Clifton . . .

WILLIAMS: Shoulder-length?

C. WALLACE: William, Harrison . . .

WILLIAMS: The same?

C. WALLACE: And Tommy—Tom—all long hair. She called me up. She said, “I want to apologize to you. I’m sorry I said what I did about David’s hair.” She says, “I have four grandsons, and their hair is a lot worse than David’s ever was.” [chuckling] Oh, she was just horrified at those boys with their long hair.

WILLIAMS: Is that Margaret’s wedding picture, the last one?

D. WALLACE: No, this is a concert picture.

C. WALLACE: Let’s see her.

D. WALLACE: That’s how she had her hair in about 1947. That’s a ’47 hairstyle, and that’s that Spanish mantilla that she wore when she did her concerts.

WILLIAMS: Did you go to any of her concerts?

D. WALLACE: A few of them.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, we went to the one in Denver.

WILLIAMS: Were her parents pleased at her career?

D. WALLACE: I think they tolerated it more than anything.

C. WALLACE: As much as any parent would. If she would be successful and everything go well—

D. WALLACE: This is in the backyard at George’s place with my dog. That’s with Spot.

C. WALLACE: And that’s Margaret with him.

D. WALLACE: What?

C. WALLACE: Is that Margaret with the dog?

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: That's your dog?

C. WALLACE: That was Spot.

D. WALLACE: Spot. That's Spot.

WILLIAMS: The little one you got that grew up to be fat?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, it grew up.

D. WALLACE: Grew up to be a sausage.

C. WALLACE: Well, George took the dog then when we moved to Denver.

D. WALLACE: When we moved to Denver.

WILLIAMS: That's not the dog that gave you the scar?

D. WALLACE: No, that's Mike.

WILLIAMS: Mike had the house in the backyard for a while?

D. WALLACE: Mm-hmm.

WILLIAMS: What happened to Mike?

D. WALLACE: I suppose Margaret got tired of him, so they shot him. [chuckling]
What do you do with a dog you don't want anymore?

WILLIAMS: I think we heard they gave it to someone in the country.

D. WALLACE: Probably.

C. WALLACE: Give it to somebody.

WILLIAMS: That's what they do with dogs around here. [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: Which is a death sentence anyway.

WILLIAMS: Did you go to Margaret's wedding?

D. WALLACE: I did.

C. WALLACE: He did.

WILLIAMS: You were invited, I suppose?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And what did I give her? I went to this antique store that I had gone to in Englewood, a Mrs. Fisher, and I got an antique cordial set—you know, the bottle and the little glasses?—in the prettiest ruby-red color. And that's what we sent her. She was pleased with it.

D. WALLACE: They had all the presents out in the upstairs bedroom.

C. WALLACE: And she was pleased with it.

D. WALLACE: Not the big one—hers, that other one.

C. WALLACE: Where Fred and I were.

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: What other occasions did you come back after the presidency?

C. WALLACE: Well, we came back—

D. WALLACE: Well, when I was driving across the country or something like that, I'd stop off and see Aunt Bess.

C. WALLACE: Well, we came for Grandmother Wallace's funeral. She had it in the house.

D. WALLACE: I didn't.

C. WALLACE: Well, I did.

D. WALLACE: So you did then, huh?

C. WALLACE: And I had Margo upstairs.

D. WALLACE: That was before the Christmas thing then.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: So you came back and then went back to Denver—Albuquerque, it was Albuquerque there—and then went to . . . three weeks later.

C. WALLACE: Well, who took care of you then while I was gone?

D. WALLACE: I don't know. Why would I need anybody to take care of me?

C. WALLACE: Well, you and Marian—

D. WALLACE: At eighteen.

WILLIAMS: It was '52.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, December 2nd in '52.

WILLIAMS: Was the house decorated or full of flowers?

C. WALLACE: For her funeral? They had the coffin in where the piano room is—the parlor—I call it parlor—in front of the fireplace.

WILLIAMS: Parallel to the fireplace?

C. WALLACE: Here's the fireplace. It went right like that. Then, in the living room, from where the secretary was out—isn't there a post here or something?

D. WALLACE: Yeah, in the corner.

C. WALLACE: They had chairs.

WILLIAMS: In the foyer, scattered?

D. WALLACE: The hall.

C. WALLACE: No, straight.

D. WALLACE: In the hall.

C. WALLACE: Straight. In the hall, right through the living room.

WILLIAMS: It's not the foyer?

D. WALLACE: No, you've got to speak the language that everybody understands.

That's the parlor, that's the den, that's the living room, that's the hall.

C. WALLACE: I mean, starting with the hall and going through the living room, they were like this. You understand, don't you?

WILLIAMS: Rows of chairs.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: How many people were there?

C. WALLACE: I don't remember. Not many.

WILLIAMS: And the body was laid out there overnight, or . . . ?

C. WALLACE: Well, it was there. I think they just brought it for the funeral from the—

WILLIAMS: Why wasn't it at a funeral parlor or a church?

C. WALLACE: You know, I have often wondered that, but I think Bess—

D. WALLACE: Well, I think because of all the hoo-ha.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: Was Uncle Harry back for it? I'm sure he would have been.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: He was president still, just barely.

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

C. WALLACE: But all I can remember is her laying out there, and Bess going through there, and she and Fred were standing there and they were really quite upset, both of them.

D. WALLACE: Well, sure.

WILLIAMS: Because they were the two that were closest?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. No, it's just . . . I don't know, it was sad.

D. WALLACE: Well, I think it was an end of an era, in more than the usual sense. Because I mean they were all very . . . I mean, it was fanaticism, nearly.

C. WALLACE: Well, I had Margo with me, because I had her upstairs with somebody.

WILLIAMS: We have an article from the *Denver Post* [see appendix, item 10], I guess, when your husband died, and the Trumans, did they come out?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: She did.

C. WALLACE: He did, too.

D. WALLACE: Well, later. When she got there, I was in the hospital when he died, and you were at the train station meeting her. And then you drove out to the hospital, and I said that Dad had died.

C. WALLACE: Now, may I correct you? I had spent the night there with Dad.

D. WALLACE: Yeah?

C. WALLACE: And I had left you with him and went home for a change of clothes. And I no more than got home when the telephone rang and you said, "Mother, you better come right on back."

D. WALLACE: Yeah, but that's when Aunt B. came out with you.

C. WALLACE: And Aunt B. came out with me. And evidently Aunt B. had been there in the afternoon, because Dad kept saying, "Has Sis come? Has Sis come?" And she was there to see him in the afternoon and talk. They talked together. And then she had gone home, and then I no more than got back when you met me outside and told me Dad had died.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, but I met you outside downstairs.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and then Bess and Marian showed up.

D. WALLACE: Oh, so you came separately then. Because I know we all just sort of left together.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, I was in my car and then Marian came in hers.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, but the story is not accurate.

C. WALLACE: Now, where's Uncle Harry at that time?

D. WALLACE: He hadn't gotten there yet.

C. WALLACE: He hadn't gotten there yet?

D. WALLACE: See, he's met at Stapleton Field Monday night. Well, then we went out and met him later that night.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and then he just stayed one day and left.

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

C. WALLACE: To make arrangements at this end.

D. WALLACE: Well, he didn't do the arrangements.

C. WALLACE: He made the funeral home here. We had to make the arrangement—

D. WALLACE: Harry was in Washington, Mother. You know, he didn't make the arrangements.

C. WALLACE: Yes, he did.

D. WALLACE: Bess got on the phone and made them, and Frank did most of the work here.

C. WALLACE: Well, how come Harry was there for the funeral?

D. WALLACE: Well, he flew here, but I mean, he's not going to sit down and make the funeral arrangements.

WILLIAMS: Why would he have been in Washington?

C. WALLACE: Well, I know he was here. I know he was—

D. WALLACE: Who?

WILLIAMS: Mr. Truman.

C. WALLACE: Listen.

D. WALLACE: No, he was here then; he wasn't in Washington.

C. WALLACE: He was here, and he came—

D. WALLACE: So he flew out from here and then flew back here.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and then he was there for a whole day, because I remember him sitting down in the den there in the library of the house where we were living and talking to some people.

WILLIAMS: It says here you were a private in the army.

D. WALLACE: Uh-huh.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Why?

C. WALLACE: He was drafted. And he worked for Gates Rubber Company in the mornings, and afternoons he worked for Uncle Sam out at Fitzsimmons Hospital, sitting on the information desk from 3:00 until 12:00.

D. WALLACE: That's where I sat and had to figure out what to do with the dead bodies.

C. WALLACE: God, you must have lost your mind.

D. WALLACE: No, it was a good job.

WILLIAMS: Well, it says he died of pneumonia which developed after a heart attack? Was it sudden?

C. WALLACE: Well, he died from a heart attack, and no pneumonia that I know of. He had been in bad health. He had had problems.

WILLIAMS: So it wasn't unexpected?

D. WALLACE: No, his kidneys weren't working.

C. WALLACE: He had been in the hospital off and on for how many months?

D. WALLACE: A long time.

WILLIAMS: And you said earlier that you had a job at the time?

C. WALLACE: I was working at the highway department.

D. WALLACE: Then?

C. WALLACE: Yes, I sure was.

WILLIAMS: Well, you hadn't always worked outside of the house?

D. WALLACE: Never, till we went back to Denver in '55.

WILLIAMS: From Albuquerque. And you continued to work for the highway department?

C. WALLACE: For almost twenty years. If it had been now, I could have worked my full twenty years, but in those days you had to quit at sixty-five, and mine was just about eighteen.

WILLIAMS: How much contact did you have with the Trumans after that when they were retired?

D. WALLACE: A good deal. A good deal.

C. WALLACE: Always, yeah.

WILLIAMS: How much would you come and see them, or would they come to see you?

C. WALLACE: It was mostly letters.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, less and less, because they were getting older and older.

WILLIAMS: Did anyone come out for the dedication of the Truman Library?

D. WALLACE: I did. I was at Fort Chaffey, Arkansas, and came up.

WILLIAMS: Were you like the delegate of the family?

D. WALLACE: Not specifically. I just came up.

C. WALLACE: The only time I came out here was for the postage stamp.

WILLIAMS: In '73?

D. WALLACE: Yeah, we talked before about that.

WILLIAMS: That was after he died.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: A year. The birthday after his death.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and I stayed down at May's. Then I stayed with Aunt B. Maybe I stayed with her that trip.

WILLIAMS: Did you come out for Frank's funeral and Natalie's funeral and George's funeral?

C. WALLACE: No. No, I was working. I couldn't.

WILLIAMS: Natalie and Frank and George all seemed to die fairly young, too.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Is there any particular reason? George, it says, was seventy-one.

C. WALLACE: Well, Natalie died, and Frank only lasted a few months after she died. And he died on August the 12th, on Margo's birth date.

D. WALLACE: Really?

C. WALLACE: But I can't remember the year. I have it written in that book.

D. WALLACE: Sixty.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. I don't know. I think he had emphysema, don't you?

D. WALLACE: Sure he did.

C. WALLACE: Because he smoked like a chimney.

D. WALLACE: He may have had lung cancer, for all we know.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. I don't know.

WILLIAMS: Was it one of these situations where one dies and then the other one just gives up?

D. WALLACE: That's exactly what happened.

C. WALLACE: It just seemed like that, because he and Natalie were so close and so together.

WILLIAMS: What was Frank like? We haven't described him.

C. WALLACE: Frank?

WILLIAMS: As a person?

D. WALLACE: Oh, charming, wonderful.

C. WALLACE: He was nice. He was real good to everybody. I liked Frank. And I liked Natalie. In fact, I liked them all.

WILLIAMS: Was Natalie outgoing or quiet?

C. WALLACE: She was kind of quiet, retiring. May was the very outgoing one.

WILLIAMS: You said earlier that they were almost opposite, May and Natalie.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Is that what you meant?

C. WALLACE: Mm-hmm. Natalie was always very pleasant to everybody, but she wasn't full of fun like May. I mean, like Margaret would go down to May and say, "Come on, Boofie, let's get an ice cream soda," and she'd be right with her.

D. WALLACE: Natalie wouldn't do that.

C. WALLACE: Well, she might. You never know.

WILLIAMS: Was that the Presbyterian in her?

D. WALLACE: Yeah, she was very Presbyterian.

WILLIAMS: What about George? What was he like as an uncle and brother-in-law?

D. WALLACE: Erratic. You know, basically because of all the drinking. What did he officially die of?

WILLIAMS: He had been in the hospital seven . . . Let's see, it doesn't say.

D. WALLACE: It was cirrhosis, I think.

C. WALLACE: No, no.

WILLIAMS: It says, "He had been ill since December and was in the hospital several times." [see appendix, item 11] He died in May.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, and that's when they had ropes all around the house so he could follow the ropes from the bed clear into the bathroom. He was in terrible shape, you know, for a long time.

C. WALLACE: What was it he had?

WILLIAMS: Well, I talk to people, and I'll ask about May and George, and they'll say . . . usually they'll say something like, "Well, May had a hard life," and that's about all they say.

