



7-16-1972

Shirley Nixon Christensen (July 16, 1972)

C. Richard Arena

Oral History Interview

with

MRS. SHIRLEY NIXON CHRISTENSEN

July 16, 1972
Stayton Island, Oregon

By Evlyn Dorn

For the Richard Nixon Oral History Project

DORN: This is an interview with Mrs. Shirley Nixon Christensen, primarily for the purpose of locating family photographs. The date is July 16, 1972, at Stayton Island, Oregon. Mrs. Christensen, will you please tell me where and when you were born?

CHRISTENSEN: January 18, 1920, near Neola, Greenbrier County, West Virginia.

DORN: When did you come to Oregon?

CHRISTENSEN: 1931.

DORN: And did you come with your parents?

CHRISTENSEN: Yes, we all come out together.

DORN: Did you get your education in Oregon?

CHRISTENSEN: Yes, I did.

DORN: Where did you go to school here?

CHRISTENSEN: Well, we all went to Bridge Public School in Coos County, Oregon.

DORN: What were the names of your parents?

CHRISTENSEN: Henry D. Nixon and Lula Tinnie Thacker Nixon.

DORN: And how about your grandparents?

CHRISTENSEN: Boston A. Nixon and Lucy Nixon.

DORN: Have you ever met the President?

CHRISTENSEN: No, I have not met him personally, but I keep up with him.

DORN: How about his parents, had you ever met Hannah and [Francis Anthony] Frank Nixon?

CHRISTENSEN: No, I never did meet them. Didn't have the opportunity really.

DORN: Do you have any idea about any family pictures or documents of any kind that might be around?

CHRISTENSEN: Yes, I had some pictures taken. I took them myself. I'm going to see if I can get it. I loaned it to my father and I asked for it back. I'm going to get it and see if I can get some made of it. It's very good. It's of Grandpa [Boston] Nixon and Grandma [Lucy], sitting in their little cabin on either side of the doorway, and it's a very good picture of both of them.

DORN: That's Boston Nixon. Well, we certainly would like to have a copy if it's at all possible for the Nixon Library. Was any other member of your family interested in seeking public office at all?

CHRISTENSEN: Not really, but we keep up with it.

DORN: Do you know of anybody that might have inspired Richard Nixon to attain the high position that he has in the world, probably the most powerful man in the world? Have you ever heard of anybody that particularly inspired him?

CHRISTENSEN: No, not really, of course I wasn't. . . . Unless it would be my aunt, and she knew him very well.

DORN: What was her name?

CHRISTENSEN: Her name was Margaret Martin.

DORN: Where did she live?

CHRISTENSEN: She lived at 10 West Clark Street, Eureka, California.

DORN: Did he visit her, do you know?

CHRISTENSEN: Yes. He and Pat [Patricia Ryan Nixon] came to visit one time there in Eureka, but I wasn't living there at the time. But my aunt told me about the visit they had.

DORN: Did she mention anything about Pat Nixon, the wife of a young man in politics, as the wife of a young lawyer?

CHRISTENSEN: Oh, yes, she was very proud of him being a lawyer and she followed everything that he'd done and had all the documents she could get on him and all the pictures and all that sort of thing. I talked to her lots about it.

DORN: Now, you live in Eureka, right?

CHRISTENSEN: Yes.

DORN: And you came up here for this reunion particularly.

CHRISTENSEN: Yes, I did.

DORN: How did you come, did you drive?

CHRISTENSEN: Yes. I come with my Uncle Kessler Nixon and helped him drive.

DORN: You came for this specific reason, for this reunion?

CHRISTENSEN: Yes.

DORN: It certainly must be inspiring to get among so many of your relatives and get reacquainted or acquainted.

CHRISTENSEN: It really is, because they all grew up and you'd learn about all of them, and each one of us, of course, we're always following Richard [Milhous Nixon]. It's just nice to get together again.

DORN: Do you have any idea how many different branches of the family are represented here today?

CHRISTENSEN: Different branches?

DORN: I mean somebody's son or somebody's daughter and their children?

CHRISTENSEN: My goodness, we ought to count them, I know it could be done.

DORN: I noticed there was a guest book in there.

CHRISTENSEN: Yes, there's a guest book.

DORN: I would like to have a copy of that or write the names down just for history.

CHRISTENSEN: We'll see that you get one of those.

DORN: Will you see what you can do about the pictures that you spoke about, and would you contact me about those? We'd like very much to gather in as many documents and pictures as we can for the Nixon Library.

CHRISTENSEN: I'll see what I can do about that.

DORN: Is there anything else that you can think of that you'd like to mention?

CHRISTENSEN: Not that I can think of right now, but that we are very proud of Richard.

DORN: Thank you very much for this interview.

LETTER AND GENEALOGY APPENDED.

7-7-73

Dear Mrs Evelyn Barn -

Here is some information you might like to look over & be of some help -

I'm sorry. I'm late in sending this in, but I moved & these papers got misplaced in the mean time. I finally got these pictures I promised you, altho they are not the best ones, but I guess we will have to do with what I could find.

I have ^{copy} one ^{Snapshot} of my father, if you would want it.

We would appreciate any material on this ^{person} family you could send me - I'm putting together a Scrap Book of all the Nationals & can get on the Yisovus also.

Thank you for being so patient -

Sincerely -

Barley (Hope) Nelson Christensen

442-8000

Stop by should you come to
Burlington

My grandfather -

-7-

Easton Ellen Tilson family -

married

Margrett - Ransom Edicatt

Rebecca Fay Buzzard

Kenneth^m Pearl Buzzard

James Linchier Combs

Henry - Lula Jennie Thacker

Judith - Rictan Carow

Marie - Percy Ross

Edbert - died at 18 yrs

Original of Mrs. Shirley Nixon Christensen's and Boston Allen Nixon's genealogy is filed with the Nixon genealogy file.

Mrs. Christensen's donation of one photograph of Boston Allen Nixon and one photograph of Mr. and Mrs. Boston Allen Nixon are filed with the Frank and Hannah Nixon photograph collection.