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Ester Bewley McIntosh and Theron W. McIntosh (April 27, 1972)

C. Richard Arena

Oral History Interview

with

MRS. ESTHER BEWLEY McINTOSH
MR. THERON W. McINTOSH

April 27, 1972
Del Mar, California

By Dr. C. Richard Arena

For the Richard Nixon Oral History Project

ARENA: This is interview #1 with Mr. and Mrs. T. W. McIntosh. Mrs. McIntosh is the former Esther Bewley, cousin of Thomas Bewley, who has been interviewed earlier. Her husband is Mr. Theron William McIntosh. We are in Del Mar, California, their residence, April 27, 1972, Arena interviewing. May I begin by asking you, Mrs. McIntosh, just what your direct connection with the President or his family, members of his family, is from the standpoint of your birth, your family connections:

E. McINTOSH: It goes back to my grandparents, Thomas and Anna Rebecca Bewley, who were very good friends of his maternal grandparents, the [Franklin] Milhouses. They were all friendly in Butlerville, Jennings County, Indiana. My grandparents lived in Butlerville. My grandfather had a business there. Theirs was a good-sized family, I think nine children.

ARENA: If it isn't too personal and making allowance for your prerogative as a woman, would you state when you were born and where precisely?

E. McINTOSH: Well, I was born in Westport, Indiana, which is about fourteen miles from Butlerville in Decatur County. And my father who perhaps was in the middle of the nine children of the Bewley family, had gone to Westport to start a little business of his own. He had a sawmill and he went out to the woods and bought the trees and brought them in and sawed them into lumber to build houses in that area.

ARENA: What year?

E. McINTOSH: I believe he left Butlerville in 1893. I'm not sure. I was born in 1897.

ARENA: That year as you know, we've mentioned off the tape a moment ago, was the year that the President's grandfather, Franklin Milhous, moved from Indiana to California.

E. McINTOSH: That's true. I remember hearing that.

ARENA: Now you know I have also interviewed your cousin, Thomas Bewley, who was also the President's first law partner. Would you want to give the nature of the family relationship with Thomas Bewley, your relationship?

E. McINTOSH: Yes. Tom is the oldest son of Arthur Bewley, my father's brother. They lived in Indiana too before coming to California.

ARENA: In other words, your father and Tom Bewley were brothers.

E. McINTOSH: Yes. So Tom is a first cousin and he has a brother and a sister who are my first cousins. Of course, I didn't know any of the President's ancestors in Indiana. I didn't know them until after we came to California about 1909.

ARENA: For the sake of historical research, I want to put on the tape the living relatives you mentioned a moment ago, and correct me if I'm wrong as I go over this information. But the brothers and sisters of Thomas Bewley, the lawyer in Whittier, include Fred Bewley and Helen Margaret Bewley Hathaway, whose husband is Julian Hathaway.

E. McINTOSH: Naomi Bewley Burke, whose husband's first name is Paul is also a cousin who lives in Whittier. She is a daughter of my father's oldest brother.

ARENA: Thank you. Would you mind giving a brief sketch, Mrs. McIntosh, of your education and whether or not you started a career, or was your career marriage? Anything you want to say about that.

E. McINTOSH: Well [Laughter] my education is rather limited. I did graduate from Whittier schools. I was in seventh grade when we came to Whittier, and I went to the old Bailey Street School in Whittier and graduated from that school. And after that graduation, my father decided he didn't like California and was going to go back to Indiana. So we went back and stayed three

months and were back in California in time for me to start at Whittier High School in 1916. So, you see, my formal education ended with graduation from Whittier High School in 1916. Of course, I feel that my experience in the business world was a valuable part of my education. I was employed in the business office of the Whittier News, the insurance business of Mr. Wallace Gregg and the First National Bank of Whittier.

ARENA: If you don't mind my asking, do you recall that Mr. Franklin Milhous had anything to do with your father's coming personally or did he advise him once he did get here concerning property, citrus and so forth?

E. MCINTOSH: I doubt that. Franklin Milhous, of course, was very well established in his citrus orchard in Whittier by the time we came to Whittier, but several of my father's brothers, one sister and my grandmother had come to California before we had.

ARENA: Do you recall the earliest year that your direct relatives came--your immediate relatives--your father or grandmother, the earliest time? I am wondering, for example, if they came before Franklin Milhous, before that 1897 year, as you recall?

