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REMINISCENCES ON THE LIFE OF ALICE HOSTETLER

Interview
with
Alice Hostetler

by

Margaret Cuttler

June 16, 1971
June 25, 1971
September 1, 1971

(TRANSCRIPT OF A TAPE RECORDING)

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON Alice Marie Watts Hostetler
(Mrs. George Minier Hostetler)
PRESENT ADDRESS: 401 Russell Avenue; Apt. 313 PHONE 948-2487
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20760

BIRTHPLACE: Indianapolis, Indiana

RESIDENCE:

childhood: Washington, D.C.

Montgomery County, Maryland: 1934 to 19present

EDUCATION: Central High School, Washington, D.C.
De Pauw University B.A. 1922
University of Maryland M.A. 1934
Hood College LL.D. Honoris Causa 1968
De Pauw University Alumni citation 1969

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Free-lance feature writer 1932
Staff writer--American Forests magazine 1930-1934
Staff writer--American Government Today 1935
Staff writer--Frederic J. Haskins Syndicate 1935
Social worker--Montgomery County Welfare Board 1935-1939
Theta Sigma Phi (National Journalism Fraternity) 1920-present

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Actively identified with county, state, and national Democratic Party
Maryland Democratic State Central Committee (name now changed) 1950-66
Woman's National Democratic Club, President 1955-56
Board Member 1943-55; 1956-58
Member 1941--present
Board of Directors, Commission on Aging (Montgomery County) 1968
President, Arlington (Virginia) Special Lumber Millwork Co. 1949-54
President, Montgomery County League of Women Voters 1941-42
President, Maryland State League of Women Voters 1942-44
Member, Maryland Commission on Juvenile Delinquency 1942-43
(Gov. O'Connor--revised Maryland laws affecting juveniles)
Kappa Kappa Gamma Social Fraternity, national Director of Provinces

PUBLIC OFFICE:

Elected member Montgomery County first Charter Board 1942-43
Appointed member Maryland House of Delegates 1961-62; 1966
(when Margaret Schweinhaut became senator)
(when John Moore became judge)

SPECIAL HONORS & AWARDS:

See Who's Who of American Women 1970-71
Who's Who in the East 1971-72; 1974-75
Maryland Manual 1961-62 Pg. 246

P R O C E E D I N G S

(START OF TAPE ONE, SIDE ONE.)

1
2
3 MRS. MARGARET CUTTLER: Today is June 16, 1971 and
4 I am Mrs. Margaret Cuttler, visiting Mrs. Alice ^{Watts}/Hostetler at
5 her home; Gattens Adventure, at 10801 Glen Road in Potomac,
6 Maryland. Mrs. Hostetler is beginning a series of reminis-
7 cences on her life as a civic leader and a political leader in
8 Montgomery County.

9 Mrs. Hostetler, shall we begin at the beginning,
10 and will you please tell me something about where and when you
11 were born and your early years?

12 MRS. HOSTETLER: There will be at least three be--
13 ginnings before we get it going, my early years, and then
14 when I first had dates out here and then after I was married
15 and came out here.

16 I was born in a hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, my
17 father was a newspaper man covering the State House there and
18 my mother's name was Marie Van Riper and she married Claude
19 Samuel Watts so she became Marie Watts. They both attended
20 De Pauw University, my father graduated from there and my
21 mother stopped to get married. And as I said, I was born there
22 in the hotel where they were living while he was covering the
23 State House, then he came to Washington about 1905, I think it
24 was.

25 MRS. CUTTLER: About how old were you then?

1 MRS. HOSTETLER: Around four, I think around four.
2 I can remember my age because I'm one year younger than fifties
3 in a year.

4 MRS. CUTTLER: That's convenient; what was your ex-
5 act date of birth?

6 MRS. HOSTETLER: February 16, 1901. Then I came
7 here to Washington. I was an only child and my mother was
8 very advanced in her thinking because she had me go to private
9 kindergarten immediately where there would be some children.
10 Back in those days we didn't have public kindergartens. Oh,
11 I guess Washington did; anyway, I couldn't get in, I was too
12 young or it was too crowded, so I did have the experience of
13 kindergarten. I started in school over ^{near} ~~where~~ ^{present} ~~the~~ Supreme
14 Court is now. That was more or less newspaper row in those
15 days, a lot of newspaper people lived there. Mother could go
16 sit next to the press gallery ~~was~~ she didn't know too many
17 people.