C. WALLACE: Well, she had her problems, too. What is it? What is sleeping sickness called?

D. WALLACE: Encephalitis.

C. WALLACE: That's what he had.

D. WALLACE: Really?

C. WALLACE: I think so.

D. WALLACE: There are no African tsetse flies around here. I mean, how do you get it?

C. WALLACE: Well, maybe I'm wrong.

D. WALLACE: Well, doesn't it have a reason in there? Well, there's got to be a reason on the death certificate, doesn't there?

WILLIAMS: Well, in the *Examiner* they might have said. This is the *Kansas City Times*.

D. WALLACE: I think it's highly unlikely they'd say anything in the *Examiner*, considering the fact of who owned it.

WILLIAMS: Right. That's another thing they said, that the only thing Colonel Southern would cover up was if George got in trouble somehow—as if there were things to cover up. You really haven't described Bess as a sister-in-law.

C. WALLACE: Perfect. I think she was.

D. WALLACE: Well, she was an amazing person.

C. WALLACE: She was an amazing person. I was very, very fond of her, and she couldn't do enough for anybody. She did as much as she could. And

that was not enough to suit her, I guess. I think she was a . . . I don't know, I was very fond of her. That's all I can say. She was so good to everybody.

WILLIAMS: Did she take after her mother that way, or just—

D. WALLACE: I think so, but in a more practical way. Because Grandmother was anything but practical, and Bess was very practical and down-to-earth. And I think that that's the main difference. But their personalities were very similar.

WILLIAMS: Would it be safe to say that her hobby was her family, just like they said about Madge Wallace?

D. WALLACE: Well, in later years certainly. I think her hobby was more her husband than her family. But she didn't let the family go. I mean, certainly not the extended family. I mean, if anybody needed help, she was there. But, you know, I think as devoted as she was to Margaret, I think if Harry needed something done, that's what . . . That's who she was really devoted to.

WILLIAMS: What happened when he died?

D. WALLACE: She just went downhill, for a long, long twilight. Talked to Margaret every day or every other day, something like that. Very close. And saw her friends here less and less and less and less. It was just a very long, slow process. There didn't seem to be any other way of doing it, you know. That's the way it happened.

WILLIAMS: Did you speak to her on the phone through the years?

C. WALLACE: Mm-hmm, lots of times, yeah.

WILLIAMS: What would you talk about?

C. WALLACE: Oh, she would ask how the children were, and what's new and—

D. WALLACE: Just sort of “the price of Tide” conversations, you know, but not quite that. You know, what are they doing? What's going on?

WILLIAMS: Exchange grandmother stories?

C. WALLACE: Well, sort of. You know, “Where's Marg? How's she getting along?” Just family conversation.

WILLIAMS: Did your son or the other of your grandchildren have any contact with Margaret's children?

C. WALLACE: No, not whatever.

D. WALLACE: No, none.

WILLIAMS: You don't have family reunions?

C. WALLACE: No.

D. WALLACE: No, there's absolutely nothing.

WILLIAMS: Is that because of distance?

C. WALLACE: No, I don't think Margaret . . .

D. WALLACE: I think she opted not to maintain a family situation.

C. WALLACE: I don't know why, but . . .

D. WALLACE: Well, I can understand why. I mean, it's New York, and after the many years that she spent in the family situation, I think there's nothing I'd rather do than get the hell out of it, you know? I really believe that, and I don't fault her for it at all. You know, she had it in spades! No, she

had her own family, and then she had . . . you know, four boys hitting teenage practically one after another. No, I recognize the story line.

WILLIAMS: You haven't described your Uncle Harry as an uncle.

D. WALLACE: Oh, friendly, interested, busy, you know, always there, but very much separate from the grandmother relationship with me, you know, and he was very much off on his own.

WILLIAMS: Is it fair to compare him to your other uncles?

C. WALLACE: He wasn't the same type person.

D. WALLACE: No, he wasn't the same type at all, not as . . . Well, I mean, how could he be? I mean, with Uncle Frank we'd go out on drives in the evening and things like that. You couldn't do that with him because he wasn't here in the evening, or he would be on the telephone, or he'd be working.

C. WALLACE: Oh, that telephone would ring constantly all the time.

D. WALLACE: Well, I'm the one who answered the phone when the Korean War got started. Because I was sitting in the parlor and the phone rang, and I went over and grabbed it, and it was Dean Acheson.

WILLIAMS: Margaret said she answered the phone.

D. WALLACE: Wrong.

C. WALLACE: Oh, well.

D. WALLACE: Because Dad was here. My father and I were here, and he then went on the plane, which I don't think was still the *Sacred Cow* then. It may have been the *Columbine*. Yeah, it could have been the *Columbine*.

Flew back to Washington with him.

[End #4397; Begin #4398]

WILLIAMS: This is the continuation of the interview with Christine Wallace and David Wallace. We're in the basement of the Gates-Wallace-Truman home at 219 North Delaware in Independence, on the evening of August 26, 1991. Before we go upstairs, I was wondering what you recall about the basement.

C. WALLACE: Well, it certainly has changed. I mean, we had the big copper . . . Don't they have the burners over there? There were two burners?

D. WALLACE: No, they're not there.

WILLIAMS: Nothing historic is here.

C. WALLACE: And a washtub and all that, a washing facility, are not here.

WILLIAMS: That was along the north wall here?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, right along the wall.

WILLIAMS: By the window.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. Well, no, that copper was more back there a little bit. See? Right in there.

WILLIAMS: To the west of the window.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Did you go back in the back of the basement?

C. WALLACE: No, I don't like it back there. It looks dark and scary.

WILLIAMS: Did you go back there, playing?

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: To explore?

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: What was back there?

D. WALLACE: Nothing now, but it was just piles of furniture and all kinds of crap back there before. The biggest change, of course, that I remember—and I know it was done earlier—is the furnace. That great big old furnace is gone.

C. WALLACE: I don't even remember that, but . . .

WILLIAMS: When you were here, you had an icebox upstairs. Was there any kind of—

C. WALLACE: There was a deep-freeze right here.

D. WALLACE: No, not then. It hadn't been invented when we were here.

C. WALLACE: Well, when we used to come back and so forth.

D. WALLACE: He said when we were living here.

C. WALLACE: Oh.

WILLIAMS: But later on?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, later on.

WILLIAMS: Here, along the south wall where we have the work table.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, that's right. That's where it was kept.

D. WALLACE: It was a top-loading deep-freeze about six feet long.

WILLIAMS: So who would be down here in the basement most often?

D. WALLACE: Vietta.

C. WALLACE: Well, Vietta, and whoever was going to do some wash, washing. And

as I say, when I was here, I was down here using the big copper tub to do diapers. And that was down there.

WILLIAMS: Do you know of any reason that people would go back beyond the furnace into the real back part of the basement?

C. WALLACE: Not unless they had stored things back there and wanted to go back and see what was there.

D. WALLACE: But that was so rarely done. I mean things, I'm sure, piled up there for fifty years and nobody ever saw them.

C. WALLACE: Nobody came down here much, that I knew.

WILLIAMS: When you lived here, was it the coal furnace?

C. WALLACE: No, I don't remember a coal furnace. Because you have to take clinkers out if you have a coal furnace.

D. WALLACE: There was no coal furnace then.

C. WALLACE: And there was nobody here to take clinkers out.

WILLIAMS: So that was already gone.

C. WALLACE: Mm-hmm.

D. WALLACE: No, the furnace that was here was the old furnace with the asbestos covering around it and all that.

C. WALLACE: But no coal.

D. WALLACE: Was it coal or was it gas?

C. WALLACE: It was gas.

WILLIAMS: It was coal originally and converted in the thirties, I think.

D. WALLACE: Converted.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: So it was gas by then.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: But it was the original furnace.

WILLIAMS: But the coal cellar was way in the back, and the chute came—

C. WALLACE: Yeah, but by the time I was here in the house, it was gas.

WILLIAMS: They said, I think, one of Harry's jobs early on was to feed the furnace.

D. WALLACE: To feed the furnace.

C. WALLACE: And take the clinkers out?

WILLIAMS: What are clinkers?

D. WALLACE: Was there a heater here, Mother? Was there a stove here?

C. WALLACE: What are clinkers? They're things that—

D. WALLACE: When the coal burns, it's the residue. And it turns into like lava rock around the flame, and you've got to take it out every day or it'll stifle the flame. Was there a thing there?

C. WALLACE: I don't remember. If it was, it's been taken out.

D. WALLACE: You've got to be real careful on this, Mother.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

[sound of footsteps ascending the stairs]

D. WALLACE: That's an ugly green paint.

C. WALLACE: God, it's still painted green.

WILLIAMS: What was the kitchen color when you lived here?

C. WALLACE: The same color it's in now, green.

WILLIAMS: It was green way back in the thirties?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And that's the door that goes up to the back room. The stove's in the same place. Those are new. We didn't have those over there, that I remember. Now, this is where the old wood stove was, was right here.

WILLIAMS: Where the little gas stove is.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. The table's in the same place.

WILLIAMS: You wouldn't cook on that stove? It was just for heat?

C. WALLACE: It was for heat, and then, as I told you about the fruitcakes, remember?

WILLIAMS: I don't think we had that on tape. Could you just tell that a little bit?

C. WALLACE: Well, as I remember, there was an old wood stove here, and that's the stove that kept the kitchen warm. At Christmas time Mrs. Wallace would always make fruitcakes, and she had little loaf pans. Anyway, she covered the . . . I'm out of breath. She covered the table in the dining room with . . . oh, an old tablecloth or something, and that's where David, Marian, and myself would help her take like the citron and the cherries and dates and nuts and put them in flour, and then she'd make her batter and so forth and put the . . . in these little pans. And she'd steam them. But she didn't steam them in the regular cook stove. On this wood stove she had a metal . . . oh, a steamer. It was about so big, and she put them in there.

WILLIAMS: About a foot high?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, about like that, and she put these little . . . They were only little

pans about so big—fruitcakes you generally make small—and put the batter in those in this steamer and put it on the wood stove, and that's how she cooked them.

WILLIAMS: Would she give those fruitcakes away?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, for Christmas.

WILLIAMS: To friends, family?

C. WALLACE: Friends or family, whoever wanted one, and she kept a few for herself, but . . . And then the old refrigerator was there.

WILLIAMS: Where the new refrigerator is.

C. WALLACE: With a pan under it that had to be emptied every so often. [chuckling] Well, every morning. Every night. Fred was supposed to do it every night.

WILLIAMS: And the iceman would deliver ice?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: How would they know how much to deliver?

C. WALLACE: I think they had a card that they put in the window, didn't they?

D. WALLACE: Fifty pounds every two days. This was all added new. The sink was different.

C. WALLACE: This was all new.

D. WALLACE: The sink did not have the cabinets underneath it.

WILLIAMS: What was it? Just a . . .

D. WALLACE: It was a top like that with a deep part in it.

C. WALLACE: It wasn't a double sink like it is now.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, I know. And it was all one.

WILLIAMS: I see. So it was just open?

D. WALLACE: And it was just slightly different. No, the tabletop was different. There always used to be oilcloth tacked over the top of the tablecloth on the table, before that junk was put on the top.

WILLIAMS: But this is the same furniture?

D. WALLACE: The table, that's the same. I really cannot believe that you're tagging old boxes of wax paper.

WILLIAMS: We have everything.

D. WALLACE: I mean, unbelievable.

WILLIAMS: Let me turn the light on in the pantry here.

C. WALLACE: Well, this is just the same. Just the same. May I open?

WILLIAMS: Mm-hmm. They stick, some of them.

C. WALLACE: Well, that's where they kept their dishes and so forth, yeah.

WILLIAMS: Probably some of the same dishes.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: From the looks of it. Now, did you have your own dishes when you were here? Did you take those with you?

C. WALLACE: Oh, I kept them packed away. Grandmother Wallace had enough dishes, and all the cooking stuff was all around, and the pans were right in through here.

WILLIAMS: Just like this, kind of on the floor and shelves and . . .?

C. WALLACE: Well, yeah, piled up. Yeah, it was just about the same. I don't

remember any wallpaper like that—I think it was all just painted—and this was sort of like it used to be. You need linoleum.

WILLIAMS: Was this table used for—

C. WALLACE: We didn't have a table here, did we?

D. WALLACE: No, it was never there. The chairs are the same.

C. WALLACE: The chairs are the same. The only table we had was the one over there.

WILLIAMS: Was it always against the wall? Just like that?

C. WALLACE: Just that same way. The same way.

WILLIAMS: How could more than three people eat?

C. WALLACE: Nobody . . . three people didn't eat there.

D. WALLACE: We ate in the dining room then.

C. WALLACE: They ate in the dining room. We always ate in the dining room. Fred would—

D. WALLACE: Not breakfast.

C. WALLACE: Fred would come down, and his mother had made the oatmeal and the coffee, and he'd sit there at that end and drink coffee and eat his oatmeal.