E. MCINTOSH: No, I believe it was later than that. It may not have been very much later. There was my Uncle George Wilfred [Bewley] and Frank [Bewley]. Uncle Frank was the youngest one of the Bewley brothers. He still was living with my grandmother in Indiana in the old family home in Butlerville. So following that, my father came to California. Later than that Fred and Tom and Helen Margaret's family came to California. Of course, a number of people from that section of Indiana had what they called the Jennings County picnic in Whittier or somewhere in the area, and I remember going to those when I was quite young when we first came to California.

ARENA: These weren't necessarily people who were related, but who were from Jennings County, and there had been many of them and they decided to hold these picnics?

E. MCINTOSH: Yes. I remember many names but I'm sure many of those people are gone now, but they were intimate friends of the Milhous family. They were all, I think practically all of them, Quakers and had all been very intimate, gone to the same schools, you know.

ARENA: While we're on that subject of the Quakers, do you mind if I ask you if you are a Quaker and a birth-right Quaker at that?

E. McINTOSH: I'm not a birthright Quaker because as I started to say, my father when he went to Westport [Indiana] married a girl who was not a Quaker, and in Westport there was no Quaker church or meeting of that sort so he became a Methodist.

ARENA: But your father himself was a birthright Quaker?

E. McINTOSH: He was a birthright Quaker, yes. But he became a Methodist and I was a Methodist. I guess if you have interviewed very many people in Whittier, they will remember me in various churches in Whittier, the Friends church, the Methodist church, not much, but I went to Sunday school in the Methodist church when we were first there.

ARENA: You may know, speaking of the relationship of Methodists and Quakers and the Milhouses, that [Francis Anthony] Frank Nixon himself had been a Methodist. This has been stated in certain books.

E. McINTOSH: I think I've read that.

ARENA: Yes. Would you know anything beyond that? I was wondering if you knew, for example, the church he attended and possibly you may have attended the same one? Or did that ever come up, his pre-Quaker Methodist background that you recall?

E. McINTOSH: I don't know that. I don't know that much about . . .

ARENA: It never came up between you and him in any way?

E. McINTOSH: No. No. I don't know that much about his relation to the Methodist church. They lived in Yorba Linda [California] as you know and that was where Richard Nixon was born, and I don't believe there was a Quaker meeting in Yorba Linda, but there may have been.

ARENA: Well, as a matter of fact, he helped to build the Quaker church. As a matter of fact, he did help to build that one and it is still standing in Yorba Linda on a Baptist parking lot. They hope they can preserve it.

E. McINTOSH: Yes.

ARENA: If you are in that area, you might want to see it.

E. McINTOSH: Yes, that's very interesting.

ARENA: But it is of historical significance in that he helped to build it and it's still standing. While we are on the subject of Quakers, again, since of course that was the President's heritage and you were mentioning off the tape the nature of the Quaker meeting that the President's mother and other sisters, who were born in Indiana, attended, would you mind going over that again? Whatever you do recall about the nature of the practices of the Friends there, which I believe had been a bit different than East Whittier and Whittier later on.

E. McINTOSH: Well, I'm quite sure it was. I was quite young when I went to the first Quaker meeting that I ever attended. It was at Hopewell, the little Hopewell church out of Butlerville, Indiana. And I believe that the Milhous farm is out on that side of Butlerville in Jennings County. But I was taken to one of the meetings on a Sunday when we visited my grandmother in Butlerville. Of course, it was new to me because I had always gone to Methodist Sunday school in Westport. The meeting, I guess, is what they called the silent meeting. As I recall the men sat on one side of the little church and the ladies on the other, and if somebody felt the "spirit move him," as they spoke in those days, he would stand up and say what he had on his mind. Maybe there would be silence for quite a long time and then somebody else might do the same.

ARENA: You may recall on the topic of silence, Jessamyn West has written about some of these meetings and she does describe the silent ones. There was this question of music and the use of music in the services or in the home. Some practiced it; some did not. As you know, music is a very important part of the President's heritage. I was wondering if you recall anything about either the presence or absence of music back at that time in Indiana in that particular church?

E. McINTOSH: Well, I don't remember whether there was any music at all. I think I would have remembered it if there had been. I know that music was something in the life of the President as it was the life of the Bewleys. It was a big family and they all loved to sing and were quite musical. Many of the men had very good voices as I recall, so there was always music there and there was always music in the home where I was brought up. My mother was also quite musical. But I don't recall about that church. Of course, in the Methodist church, I remember that music very, very well.