WILLIAMS: On the east end.

C. WALLACE: And there wouldn't be anybody else. Nobody else was up. And then when Harry got up, he ate in the dining room, and Bess would make his breakfast and serve him in there. Grandmother Wallace, I don't know where she ate. She probably had eaten before any of us were up, I think.

D. WALLACE: She sat at the end of the dining room table where she always did and ate there.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. For breakfast?

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

C. WALLACE: I don't remember that.

WILLIAMS: Well, you said, I think, in the car the order of when people got up. Madge was first?

D. WALLACE: Well, that's interesting, yeah.

C. WALLACE: Grandmother Wallace always got up first and prepared the coffee, made the coffee and made the oatmeal. Then generally the next one up was Fred, and he'd come down, drink his coffee and eat his oatmeal there at the end of the table. And then everybody trailed, came down as they woke up. And I guess Harry was the next one, and Bess would fix his, and sometimes I'd see her plug in an iron and put up the ironing board and iron a shirt for Uncle Harry.

WILLIAMS: There's an ironing board back behind the door there.

C. WALLACE: Well, it was right here, and that's where she ironed.

WILLIAMS: Right here, across . . .?

D. WALLACE: Sticking out at an angle.

C. WALLACE: Just like this.

WILLIAMS: From the south wall.

C. WALLACE: Here's the shirt, you know, like this. Sometimes I'd have to do one for Fred, and I always scorched it. They always wore white shirts, and I

could *never* iron a white shirt, not even for this one.

WILLIAMS: You had to use starch and all that?

C. WALLACE: Well, no, just plain. I never used any starch.

WILLIAMS: Before it gets too dark, can we go out on the back porch?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: That way?

WILLIAMS: We have to go this way. Would you use that door most often?

C. WALLACE: Always.

WILLIAMS: The same door?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, this was all just a narrow little porch, you know, when we lived here.

D. WALLACE: Well, he's talking about the door.

WILLIAMS: See this? The dark gray carpet is what we have visitors walk on. I was telling you about that.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Now, this doorway here, I understand—

C. WALLACE: Was not there. There was no door there.

D. WALLACE: There was a door and a stairway.

WILLIAMS: Just a staircase down?

D. WALLACE: This was the end of the porch right here when we lived here. All they did was just extend it out from here.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, just about from here out.

D. WALLACE: Well, from the post.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, but this was all new—this.

D. WALLACE: The color of the floor has always been the same.

C. WALLACE: And it was not screened.

WILLIAMS: No. But there was a railing just like down here?

C. WALLACE: A railing. A railing went right through here and across there.

WILLIAMS: And then there was the staircase down into the yard?

C. WALLACE: I don't remember. I don't think there was—

D. WALLACE: When I was here there was a staircase down.

WILLIAMS: And the pergola was out this way?

C. WALLACE: And the pergola was right out there.

D. WALLACE: Right on the brick . . . the brick thing. That's exactly where it was.

WILLIAMS: So how often would you sit out on the back porch?

C. WALLACE: Oh, every evening when it was hot and the mosquitoes weren't too bad.

WILLIAMS: Is this the porch that you used most?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, always this porch.

WILLIAMS: Did you ever sit on the front porch or the side porches?

C. WALLACE: Never, never, never.

WILLIAMS: Did anyone, like Mrs. Wallace?

C. WALLACE: No.

D. WALLACE: Never.

C. WALLACE: She would always sit here on this porch, and it was generally more over here by the kitchen door.

WILLIAMS: And these are the grapes?

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

C. WALLACE: And then that little area there, you see where the stairway goes down and there's a post? Well, take it straight across. Fred had somebody screen in that little area there for this one to play in before we put him out in the backyard.

WILLIAMS: Screen in? You mean like—

D. WALLACE: The corner.

WILLIAMS: Like this?

C. WALLACE: That corner.

D. WALLACE: A six-by-six corner there.

WILLIAMS: To the west of the—

D. WALLACE: The dining room door.

WILLIAMS: —south kitchen door.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And Grandmother generally had a chair right along the side there, and she'd sit there. And then Natalie'd come up and talk, and she'd sit on the steps and either—

D. WALLACE: A lot of sitting on the steps, [unintelligible] right there.

WILLIAMS: There are a lot of pictures of—

C. WALLACE: She would either eat her lunch of shredded wheat, or she would have beans . . . whatever they do to beans, and peas, whatever they do to peas.

WILLIAMS: Snap them?

C. WALLACE: Mm-hmm.

WILLIAMS: This is Madge or Natalie that had shredded wheat?

C. WALLACE: Natalie. Natalie. Now, can we walk out here?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

C. WALLACE: Well, I didn't see any gray carpets.

WILLIAMS: Well, this is where the tours begin. You don't worry about those.

C. WALLACE: Now this is all the only porch we had, plus . . . and it went all the way around. And here's where Grandmother would sit, and then that screened-in was right through here and through here.

WILLIAMS: So just this west end of the—

C. WALLACE: Yeah. So he came to it through the dining room door.

WILLIAMS: I see. And it went all the way up and around?

C. WALLACE: All the way up it was screened, yes.

WILLIAMS: And Madge Wallace sat to the east of the door here.

C. WALLACE: Would generally sit here. And Natalie would come and sit here. David, we didn't have railings here, did we?

D. WALLACE: Where?

WILLIAMS: These iron ones.

C. WALLACE: These iron railings.

D. WALLACE: No, we had wooden railings.

C. WALLACE: Wood railings, yeah. And we generally . . . well, like when Frank Wallace would come, everybody went up that entryway.

WILLIAMS: Into where the hat and coat under the steps . . .

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and that's where the telephone was downstairs.

WILLIAMS: How would you know to use that doorway instead of this doorway?

C. WALLACE: Well, habit. It was habit.

WILLIAMS: Any time of day difference?

C. WALLACE: No, no.

D. WALLACE: That was rarely used. This is the door everybody used. This is the door I used—

C. WALLACE: Yeah, but when Frank Wallace came to see Grandmother at night, he always came in that door.

D. WALLACE: Right.

WILLIAMS: Is that because she would have been in—

C. WALLACE: A right straight shot into the living room.

WILLIAMS: I don't suppose they knocked, or they had to ring the bell?

C. WALLACE: Oh, no, no, everybody—

D. WALLACE: No, everything was open. The dining room door was rarely, rarely used, if ever.

WILLIAMS: This one here?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: Except to put me out in that little screened area, the cage.

C. WALLACE: [chuckling] And then from that he went down to the bigger area in the backyard that was fenced in. And that was in that open area right in there. And then you go back a little bit, and that's where the big tree was.

WILLIAMS: Out there where the Secret Service house . . . hut.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And that's where Margaret had her trapeze, and then you saw the picture of Marian in her swing. It must have been a good, low limb. See, those all had limbs that wouldn't be . . .

WILLIAMS: They're not very thick.

C. WALLACE: Well, and they aren't low enough.

WILLIAMS: Was this wire up here? Did you ever use it for like a clothesline or anything?

C. WALLACE: No, never. It was just—

WILLIAMS: So it must have been just for the grapes to crawl on.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. Well, Grandmother Wallace used to have another kind of thing, a flower that . . . Oh, it was this one.

WILLIAMS: Like a trellis or something?

C. WALLACE: This one would bloom.

WILLIAMS: I think these are rose . . .

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And those . . . Oh, we put those in! Fred and I put those in.

WILLIAMS: The spirea out here?

C. WALLACE: The spirea, yeah.

WILLIAMS: Around the shingle oak? Why did you do that?

C. WALLACE: To cover that slope, and it never did have pretty grass. I don't know, something—

D. WALLACE: No, because the tree would keep the grass from growing a lot.

WILLIAMS: And that's while you were living here?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And she had some morning glories. Grandmother Wallace had

morning glories that would grow along here.

WILLIAMS: On the porch railing and down?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: I guess those grow up from . . .

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: They climb?

C. WALLACE: Well, yeah, but I don't . . . It was just like this. It's just that she'd come and take and hang it over somewhere. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: Besides being brown, does the yard look . . .

C. WALLACE: It's about the same.

WILLIAMS: And the fence is there, of course.

C. WALLACE: We didn't have that fence, of course, you see.

D. WALLACE: Well, no, there are more bushes over there along the driveway.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and you see how those girls would go straight across, and that wall to that house over there was not there. It was open backyards.

WILLIAMS: So people really didn't have fences between their yards.

C. WALLACE: Not here, no. And then you could see how we would look all the way down to May and George's and Frank and Natalie's. And generally they'd sit right down in here in the summertime.

WILLIAMS: Near the driveway?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, right . . . I can remember, I think we have pictures of them sitting right down in here.

D. WALLACE: The bushes along Van Horn over there were much bigger at the time.

And you must understand the driveway was gravel.

WILLIAMS: Right. Are the bushes along the fence now, they're about my height.

That's more the thickness—

D. WALLACE: Right, yeah.

WILLIAMS: And was that to keep privacy, or just because . . .

D. WALLACE: Some privacy, yeah.

C. WALLACE: But in those days people didn't come looking at us.

D. WALLACE: And the peonies were there where the roses are.

C. WALLACE: Oh, those peonies were so pretty.

WILLIAMS: So the peonies extended—

C. WALLACE: All along, on both sides.

D. WALLACE: All the way along.

C. WALLACE: But this is where they'd have their . . . you know, those patio-type furniture, with the—

WILLIAMS: Kind of like this, but . . .

C. WALLACE: Well, not like . . .

D. WALLACE: No, they were Adirondack chairs.

C. WALLACE: It was mostly the canvas chairs, you know.

WILLIAMS: Would they have umbrellas and that sort—

C. WALLACE: No, no, no. No, just canvas chairs.

WILLIAMS: Was there always a sidewalk like this one here?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: And it went down to gravel?

D. WALLACE: Went down to gravel.

WILLIAMS: And then just stopped.

D. WALLACE: And just stopped, and then picked up with the steppingstones, which is what we called them, even though they weren't stones.

WILLIAMS: And they'd connect all the back doors?

D. WALLACE: The back doors.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and then you can see where you went to May's and then to Frank's. And of course there was no fence over there.

WILLIAMS: I think I'm tangled up somehow.

C. WALLACE: You know, David, we had that table here when we were here.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, that's an original table.

WILLIAMS: The south kind of . . . Is that a gate-leg, what you call a gate-leg?

D. WALLACE: Yeah, that was a gate-leg table. It was painted white and used out here.

WILLIAMS: Now, when you were here, did they have the flowers and things in the boxes?

D. WALLACE: No, they came after the White House. That was all done after '52, and when this was added on, and it was the same aluminum boxes.

C. WALLACE: And we didn't have those there.

D. WALLACE: These are the same ones that have been here all along. And it was always geraniums like that, and not this stuff.

WILLIAMS: So were there just canvas chairs like this up here on the porch?

C. WALLACE: Not like those, but—

D. WALLACE: No, no . . . You mean, back in the old days?

WILLIAMS: Mm-hmm.

D. WALLACE: Oh, I don't know what was there then.

C. WALLACE: Grandmother had a . . . I think a wooden chair. Didn't she have sort of a wooden seat?

D. WALLACE: The Adirondack chairs.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Would they bring the furniture in in the wintertime, put it under the porch or in the basement or in the garage?

D. WALLACE: A lot of stuff was put . . . But you know this porch facade was much different then down below than it is now.

WILLIAMS: Right. Was it closed off?

D. WALLACE: Closed off.

WILLIAMS: With . . .

D. WALLACE: Slats.

WILLIAMS: Lattice?

D. WALLACE: Slats. Like wide slats.

C. WALLACE: I don't remember them taking the furniture in. There wasn't that much furniture out there.

D. WALLACE: And it had a door that opened that was the same slat with a latch.

C. WALLACE: Now, that furniture down there, they would take in.

D. WALLACE: No, this stuff just stayed out here.

C. WALLACE: But the chair that Grandmother Wallace had, I think it stayed there all year round.

WILLIAMS: So it was an all-weather chair.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Okay. So there was latticework all the way around, and then a doorway, so you could get through into the basement.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: I don't remember. I don't think that the roof was white, that the roof of the porch was white.

C. WALLACE: No, it wasn't.

D. WALLACE: I think it was the same color as the floor. It was gray.

C. WALLACE: I think it was gray, yeah.

WILLIAMS: Do you recall, did they have awnings or something hanging up? There are hooks.

C. WALLACE: No, no. No awnings.

D. WALLACE: These hooks were for rolls of canvas that, after all this was done, that they could raise and lower. I'm sure it was canvas, you know.

C. WALLACE: But not when we lived here. We had nothing up there.

D. WALLACE: No, this is after '51. Mother, this was all put on in '52 and '53.

C. WALLACE: All we had was a railing.

WILLIAMS: And you wouldn't have any awnings out here. And those were just on the windows?

C. WALLACE: Nobody was interested in us then. I mean, all this came when—

D. WALLACE: It was done to stop the sun. It had nothing to do with privacy.

C. WALLACE: Well, when people wanted to look at Harry, that's when they had to do

all this. Nothing like that fan. But I think after they put this on they sat out here often, and then they . . . I think that was to kind of . . . privacy. See how they'd grow up? And people would stand outside the fence and gaze in.

WILLIAMS: They're cut back a bit too much now, but . . .

C. WALLACE: Yeah. But those are nice there. Now, how do we go from here?

WILLIAMS: We should go back the way we came.

C. WALLACE: Okay.

WILLIAMS: When you would come to visit, would you sit out here?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, or out in the yard.

WILLIAMS: Just the same as before?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Nothing had really changed?

C. WALLACE: Nothing.

WILLIAMS: Except the porch was a little bigger?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And lots of times when Bess—

D. WALLACE: This is where we put all the crap: sit it on the stairs.

C. WALLACE: Bess and Harry would eat lots of times out there after they were here.

You see, it was served right through—

WILLIAMS: Lunch, dinner, and breakfast? All?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Did people not use this stairway if you were piling stuff up on it?

Could you even get—

D. WALLACE: You just sort of sneaked through it.

C. WALLACE: Well, you sort of stepped over it or picked it up and carried it upstairs.
It was put there to go upstairs when somebody was going.

D. WALLACE: And that room was totally unheated.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, unheated.

WILLIAMS: It still is, basically.

D. WALLACE: It was frigid.

WILLIAMS: This has been covered up.

C. WALLACE: What is that? Is something leaking up there?

WILLIAMS: We had a leak earlier this year. It's going to be fixed soon.

D. WALLACE: [In the butler's pantry] Are these openable?

WILLIAMS: Yes. They may buzz, but we can fix that.

D. WALLACE: That's not Grandmother's, is it?

C. WALLACE: Huh-uh. That might be Aunt B.'s.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, that probably was. Oh, yeah, I remember that, the gas thing.

C. WALLACE: Remember this?

D. WALLACE: Well, yeah, it was somewhere.

WILLIAMS: That was the presidential gift.

D. WALLACE: Okay, well, that came much later.

WILLIAMS: Here's the telephone that we had.

D. WALLACE: There was no phone in here.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, there was no phone here.

WILLIAMS: 252-7107.

C. WALLACE: [In the dining room] Well, I told you where the phone was. Now, we had our buffet here.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, where yours is. And the breakfront there.

WILLIAMS: Where this is.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, just like they have there. And a little table over there.

D. WALLACE: And your dining room chairs were nearly identical to these.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: So they had a Duncan Phyfe . . .

D. WALLACE: This was Grandmother's tea service here. That picture was always hanging there.

C. WALLACE: I beg your pardon. That was not Grandmother's tea service.

D. WALLACE: Whose was it?

C. WALLACE: It was Aunt B.'s.

D. WALLACE: Oh. And this is where they always sat in the wintertime.

WILLIAMS: Where what sat, the tea set?

C. WALLACE: Oh, no. There was a great big silver thing—remember David?—that was over on this table? It was sort of a strange . . .

WILLIAMS: That's probably it. We had it replated.

C. WALLACE: No, that's not it.

D. WALLACE: Is that it?

C. WALLACE: No, I have it.

WILLIAMS: You have it?

D. WALLACE: Oh, no, the samovar.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Oh, okay.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, that was the samovar.

WILLIAMS: Where was this thing?

C. WALLACE: I don't know.

D. WALLACE: It was in Washington in their apartment.

C. WALLACE: But it came back later. We had nothing like that there.

WILLIAMS: The plants weren't in the window?

C. WALLACE: No.

WILLIAMS: Did you have the same style of Duncan Phyfe furniture?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, except my table legs were different, David. They went in the middle more like this.

D. WALLACE: They were real Duncan Phyfe.

WILLIAMS: They were not these double legs?

C. WALLACE: Not the—

D. WALLACE: I have a feeling this is Natalie's silver.

C. WALLACE: She had to always have the same kind of silver as Aunt B. Aunt B. had two sets of Gorham Fairfax.

D. WALLACE: Fairfax, yes. That's what this is.

C. WALLACE: And she had that. And then on, their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, Uncle Harry gave Aunt B. a complete set of Fairfax, another one, so there were two sets. That picture always has been there.

WILLIAMS: Did you have the candelabras, and all of that looks just—

C. WALLACE: No, we didn't have those.

WILLIAMS: Do you know where they would have come from?

C. WALLACE: Those were Aunt B.'s—had to be. And that was Aunt B.'s tea service.

D. WALLACE: And here was all of your green crystal and your blue crystal in here, remember?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: Which I have the blue, and I don't know where the green is, probably Margo.

WILLIAMS: Now, we've been told that when the Trumans were here they'd eat dinner in here every night.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, we did.

WILLIAMS: When Mrs. Wallace was alive.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, Mrs. Wallace sat down there, and when Harry was here, he sat here.

WILLIAMS: Why would he sit up here and not one of . . . like Fred or—

C. WALLACE: Because . . . Well, it was partly their home, too. I don't know, maybe seniority or something.

WILLIAMS: Just because he was older?

C. WALLACE: I don't know, but he always sat here. Bess sat there. Margaret sat there.

WILLIAMS: Okay, let me say this on the tape. Bess sat on the east side next to Harry, Margaret sat on the east side next to Grandmother Wallace.

D. WALLACE: You understand the table is totally different. The other table has two central posts and not these corner legs.

C. WALLACE: David, look over there in that corner.

D. WALLACE: Oh, there it. Now you know where it is.

C. WALLACE: [chuckling] Yeah, that's the youth chair. Margaret used it; David used it; Marian used it.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, that's it.

WILLIAMS: And who sat on the west side?

C. WALLACE: I sat on the west—

WILLIAMS: Next to Harry.

C. WALLACE: And if Harry was here, generally Fred sat by his mother, and I sat here, and if the children were eating down here, well, David generally would sit between us.

D. WALLACE: Remember?

WILLIAMS: A cruet set?

D. WALLACE: The cruet set, Grandmother's?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: That was Madge's?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, that was Grandmother Wallace's.

WILLIAMS: What was dinnertime like? Quiet?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, we talked.

WILLIAMS: Boisterous?

C. WALLACE: No, but we all had a nice visit and talked.

D. WALLACE: It wasn't like they hadn't been sitting around together all day long cooking it.

C. WALLACE: Well, Uncle Harry sat here. When he was here, he served. And when Uncle Harry wasn't here . . . What's the matter? When Uncle Harry wasn't here, Fred sat here.

WILLIAMS: At the head?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Was this considered the head of the table?

C. WALLACE: No, Grandmother Wallace was the head of the table.

WILLIAMS: She always sat down by the kitchen?

C. WALLACE: Always by there. That's the proper place for her to sit. And then Vietta would bring and lay the . . . if we were having meat or fish or something, right here, and then that was served by whoever was sitting here.

WILLIAMS: A man.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. It was either Uncle Harry or Fred. And then Vietta would pass around the potatoes or the vegetable and so forth.

WILLIAMS: So she would come around with the dish and you'd take out what you wanted.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Okay. As a child what was it like? Do you remember? Were you expected to be quiet?

D. WALLACE: No, not particularly.

C. WALLACE: It wasn't boisterous, but it was just nice.

WILLIAMS: Margaret says that Grandmother Wallace believed that children were to

be seen and not heard at dinnertime. Did you ever hear that?

C. WALLACE: I never heard that.

D. WALLACE: Never.

WILLIAMS: So she wasn't giving you stern looks during dinnertime?

D. WALLACE: No.

C. WALLACE: No, but David, when he was old enough to sit in that chair and behave himself, he sat down here.

D. WALLACE: In the middle.

C. WALLACE: And then when Marian was kind of small, if I had help, she would be fed upstairs. And if I didn't, why, we just made room for her in here, too.

WILLIAMS: So Vietta would bring out each course and serve, and then go back?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and if the children were down here, why, I'd have their plate in front of me, too, and I'd serve the potatoes because they couldn't serve themselves, and the vegetable and so forth.

WILLIAMS: Did you have to clean up, change clothes for dinner?

C. WALLACE: No, but everybody . . . Well, generally Bess and Grandmother Wallace—

D. WALLACE: She changed for dinner.

C. WALLACE: We always wore house dresses in the morning. And then after lunch, Grandmother Wallace would go in her room, close her door, and she'd bathe and so forth and put on a little afternoon dress. And Bess would do the same. She'd go upstairs and rest, probably, or if she was going

to Kansas City, she of course had on a suit or something that would be appropriate to wear. As a rule, in the summertime the men would eat their dinner in their white shirts or whatever. It was too hot to wear a jacket.

WILLIAMS: Would they have their ties still on?

D. WALLACE: Yes.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: And in the wintertime they'd keep their jackets?

C. WALLACE: They'd wear their jacket, yeah. And I don't know, I think we all had a nice dinner. We had a lot of company. I mean, and all the holidays, like Easter and Thanksgiving and so forth, why . . . What was I going to say? Easter, Thanksgiving . . . Frank and Natalie were up, and George and May, and sometimes they'd have my mother and father come.

WILLIAMS: Do you ever remember Mr. Truman's mother or sister being here eating?

C. WALLACE: No, not—

D. WALLACE: Oh, Mary Jane.

C. WALLACE: Mary Jane but—

D. WALLACE: Yeah, his sister.

C. WALLACE: But Mamma Truman was never here when I was here, no.

WILLIAMS: Would they go out to visit them?

D. WALLACE: Yes.

C. WALLACE: Yes, but I don't know whether . . . Did they ever go over to Mamma

Truman's for a meal or anything? That I don't know.

WILLIAMS: Did you ever go to the Truman relatives?

C. WALLACE: No.

WILLIAMS: What's the difference between an afternoon dress and a dinner dress?

C. WALLACE: Well, they didn't wear dinner dresses. I mean, they'd wear a house dress. You know what a house dress is? Well . . .

D. WALLACE: Well, we're talking about morning and afternoon, Mother.

C. WALLACE: All right, I have to start with a—

WILLIAMS: I know what a housecoat is.

C. WALLACE: Well, it's not a coat, it's a dress.

WILLIAMS: Or a house dress.

C. WALLACE: It's a little gingham dress.

[End #4398; Begin #4399]

WILLIAMS: Okay, you were finishing talking about what you wore at dinnertime. And there's an interesting picture over here.

C. WALLACE: That's where we all ran to see who could get on there first. That's where we sat in the wintertime. Oh, that heat would come right up, and it was marvelous. A nice warm place.

D. WALLACE: Both of you would sit on there sometimes. You and Natalie, I remember sitting on there together.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. So now where do we go? In there? Or do you want to go that way, or do you want to go this way?

WILLIAMS: Let's go into the den. Do you ever remember putting plates into this

thing to warm them up?

C. WALLACE: No.

D. WALLACE: No. The radiator.

WILLIAMS: There's a door . . .

D. WALLACE: I know. There's a door. I always used to open up and throw things down there.

C. WALLACE: Now this is where Uncle Harry sat most of the time, and Aunt B. sat in that chair right there.

WILLIAMS: She sat in the more Victorian-looking chair.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And they'd read. And always piled with books here for Uncle Harry.

WILLIAMS: On the table.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. Now, when we were here . . .

D. WALLACE: Well, the room was two feet wider, for one thing. They didn't have the bookcases there and there.

C. WALLACE: In the first place, we didn't have the built-in bookcases. We had a bookcase that sat there.

D. WALLACE: Right at the end, you're right.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and we had the white and black furniture in here. And it had a—

D. WALLACE: A sofa on this side, and a chair here and a chair here.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: And then the chrome and glass table over here.

C. WALLACE: And a glass table, yeah.

WILLIAMS: In the window?

D. WALLACE: Yeah, and a chrome lamp on it.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and we had a torch . . . what do you call it?

D. WALLACE: I have it.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, a torchiere.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, I have it at home.

C. WALLACE: A torchiere chrome lamp. And then at one time, isn't this one time when Dad had a big table made in here before we brought that black and white furniture, or had it or what, and you had your train set on it?

D. WALLACE: Wooden train set, yeah.

C. WALLACE: That's when he was young.

WILLIAMS: It was like on a big piece of plywood right there?

C. WALLACE: Plywood, yeah.

D. WALLACE: Just plywood.

C. WALLACE: And I understand, in the earlier days before we ever were here, Margaret used this as a playroom. It was a playroom for Margaret.

WILLIAMS: If you had this black and chrome furniture, what color were the walls? Wood floors, I guess?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, they were—

D. WALLACE: Wood floors. The walls were white with red trellis . . . The bookcase was white with red shelving and a red background painted in it, remember?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: So the walls had something. It was a red and white wallpaper, and I think it's that trellis design that we saw. The diamond pattern, remember?

WILLIAMS: Brighter than it is now.