T. McINTOSH: Was that building out there at Hopewell the same church that you went to?

E. McINTOSH: The building was gone when you were there.

T. McINTOSH: I wondered. Then the one across the street, across the corner there's a new one.

E. MCINTOSH: Yes, because the old Hopewell Meeting House is gone, I'm quite sure. My grandfather is buried in the churchyard across the street from where the Hopewell Meeting House was. And there was a picture someone had taken when they visited there that I had, and I wanted to go see that again. I remember that from my youth.

T. MCINTOSH: Didn't we find some Milhous . . .

E. MCINTOSH: Oh, yes, in that churchyard there are headstones, markers, for some of the Milhouses and some names that I recalled. Of course, I didn't know any of those people, you see. They had all gone before. In Whittier, when we first came here, there was a man who was a Quaker minister, Thomas Armstrong--Thomas and Eliza Armstrong. The Quakers always called everybody by their first name, you know. Thomas was the teacher in the school in Butlerville, and I remember my dad and my Aunt Lillie [Elizabeth Bewley Allen], Bewley Allen's mother, and various ones talking about school when Thomas Armstrong was the teacher, and I am sure that some of the Milhous children must have; he must have been their schoolmaster too.

ARENA: He is, of course, now deceased.

E. MCINTOSH: Yes, he has, quite some time ago. But they lived for a long time up on East Camilla Avenue in Whittier though, I know, when we were still living there. I think he was still living at the time we left Whittier.

ARENA: There have been references from time to time about the ancestors of the President on the female side who were also good speakers, and they might have broken up some of these silent sessions with, if not formal preaching, with some comments that really attracted attention. Does anything like that come to your mind, that some of the Milhouses or other relatives of the President through marriage were not necessarily pastors but had the gift for speech, so to speak? Do you recall that from your recollections?

E. MCINTOSH: No, not from my own recollection. But it seems to me I have heard of this, but I can't recall names now. I'm reaching that place where I don't recall these names, but it seems to me there were some of his. . . . And you're right, I believe they were the female ancestors. But I'm sure that there would be some people who are more familiar with that than I am. I'd like to know myself.

ARENA: Do you recall the manner in which your family moved from Indiana to Whittier, bearing in mind the manner, which you may have read about in which Franklin Milhous,

the President's grandfather, moved, by loading things onto a freight car, as I understand, including animals and certain tools and even finished woods, because of the fear that he would not find some of these things in the "wilderness of Whittier."

E. MCINTOSH: Yes. 1897 was quite some time ago you know. I do know when my grandmother and Uncle Frank [Bewley] came, they brought household things and those things were in her home for years and years and years. And there are some few things that some of us have, but they were scattered, of course, because a big family as we are, they are in the various families. But I remember the big bed that I used to sleep in in Butlerville when my father would take my sister and me over there to visit my grandmother and the big walnut wardrobe--they didn't have closets in those days as we have--but there was this walnut wardrobe that served as a closet where you hung your clothes and so forth. But Uncle Wilfred (Uncle George) had those things because he was the one who never married of my father's brothers. And he made a home for my grandmother in Long Beach [California] for a long, long time until she became quite crippled with rheumatism and she spent time with her daughters, Elizabeth, Mrs. Elmer Allen, and Isabella, Mrs. Lester Neill. The Allens lived in Whittier when we--the Thomas Bewley--family arrived in December 1909. The Neills came to California also, but they lived in the northern part of the state, and they are both gone now, except three cousins who live in Central California. I think my grandmother spent quite a lot of time in my father's oldest brother's home in Whittier--James Bewley. He is the father of Naomi Burke that I mentioned to you.

T. MCINTOSH: Your dad didn't bring his stuff.

E. MCINTOSH: No, we didn't bring household things when we came and that was in 1909. I remember we had a sale before leaving Westport.

T. MCINTOSH: Whittier was civilized, huh?

E. MCINTOSH: Yes, I guess it was.

ARENA: Many students and teachers and faculty are interested in black history, in an attempt to try to bring to the fore information that has been there but really has never been researched enough. There is a picture showing a black man working with Mr. Franklin Milhous and at least one gentleman from Whittier, who was born in the Whittier area and maybe Whittier itself, Mr. Orville Esport, whom you may know, has this picture and he believed that the black man came from Indiana. I am just wondering from the standpoint of tying that in with the President and from his family history, if you know anything about that situation at all?

E. MCINTOSH: I don't know that at all.

ARENA: Or have you ever heard anything?

E. McINTOSH: I have never heard that at all.

ARENA: It shows him driving a team of horses on Franklin Milhous' ranch in Whittier.

E. McINTOSH: Is that so?

ARENA: I imagine in the 1890's.

E. McINTOSH: It could have been, yes. I didn't realize the Espolts, now this is, I didn't realize they had been in Whittier that long. They were German people, I believe. They came from Iowa and they had ranches in East Whittier, all of these people. I didn't realize they had been here as long as--when Frank Milhous was still operating his ranch. Yes, it would be ranch by this time. Farm in Indiana but ranch in California.

ARENA: Do you happen to recall also that, especially while you were attending elementary school, that there were black children attending the elementary schools with you? There is a picture showing Hannah in an elementary school with two black students.

E. McINTOSH: Was that in the East Whittier school?

ARENA: Mr. Espolt had a picture.

E. McINTOSH: She probably was in the East Whittier school as Orville was and it might have been in the East Whittier school. I believe when I was in the eighth grade there was one little black boy who was in our class and he also came to high school. I believe, it would seem to me that he may have lived down in the Los Nietos area, because I believe he used to come from down in that part of the Whittier area.

ARENA: What do you recall about the personality, the nature of the President's grandfather from your firsthand recollections--Mr. Franklin Milhous?

E. McINTOSH: Well, I would say that he was a reserved person. He might not have been too easy to get acquainted with, but he was very much interested in his friends and his family. Now that's my feeling about him. And I know that his grandmother--the President's grandmother--Allie [Almira Burdg Milhous] as my relatives called her, was a very gracious and home-loving body.

ARENA: Did they like to have company, people over for lunch, we'll say, or that sort of thing?

E. McINTOSH: I would not think so much more than just family. I remember that my aunt, Mrs. [Elizabeth Bewley] Allen, Mrs. Elmer Allen, the mother of Joseph and Bewley Allen, was a very good friend of Allie Milhous and they used to visit back and forth, but they didn't entertain in those days or these people didn't. There were people in Whittier whom I knew at that time who had parties and entertained a lot, but I don't know that they did. But they always looked forward to the Jennings County picnic, I know, those people did. That was when they ALL got together. Some of those people that came to that picnic lived in the Huntington Park [California] area and in Los Angeles, California, and in Pasadena, California. I remember how they looked but now I have forgotten many of their names, don't you know.

ARENA: Was it common at that time, especially the generation of Mr. Franklin Milhous and Almira to use "thee" and "thou" among members of the family?

E. McINTOSH: Yes. They did and for a long, long time. I remember that. That was just a Quaker custom and they did it.

ARENA: What do you recall in the way of personality and character and ways of Almira Milhous, the President's grandmother.

E. McINTOSH: Well, you know, I knew her and as I said, she was a very gracious, lovely lady. I always felt this. I think that her big interest was her family, and I know that she was a devout Christian. But you know, life was different in those days than it is nowadays. People were busy with their own families and so forth. You see your friends maybe once a month or maybe you see them at church. Well, that's where I think they would meet more often than any other place, because clubs and things like that, I don't think were a part of her life.

ARENA: Taking both of them together, both Franklin Milhous and Almira, how would you describe the household atmosphere, the home in which the President's mother grew up, we'll say? What kind of daily life, as much as you could see of it? What type of atmosphere was the President's mother reared in?

E. McINTOSH: Well, actually, I can't say that I visited in their home, so that I don't really know that, but I am sure that it must have been similar to the home in which I spent a lot of time, which was the [Elmer] Allen household. And it was just carrying on--a way of living--no flourishes, but they were always very interested in family and friends. And their friends, as far as I know, were their neighbors and the people that they had known in the Indiana days.

ARENA: The President has written in the book Six Crises--and really it's his speech that I am thinking of in particular, it begins with his acceptance speech in Miami [Florida] for the campaign of 1968--that his mother had hopes that he might some day do missionary work in Central America. I am wondering if that ever came up in any way between you and Mrs. Hannah Nixon, or if there is any reason for you to know anything more about that statement?

E. McINTOSH: Well, the only thing that I know is that that group of people in Whittier and East Whittier Friends Church were very much interested in Central America missions. Has Bewley [Allen] ever told you this? You have had an interview with him, I imagine, but his sister, Isabella Allen, became a missionary in Central America and died there. She had one of the diseases that they have. She was named after my father's sister, who is younger than Isabella Allen's mother, Isabella Neill, and her name was spelled Isabella.