D. WALLACE: Lots bigger and brighter.

C. WALLACE: But the floor was still the Floor-lac I told you about. That was a Floor-lac and this was a Floor-lac.

D. WALLACE: Yes, right here.

C. WALLACE: And in here, the whole thing. And the Floor-lac color was, oh . . .

D. WALLACE: Well, here it is right here.

WILLIAMS: You can see it on the sills.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: They're dark brown, nearly black.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And this bookcase was not here.

D. WALLACE: No, much bigger. They really reduced the size of the room a lot when they put all these bookshelves—

C. WALLACE: Yeah, this is the color we painted it. It was all . . .

WILLIAMS: [In the music room] Now, you called this the parlor.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: What was the purpose of this room?

C. WALLACE: Well, this was Margaret's piano, and it was not this . . . it was around this way, where the playing keys were here. Remember, David? The keys were here.

D. WALLACE: Yes, you faced out west. The piano keys were northeast.

WILLIAMS: So it's rotated around ninety degrees or so.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And this is one of the old chairs. This was always here, David.
Now, you saw those pictures of—

D. WALLACE: That other thing was in here, that other couch which is in the living room now.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. Wasn't this one in here?

WILLIAMS: You're talking about the silk settee over here.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, this one.

D. WALLACE: Not in that picture that was taken the other day.

C. WALLACE: No, I was talking about the picture where Margo as a baby and she was sitting in a sofa of some sort.

D. WALLACE: Well, that's not the sofa there.

WILLIAMS: That was a more modern . . . ?

C. WALLACE: Oh, it wasn't this one?

D. WALLACE: I think the one that's in the other room with a different thing on it.

C. WALLACE: Oh, all right. And of course no TV, but there was a sofa or something here.

WILLIAMS: Along the window.

C. WALLACE: And then the piano here, and then they had a chair here.

WILLIAMS: Was it this chair?

C. WALLACE: Very similar. I don't know whether it's that one or not. None of this was here.

WILLIAMS: None of the stuff on the mantel?

C. WALLACE: No.

D. WALLACE: And the mirror was out in the hall.

C. WALLACE: And the mirror was out in the hall. And I don't think we had any little gadgets in these little places.

D. WALLACE: Well, somebody was always putting something there.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: What was on the walls, if you didn't have these portraits and paintings?

C. WALLACE: I don't remember. I don't remember. What did we have over this? Do you remember, David?

D. WALLACE: A Girondoux mirror? Or was that over this?

C. WALLACE: No, the Girondoux was in the living room.

WILLIAMS: Was the big wooden mantelpiece still here when you were here, and a mirror?

C. WALLACE: Yes, that was it. The mantels have been cut down.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, because that one—

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Do you know anything about the tile work around the fireplace?

D. WALLACE: Are these openable?

DAGE: I don't know. I've never opened them.

D. WALLACE: Just garbage in them. Oh, the owl. I remember that.

WILLIAMS: But you don't know the story of this tile?

C. WALLACE: No, I think the tile was just there. The same tile, wasn't it, David?

D. WALLACE: Yeah. Yeah, the same thing.

WILLIAMS: Did you ever use this fireplace?

C. WALLACE: No, not to my knowledge.

D. WALLACE: No, it was always sealed up like that. Because you've got to understand why—this room in the wintertime was closed off.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: So there was no reason to use this fireplace. This room was not heated in the winter.

C. WALLACE: Here are those doors that pulled out.

D. WALLACE: That wasn't even . . .

C. WALLACE: Here are those doors.

D. WALLACE: How did you close off that room? Was the den not heated in the winter either?

C. WALLACE: No, we just closed the door between the dining room and the den.

D. WALLACE: So the den and this room weren't heated.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: So these rooms weren't really used in the wintertime.

C. WALLACE: No, it was just too cold. And the gas bills were just too high.
[chuckling]

WILLIAMS: Do you recall the velvet curtains across?

D. WALLACE: No.

WILLIAMS: Those were gone before you . . .

C. WALLACE: Where are velvet curtains?

WILLIAMS: Well, there are rods up here, across, as if there were big heavy curtains.

C. WALLACE: Oh, no, not in our day.

D. WALLACE: No, that was way back.

WILLIAMS: Do you ever remember using that light fixture in here?

C. WALLACE: No, never. Never used it. Now, did they move that? That was more here.

D. WALLACE: No, it's exactly where it was [in the foyer]. This was exactly where it was, where I burned my hand.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, but I thought it was more here, but I guess I'm—

WILLIAMS: The ornate heat register.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and he burned his hands on it. Now, let me see . . .

D. WALLACE: Well, that Revolutionary table was here that Margo has, a chair on each side, and then whatever we saw over it.

WILLIAMS: A mirror?

C. WALLACE: It was a mirror.

WILLIAMS: That's the picture of you two playing there.

D. WALLACE: Yeah. See, this is all their fake W. & J. Sloane.

C. WALLACE: And we didn't have these, did we, David?

D. WALLACE: What?

C. WALLACE: We didn't have these light fixtures here.

D. WALLACE: No, they were a different kind of light fixtures.

WILLIAMS: Now, I've heard that Fred picked these out. Is that not . . .

D. WALLACE: Those fixtures?

WILLIAMS: That he did some decorating, and he liked—

D. WALLACE: No.

C. WALLACE: No, we never put them in, as long as I lived here.

WILLIAMS: But these are different than what used to be here?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: Yes, what used to be there came up a little higher. See, this is modern brass. I mean, this is just cast brass.

WILLIAMS: It didn't have a shade?

D. WALLACE: This is like 1950-style. As a matter of fact, this is a 1955 switch. It would have been a turn switch, not a push switch.

C. WALLACE: There wasn't a . . . David?

D. WALLACE: See, this had a gaslight up there.

C. WALLACE: There wasn't one of those things here?

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

C. WALLACE: Was there? I can't remember. But this is where we'd bring our mattresses down, and we—

D. WALLACE: I don't know if this wasn't later.

C. WALLACE: That was not there.

WILLIAMS: That may be for the gas.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, but it is an original one, because here's where the foot switch was to close the vents.

WILLIAMS: So that was on the west side.

D. WALLACE: So there was a little thing that stuck up, and you just kicked it closed in

the back. I don't know that it was there, but this is the one that was there.

C. WALLACE: But in the summertime we'd open like that, and open those doors and have just the screen. And we'd bring our mattresses down here and sleep, and bring a crib down for the babies and put them down here. It was a lot cooler. Now, the telephone was right back where David's going now.

D. WALLACE: It was right here.

WILLIAMS: Was there a little table like that?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: It was not on this thing, and this was not the hat rack at all that was here.

WILLIAMS: There was a hat rack there?

D. WALLACE: There was. There were just hooks, I think.

C. WALLACE: No, we didn't have a hat rack out here.

D. WALLACE: But there was something to hang stuff on here.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: And there was a table here.

C. WALLACE: And that's where the telephone was.

D. WALLACE: And this is not the table, and the telephone sat on it. And I don't know if there was a chair or not next to it. I don't think so.

C. WALLACE: I think we stood up.

D. WALLACE: And this, of course, is not the lamp like what was there or anything like

that.

C. WALLACE: No.

D. WALLACE: The light, I think, was here, because I remember pulling a thing underneath here.

C. WALLACE: A chain.

D. WALLACE: Or it was over here, and it was in a really funny place. It might have even been under here, but it was really funny. And this, of course, I remember very well.

C. WALLACE: Oh, yeah.

D. WALLACE: I remember pulling that damn thing all the time.

C. WALLACE: And that thing's still there.

D. WALLACE: And that would break. And it would always break—

WILLIAMS: The string?

D. WALLACE: —way up at the top, which meant that you had to then get up there and put a ladder up to the ceiling or something and go up and stand. But you're hanging over this, so it was . . .

C. WALLACE: Do the stairs still squeak?

WILLIAMS: We'll go up in just a minute, after . . . This is the lamp you were talking about earlier.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: This, I have a feeling, was here.

C. WALLACE: What?

D. WALLACE: Not there, but this chair was back then, with the needlepoint on it.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, that was Grandmother Wallace's, I think.

WILLIAMS: Was it always there?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: That's the only . . . that and these two are the only original pieces that I've seen in the house so far. These were hers, these Victorian . . .

WILLIAMS: But not the silk settee in there?

D. WALLACE: I'm not so sure about that.

C. WALLACE: That's not quite right.

D. WALLACE: It's sort of tourist Victorian, and that's what worries me.

C. WALLACE: It was something about that size, but it's the wrong shape up on top.

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Did the lamps out here in the hall look more like the ones here in the living room?

D. WALLACE: Yeah, there they are. That's it.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, there they are. Yeah. Then the secretary that had been up in . . . Well, Grandmother Wallace had one here, because the secretary was up in Fred's room.

WILLIAMS: So the secretary is one of those that has the desks that folds up?

C. WALLACE: Well, it looks like that. Oh, well now, of course, that room is different. Then we had a gate-leg table.

D. WALLACE: That's it.

C. WALLACE: And that sat over here.

WILLIAMS: In the bay window.

C. WALLACE: In the bay window.

WILLIAMS: Why would it sit there?

C. WALLACE: Well, that's where they liked it.

D. WALLACE: Because the sofa was here.

C. WALLACE: The sofa was here.

D. WALLACE: And I don't know how the sofa was here with the grille on there.

C. WALLACE: That wasn't there.

D. WALLACE: They may have moved that from some—

C. WALLACE: They sure did.

D. WALLACE: Oh, no, I know where the grille was. It was over here.

C. WALLACE: It was right here.

D. WALLACE: It was right here, because that's what they tied the Christmas tree to, and there's the mark on the ceiling from the Christmas tree. Right there. You see that? And that's when they stood it up. That's where it hit and dragged on the ceiling, right there. Because it was, as you know, a sixteen-foot tree. Right there is the mark on the ceiling.

WILLIAMS: Basically in the center of the room.

D. WALLACE: And that's where they stood it up, and that's when Grandmother had a fit about the whole thing. What they did, they cut the two feet off the bottom because it was just the tip of the tree that dragged on the thing. But this radiator was here, and that's what the tree was screwed down to, wired down to.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. Now, the sofa was over here. The gate-leg table was there when

we didn't have the—

D. WALLACE: It was on the other side of the radiator.

WILLIAMS: So they were basically reversed.

C. WALLACE: Yes. The clock was always there, and I told you about the clock.

WILLIAMS: Could you tell us, that you have a copy.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, actually a better copy.

C. WALLACE: David has a complete copy of it.

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

C. WALLACE: Except the face. We never have got—

D. WALLACE: I don't have the corner finials, but they're not really too accurate either, and I've got the center finial. I have a photograph of this face, which is in mine right now, which will be copied eventually. These are the hands that were cut by George out of a pie pan when he put in the little electric clock movement on the back.

C. WALLACE: Originally the clock workings were wood. Grandfather Gates brought it from Vermont. Now, didn't these mantels all have different things on the side? No, that was more like it.

D. WALLACE: No, this is just exactly right.

C. WALLACE: This is where we had the fireplace in the wintertime all the time.

WILLIAMS: You would use this one.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: Oh, yeah, this room . . . this room was used all the time, but that was the closed one.

C. WALLACE: Now, here was the gate-leg table here, and then Grandmother's rocking chair was right there.

WILLIAMS: In the northwest corner.

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

C. WALLACE: Right where that table is. That was not there.

D. WALLACE: And then Mother's green velvet Duncan Phyfe sofa was here.

C. WALLACE: Was right here.

D. WALLACE: There was a drum table with silhouettes on it.

C. WALLACE: And then right . . . topped table was right here.

D. WALLACE: And it rotated, sort of a [unintelligible].

WILLIAMS: To the east of the sofa.

C. WALLACE: And then right here was a green velvet chair.

D. WALLACE: A velvet chair.

C. WALLACE: That was Grandmother Wallace's, which she had given to us.

WILLIAMS: Okay, where the gold chair is now.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. Then right here we had a wing chair.

WILLIAMS: That's where the flowered chair is.

C. WALLACE: But I think ours was a little bit larger than this one. And we had—

D. WALLACE: Well, it was much taller.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. I like mine better.

D. WALLACE: It was a full-size wing chair. It was out here and sat here.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and we had that brass—

D. WALLACE: Like there, okay?

C. WALLACE: Okay. We had that brass lamp.

D. WALLACE: This size and that sort of thing.

C. WALLACE: Brass lamp. We never used that door. And then there were two—

D. WALLACE: This lamp was here.

C. WALLACE: No, I had that brass lamp I was telling you about.

D. WALLACE: No, this lamp was in the parlor. I remember that cheap brass stem painted white, that was in the parlor in there. And all those two pie-topped tables came from their apartment in . . .

C. WALLACE: Connecticut Avenue.

D. WALLACE: On Connecticut Avenue.

C. WALLACE: Now, here we had—

D. WALLACE: This was that sofa.

C. WALLACE: Here there were two chairs: this one like there, and then the one without the arms was right here.

WILLIAMS: The one over here.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: Those two over in that corner.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, but they were here.