ARENA: Do you think that Mrs. Hannah Nixon was aware of that by the way--that that had taken place?

E. McINTOSH: I'm sure of it because as I say, her mother, Allie Milhous, and Isabella's mother, Elizabeth Allen, were very good friends. Now the Allen children, all of the family, there were five of them, sometime in their life I think they all went to the Training School for Christian Workers in Huntington Park [California].

BEGIN SIDE II TAPE I

ARENA: I do recall your cousin, Thomas Bewley, the lawyer, saying that he did some work, I believe it was the Lindsay [California] property that I believe was owned by Mr. Franklin Milhous. I was just wondering if possibly you got into the Lindsay area? I do know that Frank and Hannah Nixon lived there briefly too, maybe running the same property. Whatever comes to mind.

E. McINTOSH: Well, I'm not sure. Probably when Frank and Hannah lived in Lindsay, they were on Frank Milhous' property up there, very likely. I don't really know that for a fact, but Hannah's sister, Martha, (Mattie) Gibbons and her husband owned a ranch in Lindsay [California], and the only time I ever visited in Lindsay was when I visited her there. We, another aunt of mine (wife of one of my Bewley uncles) and I drove to Denair [California] where the [Lester] Neills lived. (This is a younger sister of my father). And on our way back we stopped over night in Lindsay and visited Mattie Milhous Gibbons, and I think that is when she told me of the close friendship between the Milhous and Bewley families.

Of course, the Milhous family lived in the country in Indiana and the Bewley family lived in Butlerville, a little town, and she said they--the Milhous young people--would be taken to school in the morning, probably in a wagon in those days, they would be taken into town. But if it happened to be bad weather or if for some reason they couldn't get in to meet them immediately after school was out, they would go to Grandma Bewley's--this was the home of Thomas and Anna R. Bewley in Butlerville--and stay there until the family came to pick them up and take them back out to the farm. I do recall that, but I don't know just how much property Frank Milhous may have had in Lindsay.

ARENA: The other sister who lived in Lindsay was the President's piano teacher, Mrs. Jane Milhous Beeson. What do you recall of her and her musical interests?

E. MCINTOSH: I didn't know her at all. I recall that there was a double wedding soon after we came to California at the Friends church in Whittier, and it was two of the Milhous girls. I feel real sure of this. I could be wrong. You say no one else has mentioned it, but I think that must have been Jane and possibly Mattie.

ARENA: I'll check on that. Speaking of another sister, and I think we mentioned her off the tape too, Elizabeth Milhous Harrison, who married Russell Harrison, Sr., I was wondering what you do recall about her?

E. MCINTOSH: I knew her a little better. She and Olive Milhous Marshburn were the younger girls of the Milhous family, and I knew them socially--that is as much social life as there was in that day, in Sunday school and church and such things. But she was a very nice person. I liked her very, very much and I liked Olive very much. I liked them all. They were just real people.

ARENA: If this isn't too personal and if your memory does take this in, were you surprised at the choice of a husband of Hannah Nixon, in that she was attending college and her husband not only was not a college student but had not gone beyond the sixth grade? Did that come as a surprise that she would marry such a person?

E. MCINTOSH: Do you know that somehow, I don't think I remember anything about that until I read about it after their son became so famous. As far as I knew, Frank Nixon was just another Frank Milhous. To me they were very similar. They probably were quite opinionated. They probably were very smart men, but they had convictions, you know, and I think that it's not surprising really because this is the way they were all brought up. Aren't the Nixon Quakers also from Pennsylvania?

ARENA: Some of the Nixons do tie in with the Quakers. His father, Frank Nixon's father, was a very definite Methodist, a very strong practicing one, and he was brought up in such a manner. But the histories that have been written about the President so far indicate that after the marriage he became a Quaker, and nothing too much is said about his own views or his own thinking on it.

E. MCINTOSH: This, I think, is typical of the man.

ARENA: Mr. McIntosh, were you going to say something?

T. MCINTOSH: Didn't the Nixons, Frank and Hannah, live there at the store, didn't they, in back of the store?

E. MCINTOSH: Yes, their house was there in East Whittier, right opposite the East Whittier church.

ARENA: Yes, right across from the East Whittier Friends Church, and I believe the grocery store was originally the original church, or one of the original churches, because he did purchase an old church.

E. MCINTOSH: And I think it was moved across the street.

ARENA: Right.

E. MCINTOSH: I think I recall that too.

ARENA: And Mr. McIntosh, I believe we were discussing off the tape before that your relatives, maybe your folks, were virtually next door neighbors of Frank and Hannah Nixon.

T. MCINTOSH: That's right. They lived a little farther east on the boulevard.

ARENA: They were on the boulevard too?

T. MCINTOSH: Oh, yes. The ranch was on the boulevard, oh, I guess about half a mile.

E. MCINTOSH: Yes, just beyond First Avenue.

T. MCINTOSH: Just beyond First Avenue, and my mother had remarried and married Mr. Elmer Dewey who had been there since 1914. And so they being neighbors of the Nixons and trading at the store were very good friends of Dick's folks.

E. MCINTOSH: I guess maybe--may I--when you came to California in 1922, I guess probably Mr. Nixon, Dick, at that time was making those trips into Los Angeles to get the produce for the store.

ARENA: Well, as a matter of fact, not the young Richard Nixon. He did come with his family. The father did move from Yorba Linda to East Whittier in 1922, and the idea of making the trips to the Los Angeles market was during maybe his last year of high school and during his college years, which would have been 1928 on. And definitely between 1930 and 1934. But that's about the time. Do you have any recollections of that in any way? Do you recall his leaving or coming back with produce from the market?

T. MCINTOSH: No, I don't because, you see, I came out here when I graduated from college in 1922 and then I went to work in Los Angeles that year. I lived at home for probably about a year or a year and a half before we were married and then moved into Whittier when we were married. And it is when we were at home--that I was living at home--that I used to go down to the store for Mother or I used to take her down there shopping.

ARENA: To set your own age level with the President, may I ask you where and when you were born?

T. MCINTOSH: I was born in Northfield, Vermont, in 1899.

ARENA: And you first came in 1922?

T. MCINTOSH: Right.

ARENA: May I ask the circumstances?

T. MCINTOSH: Well, I was just going into my junior year in college and mother married Mr. Dewey. And see, he also came from Vermont. He and my mother went to school together when they were there in Vermont. So he married and my mother married and he came to California. And his wife died, so eventually they were married in 1920--my stepfather and my mother. So when I graduated from college, I came to California to visit my mother and I never got back to Vermont again.

ARENA: If I'm not mistaken, another name that comes to mind that ties in with the President's times, life and family, and I wonder if it rings a bell with you, in Yorba Linda is the name Pike. The Pikes were, among other things, one of them [Loren Pike] was a partner of [Francis Anthony] Frank Nixon in Yorba Linda. And speaking about sawmills, Frank Nixon had a partnership with a Mr. [Loren] Pike doing just that--cutting wood and selling it and also buying a tractor and hiring the tractor and

themselves out and so forth. And I was just wondering if that And still another name from that area would be the Bemises. I wonder if that name rings a bell?

E. MCINTOSH: The name I know but I can't recall the connection. My only sister, Helen Bewley King, lived in Yorba Linda. My nephew was born--no, he was born in Whittier. She married Eldon King, who was the Pacific Electric agent in Yorba Linda station on the Pacific Electric Railroad there--red cars.

ARENA: As you know, Mr. Frank Nixon was a motorman on that line. Did you ever see him or know anything about that part of his life?

E. MCINTOSH: No, I don't think I ever did. I think by the time I was riding the electric car from La Habra to Whittier High School, which I did--changed cars down at Los Nietos, California, and up to the high school--I think by that time he had gone into some other occupation because I don't remember him as a--was it a motorman or a conductor?

ARENA: Evidently a motorman. Some people say conductor but the weight of opinion seems to be motorman.

E. MCINTOSH: I don't believe I knew him. It's strange isn't it that . . .

ARENA: Do you mind if I ask you what experiences do you recall where you and President Nixon were together, whether it was a social affair or a formal or informal affair and then how would you describe him in those circumstances? Whatever comes to mind--whatever direct contact you had with him.

E. MCINTOSH: Did I mention earlier these Jennings County picnics? There is, of course, much difference in our ages. I presume I was in high school. Yes, 1913, I must have been a freshman in high school when he was born, and when we used to go to some of those Jennings County picnics, there were always little boys playing around and I think perhaps I saw him then. I may have. But I really have had no social contacts with him. Mac and I have lived in several places in Southern California and have, as I told you earlier, always been good Republicans and have been very enthusiastic about his political career. And we have gone to the various places. . . . Well, when he was electioneering, I guess for representative, he was in Riverside [California] and we went to one of the meetings there.