WILLIAMS: So the two green velvet chairs were on the southwest corner.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and the rocking chair we put Grandmother Wallace's presents on at Christmas time. The sofa, Trumans'; the green chair over here was . . . No, David and I were there, it was Frank and Natalie.

WILLIAMS: And you're going clockwise.

C. WALLACE: And George and May . . .

D. WALLACE: Were on the chair in front of the fire.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And nobody was on that one.

D. WALLACE: The center finial on the clock is missing, or there was one.

C. WALLACE: And we had a small coffee table right there.

WILLIAMS: In front of the sofa.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, a small one.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, an oval Duncan Phyfe table, with a glass top that lifted off.

WILLIAMS: The chair with the arms was on the left?

C. WALLACE: No, it was on that side.

WILLIAMS: On the right, and the chair without the arms was on the left.

C. WALLACE: Without the arms was there, yeah.

WILLIAMS: Did you have certain places to sit? You said this was—

D. WALLACE: By habit.

WILLIAMS: You said this was Mother Wallace's chair?

C. WALLACE: No, she sat right there in the rocking chair.

D. WALLACE: No, she sat right there in the rocker.

C. WALLACE: No, and everybody sat wherever they could find a chair.

WILLIAMS: Okay, so she was just—

C. WALLACE: Generally Bess sat there a lot, didn't she?

D. WALLACE: No, that was when . . . the last ten years of her life she would sit there. She'd sit there. She had the phone right there when Margaret called so she could pick it right up.

C. WALLACE: Who, Bess?

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: On the gate-leg table.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, and the magnifying glass, and all that sort of stuff. That's where she sat. That was after she moved downstairs and was living in the bedroom there.

C. WALLACE: Bess, yeah.

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Let's look in the bedroom.

C. WALLACE: Okay.

D. WALLACE: This, by the way, is the only room that rings original with the wallpaper. This is the closest to whatever the wallpaper was at the time, and this may have actually been the wallpaper at the time. Because it was a vertical stripe with a pattern like this. All the other wallpaper was W. & J. Sloane hoo-haw.

C. WALLACE: What is that thing up there in the ceiling?

WILLIAMS: It's the smoke detector.

C. WALLACE: All right, this is Grandmother's room. It looks nothing like it. She had—

D. WALLACE: [unintelligible] in the other place.

C. WALLACE: She had a double bed here.

WILLIAMS: So the headboard would go up against the northeast corner.

C. WALLACE: Up against there, yeah. Just in the same position as this, but it was a

double bed. Then over here—

WILLIAMS: On the southeast.

C. WALLACE: —was a wardrobe, because there was no closet here, until they built one in there.

WILLIAMS: In the back.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, the wardrobe was up there. Then she had a little dressing table right there.

WILLIAMS: On the west.

D. WALLACE: Here. That's where she sat down with her thing around her neck and did the whole business. Right here, the little dressing table.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And then this was her bathroom.

WILLIAMS: With a mirror and . . .

C. WALLACE: This was her bathroom in here. And see here, this closet. This was the closet where she kept her clothes at that time.

D. WALLACE: Now, when I came back here in the '50s, this was the arrangement of the room. Because after she died, then they turned this into what was essentially a guest room down here. And like I'd come through with a friend of mine, and my pet cat, which had to be locked up. This was about '59 . . . about '62. The cat had to live in there while I was here for a week.

WILLIAMS: They didn't care for cats?

D. WALLACE: No, they just didn't want . . . Aunt B. didn't want any.

C. WALLACE: Well, I remember coming and staying with Aunt B., and they had some

maple furniture. Maybe they have it upstairs somewhere.

D. WALLACE: This bathroom had a ball and claw tub in it, too, at one time. This is the whole '50s remodeling . . .

WILLIAMS: So the closets weren't always in here.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. That's where Grandmother kept her clothes, and also in this wardrobe, the big wardrobe.

WILLIAMS: When did these come in, do you know? The closets?

C. WALLACE: Well, they were there.

D. WALLACE: No, you just said they built them in, Mother.

C. WALLACE: I know, but they built them in, but . . .

WILLIAMS: While you were here?

C. WALLACE: No, they had them when I came. When they added this bathroom on they built that.

D. WALLACE: What do you mean when they added it on?

C. WALLACE: Well, I don't think originally it was there.

WILLIAMS: No, it wasn't. It came in 1905.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: All right, so then this was there. But she always had her clothes in a wardrobe that stood right here.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, but then Bess would . . . I don't know, that was sort of a catchall. And then I was here and I stayed with—

D. WALLACE: These were out of Connecticut Avenue.

C. WALLACE: And I stayed with Aunt B., and she had maple furniture in here, and she

had twin beds just like this.

WILLIAMS: Is the lamp, the floor lamp, familiar?

C. WALLACE: No, I've never seen it before.

D. WALLACE: No, that one came . . . The cheap one is familiar. This one is Connecticut Avenue, I think. A lot of this is Washington stuff.

C. WALLACE: This is most of her Washington stuff, yeah.

WILLIAMS: What was along the north wall here? The bed was over here.

C. WALLACE: The bed.

D. WALLACE: The bed stuck out.

C. WALLACE: The bed stuck out and there wasn't room for anything.

WILLIAMS: So you had to walk around the bed to get into the bathroom?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, but there was plenty of room because there was nothing over there. And Grandmother would always come in here and she'd close the door and lock it, and then I guess she took her bath and got herself all dressed up.

D. WALLACE: You know I never figured out why that column went to where it did and stopped.

C. WALLACE: I don't know.

D. WALLACE: And I think the real reason is that the add-on was here.

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: See, this was all here. What this was, I don't know, but I think there was major remodeling in here. I mean, I think all this was.

C. WALLACE: Well, isn't there something you have that they did things?

WILLIAMS: It was added, the bedroom, when the Gates got older. Was there a chair or an easy chair or something that she would sit in here?

C. WALLACE: She never sat in here. The only time she'd come in here is to bathe and dress. Because she'd get up and put a little house dress on to go out and do breakfast. Then she'd piddle around all day, in the morning, and help Vietta, might dust a little or sew a little or do little things, and then she'd come after her lunch, which she ate in the dining room, and come in here and rest probably a little bit, and get her redressed for the afternoon.

WILLIAMS: Where would you eat lunch? Where would everyone else eat lunch?

C. WALLACE: Wherever I grabbed it.

WILLIAMS: There wasn't a certain place? But she would always eat in—

D. WALLACE: See, I don't think you basically ever sat down for lunch at the dining room table.

C. WALLACE: I never did.

D. WALLACE: When I was here in the summers I would have lunch in the den with Grandmother, usually.

WILLIAMS: In the den?

D. WALLACE: Yeah, in there. You've got to understand, if this is the den like this, right? And his chair is right here facing out. Now, this is before these bookcases were built in.

WILLIAMS: Right.

D. WALLACE: Her chair was at an angle back in that corner. And you'll see a little of

that in that picture, but that's much later, of course. Her chair was at an angle like that, there was still a sofa over here, another chair here. She would always sit right there because she could look out the window, just like they did, you know, and see what's going on. I don't know if it was north, but there was still some light there, and we'd have lunch in there on folding tables or something.

WILLIAMS: How did they decide to sit in there or in the living room?

C. WALLACE: Margaret always ate her lunch . . . She'd come back from high school . . . she'd come over, home from high school for her lunch—you know, over there—and she always ate her lunch on the sofa. And it was always a cream cheese and olive sandwich.

WILLIAMS: Here in the living room.

C. WALLACE: Here, she'd eat it there. David?

D. WALLACE: Cream cheese and chopped olive sandwich?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. David, there's the window I said that Grandmother would stand at and wait to watch you come home.

WILLIAMS: So he'd be coming down from the Bryant School?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: That's the north window in the bay.

D. WALLACE: I'm not sure where the whatnot shelf . . .

C. WALLACE: That's not ours. I mean, that was Aunt B.'s. She probably had it in Washington.

WILLIAMS: What was the wallpaper like out here in the foyer? Do you recall?

C. WALLACE: It was all, most of it, like this in here.

D. WALLACE: Like this. It was very “nineteen-teens” wallpaper like this, not this fake brocade stuff, you know. But this is very much like a 1912, 1915 wallpaper.

WILLIAMS: So it wasn’t way-back Victorian.

D. WALLACE: And over the fireplace was Mother’s round gold mirror, the Girondoux.

C. WALLACE: Girondoux mirror.

D. WALLACE: And then the two Girondoux’s, which were light things on each side.

C. WALLACE: On each side, yeah, lights. And do you know who has my Girondoux mirror is Dickie.

D. WALLACE: I know.

WILLIAMS: So you don’t ever remember the house being really dark Victorian?

C. WALLACE: No.

D. WALLACE: It never was, I don’t think.

C. WALLACE: It was a nice house.

D. WALLACE: Because the furniture never was that dark, even the left-over furniture. And the wallpaper was always light, as I remember, like this. If that was done after 1905, and it was dark before that, who knows? I don’t think there are pictures back then, were there, of it?

C. WALLACE: No.

D. WALLACE: When was this stuff put on the walls [lincrusta in the foyer]?

C. WALLACE: Well, that was there.

WILLIAMS: This? Oh, 1885, when the house, this part was built. It’s still the same.

D. WALLACE: And this stuff here. I used to keep drawing those little loops all the time. I remember that.

C. WALLACE: It was always there, as long as . . . whenever I was here.

D. WALLACE: It's exactly the right height to be peeling and playing with.

WILLIAMS: It is still for kids. What would you do to this dark stuff here in the . . .

D. WALLACE: Nothing.

C. WALLACE: Nothing.

WILLIAMS: Would you clean it or paint it or . . .?

C. WALLACE: We'd just wipe it off, like you'd dust a table. No, it was never washed or anything, at least not to my knowledge.

WILLIAMS: The tile was the same?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: I brought that with us from Rome.

WILLIAMS: Which? The box there in the parlor?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. I don't see that Maria pottery anywhere.

D. WALLACE: Well, you probably won't.

WILLIAMS: Was the glass in the front doors always . . .

C. WALLACE: The same way, yeah.

WILLIAMS: Who would use the front door?

C. WALLACE: Nobody, except if somebody come up and knock on it and . . . I don't know.

D. WALLACE: Company.

C. WALLACE: Company.

WILLIAMS: Where would the mail be delivered?

D. WALLACE: Good question.

WILLIAMS: Was there a box or would they . . .

D. WALLACE: Oh, the box was on the . . .

C. WALLACE: It was on the porch.

D. WALLACE: On the porch, on the right-hand pole.

WILLIAMS: The right-hand . . .?

D. WALLACE: Well, you've got the two poles out there.

WILLIAMS: The north one?

D. WALLACE: The north pole, just to the north of the stairs going down, and it was a white slot mailbox.

WILLIAMS: Plain old metal box?

D. WALLACE: Plain old metal, painted white.

WILLIAMS: Of course, the mailman could . . . there was no fence, so . . .

D. WALLACE: He cut across the yard.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, there was no fence or anything.

D. WALLACE: He just cut across the yard. Well, it was much different. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: Would you like to go upstairs?

C. WALLACE: Sure. Who goes first, me?

WILLIAMS: You do, and I'll follow with the cord. So what was on . . . was there carpeting on the steps, rugs or anything?

C. WALLACE: No. No, and they squeaked. And this is where somebody tried to get in the house. Don't you remember I told you? And Fred heard them and

he ran across the hall and—

D. WALLACE: And the gun was downstairs and the bullets were in the attic.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: He yelled to Harry? Is that right?

C. WALLACE: He went across the hall up there and knocked on their door and told them somebody—

D. WALLACE: I don't understand why those pole holders were never taken down, but they never were.

C. WALLACE: What?

D. WALLACE: For the poles.

WILLIAMS: Where we presume were curtains.

D. WALLACE: Curtain holders.

WILLIAMS: Would you use the transoms? Would you open the transoms?

D. WALLACE: No, never opened them.

C. WALLACE: No, never opened them.

WILLIAMS: Here you can see probably the black . . .

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: How are you doing, Mother?

C. WALLACE: Slow.

WILLIAMS: Take it easy.

D. WALLACE: How does that mean you're doing?

C. WALLACE: I'm doing fine.

WILLIAMS: We have a chair.

C. WALLACE: There! That sofa was the one that was in the parlor.

D. WALLACE: That's the one. Yeah, that's the one.

WILLIAMS: Okay, along the north . . .

C. WALLACE: This one. That's the one that was in the parlor.

WILLIAMS: What was up here in the hallway?

C. WALLACE: This.

D. WALLACE: No, not that. That came from Washington, the White House, actually.

C. WALLACE: I thought there was a table.

D. WALLACE: There was a dark ugly table sort of desk there.

C. WALLACE: A table, and this was not here. And this is the . . . [chuckling] When they came back from Washington, Margaret—

D. WALLACE: That corner thing was never there.

C. WALLACE: Margaret would sit here, Bess would sit there, and I would sit on a chair there, and we'd kibitz.

WILLIAMS: So you'd sit in the doorways of your bedrooms.