ARENA: Did you have the opportunity to speak with him?

E. McINTOSH: Yes, we spoke with him.

ARENA: And did he recognize you?

E. McINTOSH: Yes. His Aunt Edith was there. Edith is the older of Hannah's sisters, I believe, Mrs. [Edith Milhous] Timberlake, and he mentioned that, and after the meeting was over, we spoke with him. And of course, he recognized-- I had to put the name Bewley in or he wouldn't have known me.

T. McINTOSH: Didn't you meet him on Wilshire Boulevard too?

E. McINTOSH: Oh, yes, that's right. That was about the same time, wasn't it? A little bit later. We lived in Riverside [California] at that time. Because I had gone into Los Angeles and was with an aunt of mine--one of my mother's sisters--who lived in Los Angeles. We had been out to Barker Bros. [furniture store] and we were coming along the street going down toward Robinson's [department store], and coming toward us was Mr. Nixon and his wife. And they were coming along in a very gay fashion. They just looked like they were having a real good time. And I said to my aunt, "This is Richard Nixon. Would you like to meet him?" And she said, "Yes, wouldn't it be nice." So we stopped and I told him who I was and he was very gracious as he always is, you know. She was too. And that really is about the only time that I ever . . .

T. McINTOSH: What did you ever do with the thimble that Pat [Patricia Ryan Nixon] gave you?

E. McINTOSH: Oh, I still have the thimble. You know, she passed out thimbles. You know, she used to go with him.

ARENA: In the campaigns?

E. McINTOSH: Yes.

ARENA: Which I understand are collector's items now.

E. McINTOSH: Well, I'm glad. I still have one or two of them.

ARENA: Do you mind if I ask you this. From your overall experience and years of firsthand knowledge with the Bewley-Milhous clan, so to speak, and families, how many politicians were there? Or does any of this group from Indiana and Whittier ever go into politics?

E. McINTOSH: Not to my knowledge.

ARENA: Would you want to account for that in any way? For example, do you recall in your own household feeling

that politics is dirty, it's something that people don't go into. Was that something that was part of your experience or maybe stronger?

E. MCINTOSH: My father was a very staunch Republican and I think the Bewleys were. They practically all were and it was a big family. My mother's family--my grandmother, Sarah Elizabeth Carder, Mrs. John Newell Carder, who raised me practically, because my mother died when I was quite young, was a Democrat. And I can remember one of my mother's sister's husbands on Thanksgiving or times like these when they would come home for the holidays, I can remember my father and uncle, Vern Small, and my grandmother having terrific arguments. I didn't know what it was all about, but I can remember that they all had their convictions.

T. MCINTOSH: It isn't any different today, is it?

E. MCINTOSH: No. Oh, the Bewleys were great arguers, I'll tell you that. But I never was present when they were arguing with any of the Milhouses and I don't know what their political beliefs were. However, I'm sure that Frank Nixon had very strong ideas.

ARENA: Were you ever in his presence when he was arguing politics?

E. MCINTOSH: No, I can't say I was.

ARENA: As people say he did from time to time.

E. MCINTOSH: I can't say that but you see, I think I told you that I worked for a number of years in the First National Bank in Whittier and Mr. Herman Perry who was practically my boss--Mr. Hadley was the president and Herman Perry was the cashier of that bank . . .

ARENA: Excuse me. Which Hadley was that?

E. MCINTOSH: That was Fred Hadley.

ARENA: Because there is a Washington Hadley, too, I believe.

E. MCINTOSH: He was the grandfather of Fred Hadley.

ARENA: Was he the one that started the line of Hadleys in Whittier and was a banker himself?

E. MCINROSH: Yes, he started that bank.

ARENA: And was from Chicago [Illinois]?

MCINTOSH: I'm not sure.

ARENA: I see. Excuse me, Mr. McIntosh?

T. MCINTOSH: Wasn't Herman Perry instrumental in getting Dick to run?

E. MCINTOSH: Oh, yes. That was what . . .

T. MCINTOSH: And get into politics?

E. MCINTOSH: When you asked me about the political thing, of course, Mr. Perry was a member of the County Central Committee and I think he was the chairman of that committee for quite a long time. My desk was not very far from Mr. Perry's, and I can remember many times when Frank Nixon would come into the bank and he would lean over the counter and be talking to Mr. Perry. I didn't hear the conversation but I am quite sure that very often it was political. [Laughter]

ARENA: It also shows that Mr. Herman Perry knew Mr. Frank Nixon very well and where he would be endorsing, as he did, someone like Richard Nixon, and if he said he knew the family, he knew the family.