D. WALLACE: Of their bedrooms.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Why didn't you just go downstairs and sit somewhere?

C. WALLACE: Because we were in our nightgowns.

WILLIAMS: Oh. One didn't go downstairs in one's nightgown?

C. WALLACE: I don't know. This is the maple furniture that I remember was in Grandmother's room at one time after I came to visit her. Bess's bed was here. There was an open window here or there, and that was

Margaret's room.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Let's stay in here [the Trumans' bedroom]. There was a bed facing the other way?

C. WALLACE: This way. This way.

WILLIAMS: Perpendicular to the way it is now.

C. WALLACE: From this window out.

WILLIAMS: So that headboard was up against the window?

C. WALLACE: Over a little bit, because this is the window. Or was it that one?

WILLIAMS: This one, I think, goes out to the porch.

C. WALLACE: Well, they'd crawl through the window, and they'd sleep out there in the summertime.

WILLIAMS: Would they throw the mattresses out?

C. WALLACE: No, they had beds out there.

WILLIAMS: Oh, okay. How do you keep—

D. WALLACE: Was there always the sink here, Mother?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

D. WALLACE: But it was a different one. This is the 1950 sink.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, just a plain white one.

D. WALLACE: It was just a . . . an old white sink.

C. WALLACE: And then they had a cedar chest right here.

WILLIAMS: Where the chest of drawers is.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, that was just packed with books and magazines, and you'd read. And then there was a chair there that Uncle Harry sat in. This is where

he'd come up and read.

D. WALLACE: Right here.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: For the light and everything, yeah.

WILLIAMS: Well, where was the other bed?

C. WALLACE: This was a double bed.

WILLIAMS: Oh, a double bed, okay.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, the one that broke.

WILLIAMS: So it took up the southeast corner.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: There's a chair in the southwest corner.

C. WALLACE: And then there was a chest of drawers along here, right.

WILLIAMS: On the north wall.

C. WALLACE: Now, where was that chair? That looks . . .

D. WALLACE: It looks very familiar.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. I don't know.

WILLIAMS: Now, you said . . .

D. WALLACE: That could have been Grandmother's rocking chair.

C. WALLACE: No, that was not Grandmother's rocking chair.

WILLIAMS: And this isn't one of the barrel chairs you were—

D. WALLACE: No, no, no. No, I have it in storage.

C. WALLACE: And that is not Grandma's rocking chair. It was more of a kind of a rocking chair you'd buy today in some store that you weren't going in

for period furniture. It was just . . .

D. WALLACE: Just a rocking chair.

C. WALLACE: Just a plain, ugly rocking chair, but she liked it.

WILLIAMS: What do you mean “the bed that broke”?

D. WALLACE: Caved in a couple of times.

C. WALLACE: Which one?

D. WALLACE: That one. Theirs.

C. WALLACE: Oh. Oh, did you sleep in this one?

D. WALLACE: No. Well, I’ve slept in here, yeah, after they were gone. I kept rotating between the rooms. If there were people down there, I had to sleep up here. We’re talking about the ’50s now.

C. WALLACE: Well, Grandmother would close up Fred’s room and everything, the north side, and he and I would sleep in here, and it wasn’t too warm. And I took . . .

D. WALLACE: That’s in the winter.

C. WALLACE: [chuckling] I took a . . . what is that? a hot water bag to bed with me to stay warm. Need I say any more? It leaked.

WILLIAMS: So, since the parlor was shut off, she would shut off the room above?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, because otherwise you’d freeze the floor.

[End #4399; Begin #4400]

D. WALLACE: It was bedtime. You said you were wearing nightgowns.

C. WALLACE: It was bedtime. We were all undressed. Harry wasn’t here.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Well, the alcove was the sewing room?

C. WALLACE: Well, we had the sewing machine—it was a treadle sewing machine—
on this wall.

WILLIAMS: On the south.

C. WALLACE: And on this wall over here was a small cedar chest.

WILLIAMS: On the north.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: Well, there it is behind you. There's a cedar chest. Is that the one that
was in their bedroom?

C. WALLACE: No. I can't see.

D. WALLACE: Well, that's sure one that was around here. I remember the rounded
edges.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, that one was over here.

D. WALLACE: This is the one that was on the right over here.

WILLIAMS: On the north wall.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Were there curtains or shades in the windows?

C. WALLACE: Now, this was Fred and my room [northwest bedroom], and there was a
closet here. And we had a big bed with a big blah-blah-blah up here,
you know, Victorian.

D. WALLACE: Headboard, I think you're saying.

C. WALLACE: What?

D. WALLACE: Headboard?

C. WALLACE: Headboard.

D. WALLACE: Well, there's the original floor. . .

WILLIAMS: Was there a canopy or anything?

C. WALLACE: No.

D. WALLACE: . . . that Dad painted.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and then here against this wall was the secretary Fred had.

WILLIAMS: On the south wall.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and then here we had a table that we used kind of like a desk.

WILLIAMS: In the west window.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and then here we had a dressing table, one of those old-fashioned kind with a maple top.

WILLIAMS: On the northwest corner. On the north wall.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And then I had a cedar chest that I had over here.

WILLIAMS: On the northeast corner, on the north wall. What were the curtains like?

C. WALLACE: Well, they weren't like these. They were just those thin sheers that . . .

WILLIAMS: Nothing flowery?

C. WALLACE: No, no.

WILLIAMS: Was the wallpaper?

C. WALLACE: I don't remember the wallpaper.

D. WALLACE: Flowered.

WILLIAMS: Did you have anything over behind the door?

C. WALLACE: Well, I tried to make myself a closet there. It didn't work very well.

WILLIAMS: How would you make a closet?

C. WALLACE: Well, you take and you hang a rod from that wall over to here and make a rod come out here—I mean, a piece of board come out there—hang clothes there, and then you arrange some way to have a curtain.

WILLIAMS: Like a sheet or something?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. I think I had seen it in a magazine and tried to . . .

WILLIAMS: Was there anything . . .

C. WALLACE: That's where the secretary was.

WILLIAMS: Okay, you said that. And who used the closet under the steps here?

C. WALLACE: Aunt B. This one.

WILLIAMS: For clothes?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, it was the only one they had. Now, I had the children in here, and this, I think, has turned into Margaret's room now [southwest bedroom]. And everything . . . You see how those . . . that's how they used to have things on top of the mantels. And there was a closet here. Is it all right if I open it?

WILLIAMS: Uh-huh.

C. WALLACE: And of course Margaret could use it.

WILLIAMS: It's a pretty big closet.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And when Margaret wasn't here, well, I think Aunt B. sort of used a little bit of it. And this wallpaper, of course, wasn't here. I can't remember what we had.

WILLIAMS: This is where David and Marian were?

C. WALLACE: Sometimes.

D. WALLACE: This is the red floor. You saw the floor in there. I mean, you can see exactly what the floor looked like.

C. WALLACE: Now what I had in here was a youth bed that came out here.

WILLIAMS: From the north?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: To the left of the doorway.

C. WALLACE: To the . . . well, which way?

WILLIAMS: To the west of the door.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And then I had the crib over here.

WILLIAMS: In the southeast corner.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and then there was a big double bed in here, so I had that . . . I kept that in here.

WILLIAMS: A double bed? About where this one is?

C. WALLACE: Yeah, about.

D. WALLACE: Over this way a little more.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Over toward the east a little more?

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And I don't think we had much in here. They had toys in here and a playpen.

D. WALLACE: And the little rocking chair was there where I sat, read my Mickey Mouse . . .

WILLIAMS: Was it a children's size rocking chair?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: It was just about this tall, and it was right here.

WILLIAMS: Where the rocker . . .

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: Facing this way. And here was a table or a little bookcase thing, as I seem to remember.

WILLIAMS: On the south window.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, and then there was something on this wall, and it was a problem because of the radiator vent.

C. WALLACE: The crib was down a little bit.

D. WALLACE: Well, that's then, but the crib didn't last for a long time. Yeah, the ceiling going in.

WILLIAMS: Did you use this fireplace?

C. WALLACE: No. And we had nothing in there. Oh, we had a little chest of drawers that I had over there.

WILLIAMS: Where the one is now?

C. WALLACE: A little maple chest of drawers, yeah.

WILLIAMS: There wasn't anything in the bay window?

C. WALLACE: I think I had the playpen there.

D. WALLACE: This was a real workroom.

WILLIAMS: This is a pretty big room.

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. It was nice. The kids had a nice room here. And when they came with their tonsils business, we had a . . .

D. WALLACE: You said we were put in there the other day.

C. WALLACE: When you had the flu one time, but when you came from having your tonsils taken out you were in here.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, that's what I remember.

C. WALLACE: And you were there, and I think we just put Marian in the crib for the time being, or maybe we used the bed. That I don't remember.

D. WALLACE: Well, she was two.

C. WALLACE: And then we had the big tub with the ice and the fan right about here. It really cooled the room down nicely.

WILLIAMS: Were these little sconces on the walls?

C. WALLACE: No.

WILLIAMS: How would you light the room? There's no ceiling [light].

C. WALLACE: We had a little lamp.

WILLIAMS: Was it something like that one?

D. WALLACE: A floor lamp, something like that. Not that one.

C. WALLACE: I don't remember.

D. WALLACE: The lighting was much darker in those days than it is now, you know. See, like those shades are all sort of Garfinkel shades from Washington. There was none of that. Just simple Woolworth shades and simple brass lamps, or something like that.

C. WALLACE: Well, maybe we had some kind of sconces there.

D. WALLACE: I do remember there were sconces there, though. There were two things there. They didn't look like that.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. They weren't those, but . . .

D. WALLACE: But there were sconces there, but there wasn't a chest in front of them. There may have been a chest. No—

C. WALLACE: No, the chest was over there.

D. WALLACE: Because these I always thought were sort of odd there, without realizing that you could put a chest, a dressing table between them. And I never could figure out why these two things were like that when I knew they should be somewhere else.

WILLIAMS: Before you were in this room, what was it used for?

C. WALLACE: It was just a room.

WILLIAMS: Where did Mother Wallace stay before she moved downstairs? Do you know?

C. WALLACE: I don't know, because she always was downstairs. You know when we were in Bess's room and Harry's room, we didn't go down to where Margaret was.

WILLIAMS: We can do that. And Margaret used this room later on?

C. WALLACE: She used this, yeah.

WILLIAMS: When you would come back with three kids, where would they stay?

D. WALLACE: Good question.

C. WALLACE: Well, when I came back with three kids . . .

WILLIAMS: When you came back to visit from Denver and stayed here, was this still your room over here?

C. WALLACE: Well, Margaret was still down in that old room down there.

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

C. WALLACE: And we just always used this.

WILLIAMS: So these were always your two rooms.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. We had that double bed in here, and we had the youth bed, and, yeah, we had the crib, too.

WILLIAMS: Okay. Let's walk right out through this way. The big closet is over here. Do you recall what that was used for?

C. WALLACE: This? Is that a closet?

WILLIAMS: Mm-hmm.

C. WALLACE: Can I open it? I never know what's going to happen. Well, there's what it was used for.

WILLIAMS: Linens.

C. WALLACE: Linens.

WILLIAMS: Same as always.

C. WALLACE: The linen closet. Now this was Margaret's room.

WILLIAMS: Growing up.

C. WALLACE: And all this here has been added.

WILLIAMS: All the closets?

C. WALLACE: All this. Yeah, all that.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, that was never there.

C. WALLACE: No, that was never there. And her bed was right here.

WILLIAMS: Right . . . ?

C. WALLACE: Well, this kind here, yeah.

WILLIAMS: Just facing the same way?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: Was it more of a twin bed?

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and then she had a chest of drawers and a dressing table, and that was it.

WILLIAMS: The chest of drawers . . . ?

C. WALLACE: Like there, yeah, and a dressing table there, yeah. And she'd sit up there.

WILLIAMS: Can you crawl out through this window?

C. WALLACE: I thought it was the other window they crawled out.

D. WALLACE: The hall window.

WILLIAMS: Right.

C. WALLACE: The one in the little hallway.

WILLIAMS: Why the connecting passage?

C. WALLACE: I guess it was always that way.

D. WALLACE: That goes way back to when probably that wing was put on the house and they had to tie it into the old part of the house, which is this.

WILLIAMS: Would people walk through there usually, or would they just come around?

C. WALLACE: Nobody went through there, except Bess, Harry, and Margaret. That was their own little connection. And this . . . they needed closets. There you are.

WILLIAMS: This was just wall before the closets?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: More space.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, I can't really quite remember [in the northeast bedroom]. Now this was a room that only . . . we had a great big old-fashioned bed in here, and a chest of drawers there, and a big cedar chest across here, and that's all we had in here, and a chair.

WILLIAMS: You had a cedar chest in the bay window?

C. WALLACE: Right there, right across there.

WILLIAMS: Where the rug is sitting.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: And what was where the . . .