E. MCINTOSH: He did, yes. You see Hubert, Herman Perry's son, was a classmate of Richard's at Whittier College and Dick and Hubert [Perry] were quite good friends, so that he knew him quite well.

ARENA: Do you mind if I ask you--and this is kind of philosophical I guess, in general--but the Milhouses and the Hadleys evidently did well in Whittier. Had they been doing as well back in Indiana and do you think they would have done as well if they had not moved West? And you might say that of anyone, but I am just wondering from your own observations. I would say the Hadleys were an exceptionally well-to-do family. The Milhouses maybe not as much, but well-to-do.

E. MCINTOSH: Yes, well-to-do. I think they had a pretty good sized farm in Indiana and in those days a farm was a good thing to have, especially if you were raising a family, you know. And I don't know, I can't say from actual experience, but I would say that he did do very well with his citrus orchard. He must have planted that himself, I presume, because that orchard where the house was on Whittier Boulevard--the County Road in those days--was a pretty good sized orchard and they were producing when we came to California. I know that. Oh, that was a lovely time to have seen Whittier [Laughter], that area I mean, because there were walnuts and oranges, a lovely rural area, and I'm sure that he got into that early enough that he succeeded quite well.

ARENA: I guess also behind the question I'm asking is that that could explain one reason why so many came from

Indiana. Could there have been other equally important reasons? Do you think the climate was as important a factor--the fact that it was a Quaker community which may not have been as much of the situation up in Indiana? I don't know. You would know better. Would there have been more you might say control--not control--but more of a Quaker atmosphere for them to enjoy their beliefs in life in Whittier than back in Indiana?

E. McINTOSH: I don't know now whether there were any health reasons for coming, but I am sure that many people did leave Indiana to come West because of the difference in climate. I wondered if they were the first from that group from Indiana who came. If the [Franklin] Milhouses were among the first, I don't think I know if there were others of the Quakers who came about the same time.

ARENA: There's Dr. [Paul S.] Smith's family and I believe others from the Richmond, Ohio area.

E. McINTOSH: Richmond, Indiana. That's where Earlham College is.

ARENA: Earlham, yes.

E. McINTOSH: I wonder if when the Milhouses came, if they came in a group, if there were any others from the area who came? I have never known about that.

T. McINTOSH: I think probably the people coming from Indiana, it was a product of that time. For instance, my folks came from Vermont and in Whittier there was quite a colony of people from Vermont--the [Arthur] Morses and the MacNeils. There were quite a group of them--the Abbotts--they all came. They decided California looked like the promised land after farming.

ARENA: In other words, it wasn't just because they were Quakers, just because they were from Indiana. There were people from all over the country for different motives, and there wouldn't be anything in particular for the Milhouses to come, and your own family, the Bewleys? And there is usually someone who had gone ahead and sent the word back, a relative?

E. McINTOSH: I think so.

ARENA: As in your own case, Mr. McIntosh?

T. McINTOSH: Right, right.

E. McINTOSH: Yes, I think that is true.

ARENA: However, would you say too, going by general experience in your general recollection, that those who

did come who left the old state, the old city area, did better as a result of coming from the material standpoint?

E. McINTOSH: I would think so.

ARENA: And even educationally, possibly?

T. McINTOSH: I think definitely in the case of the Vermont people. I know from where they came from.

E. McINTOSH: I'm quite sure of that.

ARENA: May I ask one final question for professional historians: Do you both still have papers, such as letters, newspapers, magazines, especially letters and correspondence of your parents, of your relatives, that date back to this period, if historians would make such a search and locate? I would like to leave a record of where these records are. Historians would like to always supplement anything in the way of an oral history.

E. McINTOSH: Does anybody in your family save letters except me?

T. McINTOSH: No.

ARENA: Do you save letters?

E. McINTOSH: I don't know that I have anything that has any historical value, but I find it hard to get rid of some of the things that I have. I have pictures. We both have. We have pictures from his family that date way back and there are, among the things that I have, Bewley pictures. And I think I have one that I'm going to look up for you some day because I think it would be interesting to some of the people whose names I've seen in your guest book.

ARENA: Thank you. And I want to thank you both for extending to me your hospitality, allowing me to come into your home and to have the privilege of this interview, which is important for the sake of history. Thank you very much.

E. McINTOSH: Well, you are more than welcome. And I didn't know it would be important.