C. WALLACE: This was a big old double bed with a lot of jimmy cracks on it. You know how fancy they were.

D. WALLACE: But that was gone by the time I was staying here in the '40s, because then I had a fan at the end of the bed blowing.

C. WALLACE: And then there was a dresser here.

WILLIAMS: Where this dresser is.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. And then that was the back room, and I don't want to even look at it. And this is where Harry kept some of his clothes hanging in here, yeah.

WILLIAMS: So you had a chest, a chest over here, a bed . . .

C. WALLACE: No, a cedar chest here.

WILLIAMS: A cedar chest, right.

C. WALLACE: That's low. A big bed here, pushed into that wall there.

WILLIAMS: Oh, so you didn't have the end table.

C. WALLACE: Yeah. Well, they had it over on this side.

WILLIAMS: Does this mirror look familiar?

C. WALLACE: No, I never saw it before.

D. WALLACE: The rocking chair does, though.

C. WALLACE: The rocking chair?

WILLIAMS: This one?

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: The wicker? Or cane?

D. WALLACE: Yeah, that's very familiar.

C. WALLACE: I don't remember it.

WILLIAMS: So this chest of drawers wasn't over here.

C. WALLACE: No.

WILLIAMS: But the closet . . .

C. WALLACE: Yeah, there wasn't a closet like that. He used a little closet right there on the other side there.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, there wasn't a closet. That was added on later. Well, you can see the framing. It's all different. Not really that different. This was my room when I came back to stay.

WILLIAMS: In the summertime?

C. WALLACE: This, I think, was George's room at one time.

D. WALLACE: George's room when he was a child. You haven't gotten into that. Who lived where when they were all here?

C. WALLACE: I don't know. I wasn't here.

D. WALLACE: Which was Frank's room, which was George's room, which was Fred's room?

C. WALLACE: I wonder why they put that there?

D. WALLACE: You're finding out.

WILLIAMS: Be careful. This is where Mr. Truman fell.

C. WALLACE: Well, I'm not going to try.

D. WALLACE: That's the same, that strange mirror with the . . .

C. WALLACE: Everything's the same, except the bathtub is modern.

WILLIAMS: And that's where the tub was with the legs that you painted.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, and this is a new facility there.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, it was wallboards up about three feet.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, up to here it was wood, and then . . .

WILLIAMS: Just plain?

C. WALLACE: Wallpaper.

WILLIAMS: And the commode and everything are in the same location?

C. WALLACE: Right there.

WILLIAMS: That sink, these closets were here?

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: You'd paint those, too, when you were painting the—

C. WALLACE: Those closets were not there.

D. WALLACE: No, they were added. You're right; it was just the window.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, just the window.

WILLIAMS: Was the board just plain board or . . .

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

D. WALLACE: The same stool that's been there all . . . Remember?

C. WALLACE: That stool?

D. WALLACE: Yeah, the same one.

WILLIAMS: The little four-legged stool.

D. WALLACE: The same one.

WILLIAMS: What's it for?

C. WALLACE: To sit on.

WILLIAMS: When you're . . .

D. WALLACE: I guess putting your socks on or taking them off.

C. WALLACE: I guess. It depends how many . . .

D. WALLACE: And there was never a gas thing in the wall like that. Electric, that was added.

WILLIAMS: We have heard that Mrs. Wallace used the storage room way back when as her sitting room.

D. WALLACE: Here?

WILLIAMS: And this was kind of their part of the house when the Gateses were here.

C. WALLACE: Well, that we wouldn't know.

D. WALLACE: If the light's on back here, can I go back?

DAGE: I can take you back with a flashlight. I don't think we have a light.

C. WALLACE: If you want to take him back, take him back.

D. WALLACE: No, there's nothing in there to see anyway.

WILLIAMS: Junk.

D. WALLACE: It's a junk room.

WILLIAMS: But as far as you know, it was always junk.

C. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: And you wouldn't use that staircase much?

C. WALLACE: Up here?

WILLIAMS: In the back.

C. WALLACE: No, that's different up there.

D. WALLACE: Not really.

C. WALLACE: Well, why does it go to nothing and then turns?

D. WALLACE: That's because the wall, the roof is there. The door to the attic.

WILLIAMS: The door is to the right.

C. WALLACE: Well, I don't remember that.

D. WALLACE: It turns to the right and goes around.

C. WALLACE: I never went up there much.

WILLIAMS: Was the attic fan here then?

C. WALLACE: Where?

D. WALLACE: No, that was added. That was added in about '44 or '45. It was added when we were in Denver, because all it was was just, you know, a fan going to a swamp cooler, I think. Because it was here then when I was

here in '46, '47, and '48.

WILLIAMS: Were you up in the attic much?

C. WALLACE: Never went up there, no. The last time I went up there was when May and I came over after Bess died, and I told you we went through the house, and we went up there to see what was up there. Just nosy. And that's where we saw all the closets that had been built, and there was boxes and boxes of hats of Uncle Harry's. What are you doing with all those hats?

WILLIAMS: We're cataloging them and keeping them.

C. WALLACE: How many? Oh, there were just *all kinds* of hats.

WILLIAMS: Now, is this where George and Harry . . .

D. WALLACE: Fell down.

WILLIAMS: Could you tell that story?

C. WALLACE: What?

WILLIAMS: They were moving furniture or something.

C. WALLACE: I never heard that story. Somebody tell it to me.

D. WALLACE: You told it the other night.

C. WALLACE: I did not tell that.

D. WALLACE: Harry and George were moving something up there. You've told me the whole thing. One of them slipped and came down. That's when George broke his ankle.

C. WALLACE: Did I tell you that? Did I tell it to you?

D. WALLACE: You told it to me. You talked about it the other night.

C. WALLACE: I never did, David! You've got me mixed up with somebody else.

D. WALLACE: Absolutely not.

WILLIAMS: But there was a story. Do you know . . .

D. WALLACE: They were taking something up here. Mother said what it was last night. I don't remember what they were doing.

WILLIAMS: I heard it was a big chest or something.

D. WALLACE: George was on the bottom end and slipped or something and came down and broke his ankle.

WILLIAMS: Was this before the presidency?

D. WALLACE: Oh, yeah.

WILLIAMS: Way . . .?

D. WALLACE: No, it was about '39, '40, somewhere in there.

WILLIAMS: And George was over helping out?

D. WALLACE: Mm-hmm.

WILLIAMS: That was typical?

D. WALLACE: Mm-hmm.

C. WALLACE: That was not the sofa that was down in the parlor. It's too big. I think that was always there. I don't know where that sofa came from. Do you remember seeing that up here?

WILLIAMS: It's kind of low-backed, too. But there was a desk over here?

C. WALLACE: A big table.

D. WALLACE: Yeah, a big round table.

WILLIAMS: What was it used for?

C. WALLACE: Just what you see there.

D. WALLACE: Well, no, she used this for a work desk. It was just used for a table thing. Just a table. It wasn't a desk desk.

WILLIAMS: A work table?

D. WALLACE: This is where she wrote her checks and everything and letters and all.

WILLIAMS: So there wasn't as much furniture out here in the hall?

C. WALLACE: I don't think there was anything against that wall.

D. WALLACE: Well, where was that thing?

C. WALLACE: I don't know. I'm beginning to wonder. I don't know. And I can't find the one that was in the parlor, so I don't know where anything is.

D. WALLACE: Mother, let me go down in front of you.

WILLIAMS: I think we've about run out of house.

C. WALLACE: Hmm?

D. WALLACE: Let me go down in front of you.

C. WALLACE: All right. Here.

WILLIAMS: What have we missed?

C. WALLACE: I don't know. I've never seen so many pictures of Margaret in my life.

WILLIAMS: Was it ever spooky in the house with all the creaks and noises?

C. WALLACE: No. You get used to those things, Jim, I think.

WILLIAMS: So that night the burglar was here, Fred ran across from your room?

C. WALLACE: You see how you'd run right across, knock on their door. He said, "Harry, there's somebody trying to come in." And he was trying to come in . . . was it that door or the dining room window? I think it was

the dining room window.

D. WALLACE: It was the dining room door.

C. WALLACE: And he said, "Where's the gun?" And you've heard the rest of the story. Uncle Harry said . . . well, what was it? "The gun's downstairs, and the bullets are in the attic."

WILLIAMS: Did you have many firearms around?

C. WALLACE: I never saw one anyplace, no.

D. WALLACE: What vent did that chain open? That thing down there.

WILLIAMS: I think it's to the coal.

D. WALLACE: It opened something because I used to play with that.

WILLIAMS: It was the regulator for the furnace, what we hear.

C. WALLACE: Sit right there. Don't move. No, I'll sit here.

D. WALLACE: No, we can't.

C. WALLACE: Oh, we can't sit on everything, can we? I might not ever get up again.

D. WALLACE: Oh, yeah, Mother? What was this thing, this little slanty thing right here [under the stairs in the foyer]? Remember, that was there. Watch your head. Oh, God, I remember I used to stick my finger there and get it stuck back in the hole.

C. WALLACE: What in the . . .? Yeah, what was that? You're sure that's . . .

D. WALLACE: Yeah, that's always been there.

C. WALLACE: God knows. Somebody had a brain wave or something.

D. WALLACE: No, it probably was something coming through there.

C. WALLACE: What would you say it is?

WILLIAMS: I'd say probably a pipe or some kind of duct maybe into the bathroom there or the bedroom.

C. WALLACE: Bathroom?

D. WALLACE: Yeah, bathroom.

C. WALLACE: Yeah, that's over there.

DAGE: We've been asked if Mother Wallace did the needlepoint. Did Mother Wallace do that type of needlework that's on the chair?

C. WALLACE: I think at one time she did, but as long as I knew her I never saw her do any.

WILLIAMS: But she did do regular sewing and mending?

C. WALLACE: She used to sew. And I have heard her say that when she had her babies she had to make their little shirts and their nightgowns and things. In her day, you didn't go to a store and buy things, evidently. I wasn't around. Have you heard that story, too?

WILLIAMS: Would you ever do entertaining in here besides family? Have people over?

C. WALLACE: Well, I used to when I first came out here. That little group I told you about would come when I'd have my turn, but not too often.

WILLIAMS: Nothing like the whole neighborhood would come in?

C. WALLACE: Oh, no.

WILLIAMS: Open house?

C. WALLACE: *No*, no, no.

WILLIAMS: Was that because of Mrs. Wallace mostly?

C. WALLACE: I just don't think we ever did that sort of thing. I think the only thing I can remember is Bess would have her bridge club. And then Helen Wallace would come and see us, and sometimes the Platte City people, but that was about it.

D. WALLACE: Why don't we continue this with Mother sitting down.

C. WALLACE: No, I'm fine.

D. WALLACE: No, you've got to go down a flight of stairs and you've got to get up two flights. So, I mean, you've got to sit down.

C. WALLACE: A flight and two flights? I'm fine. Really, I am.

D. WALLACE: You can sit in the car, Mother.

C. WALLACE: Okay, I'll sit in the car.

WILLIAMS: Can we take some pictures of you and David here in the house?

C. WALLACE: If you want to.

D. WALLACE: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: We'd like to do that.

C. WALLACE: I don't like pictures being taken of me because I take awful pictures, but . . . [tape turned off]

WILLIAMS: Thank you for coming out and visiting with us these two days.

C. WALLACE: Well, while I'm on tape, thank you very much, too, for being so nice to us. And Pat, and you. Connie?

DAGE: Carol.

C. WALLACE: Carol. Well, that's pretty close.

WILLIAMS: Connie is the other one.

C. WALLACE: And Scott.

STONE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Right. Connie was here earlier.

C. WALLACE: Well, thank you. We've enjoyed our visit, and it's been so nice of all of you. I just feel like we've known each other forever.

WILLIAMS: That's nice. I feel like I know you because I . . .

D. WALLACE: Keep calling.

WILLIAMS: Well, that and I read about you as I do research.

D. WALLACE: You keep calling.

END OF INTERVIEW

APPENDIX

1. "Do You Know Fred Wallace," *Democrat* (Kansas City, Mo.), 17 May 1929.
2. Bess W. Truman's handwritten family genealogy notes for Fred and Christine Wallace's family. HSTR files.
3. "A Flurry by Trumans," *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, c. June 1945.
4. "Truman Family Home," *Kansas City Times*, 20 December 1945.
5. "President's Wife Comes to Littleton," *Littleton Independent*, 18 July 1947.
6. *Kansas City Social Register*, 1948. HSTR files.
7. "'First Lady at Niece's Christening," *Register* (Denver, Colo.), 5 September 1948.
8. "Mrs. Wallace Is Dead," *Kansas City Star*, 5 December 1952.
9. Five photographs copied from the collection of May Wallace. HSTR files.
10. "Fred Wallace, 57, Dies; Mrs. Truman's Brother," *Denver Post*, 1 October 1957.
11. "George Wallace Dies," *Kansas City Times*, 25 May 1963.
12. David Wallace, "A Nephew Remembers Bess Truman and His Childhood in a Gingerbread Dream House," *People*, 8 November 1982.