18 I used to play on the Capitol grounds, I guess all this
19 made more of an impression on me than I realized at that time
20 because I became interested in politics later.

21 Then my father ~~was~~ covered ~~g~~ the Taft campaign and we
22 went out to Columbus, Ohio for a year and then came back to
23 Washington.

24 MRS. CUTTLER: Was your Father employed by a mid-
25 western group of newspapers?

1 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well it wasn't a group, the way
2 they have them now with one ownership. He had several mid-
3 west papers that he sent things to, one in Cincinnati, I re-
4 member, one in Indianapolis and at one time his ignorance was
5 too bad because he had a little paper in Danville, Illinois
6 and it was sold out from under him and that's when he started
7 working for other papers. It never occurred to him that he
8 could go to a bank and borrow money to buy the paper himself,
9 he didn't even know about those things in that day and age and
10 that's why he continued working for other newspapers and came
11 to Washington.

12 I have to admit that some of my memories are rather
13 vague. I did go to Force School when we moved up on M Street,
14 Oh, Thomas Circle, and that's the school that the Roosevelt
15 boys went to.

16 MRS. CUTTLER: How do you spell the name of that
17 school?

18 MRS. HOSTETLER: F O R C E, Force, I think it was.
19 The youngest Roosevelt boy, Clinton, was through there when
20 I went, but in those days Presidents believed in public schools.

21 MRS. CUTTLER: And Teddy Roosevelt's children went
22 to public school?

23 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes.

24 MRS. CUTTLER: That's interesting.

25 MRS. HOSTETLER: Then after Force School, Central

1 High School burned down, oh no -- Western High School burned
2 down and I had always planned to go to Western, most of my
3 friends were going to Western but at that point my mother
4 thought it was very foolish for me to go to a temporary school.
5 And so, we didn't live too far from Central High School and
6 most children nowadays would think it was a shocking walk, but
7 I walked from Fourteenth and Thomas Circle over to Seventh and
8 O Street and thought nothing of it back in those days.

9 MRS. CUTTLER: Your home was a residence?

10 MRS. HOSTETLER: An apartment, I never lived in a
11 house that you went upstairs to bed until I was married.
12 Hotels and apartments were our lives.

13 MRS. CUTTLER: This apartment was near Thomas Circle?

14 MRS. HOSTETLER: On Thomas Circle

15 MRS. CUTTLER: On Thomas Circle.

16 MRS. HOSTETLER: It was called Thomas, Thomas Circle.

17 MRS. CUTTLER: So that you could actually go down-
18 town to the major shopping areas from that home, you could
19 walk?

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: That was for my fathers convenience
21 because he had some morning newspapers and he wrote stories at
22 night and if he missed the car he'd have to walk home.

23 And then in the fifth grade we moved up to Columbia
24 Road near Eighteenth Street, in an apartment called the Wilber-
25 ton, but that was just too much of a strain for an active

1 newspaper man and the next year we moved back downtown near
2 Thomas Circle again and stayed there until the year I was
3 married, we moved up to Park Road between Fourteenth and
4 Fifteenth Street. Mercy, you are reminding me of things I
5 haven't thought about in years.

6 I was married in 1923, having graduated from De Pauw
7 University in 1922.

8 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, let's go back to those years at
9 Central High School. That was a leading high school in those
10 days, it had a very different image than the one it has now.

11 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, of course it has a very re-
12 markable image now, the place has been closed for, I forget
13 how many years, and the alumni still meet twice a year. They
14 have a great sense of pleasure and pride of being old Cen-
15 tralites.

16 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, how many of your classmates at
17 Central High eventually ended up out here in Montgomery County?

18 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think most of them did.

19 MRS. CUTTLER: Really, any names that might be in-
20 teresting in terms of Montgomery County affairs.

21 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, the ~~S~~harf's, Johnny ~~S~~harf,
22 Helen's husband and she's, of course you know, prominent in
23 the (B), and in educational affairs, and Johnny was our best
24 man when we were married and they live in the County and she's
25 been very active and -- I have to think of somemore, than Jane

1 Ramey
/Knox was in school with me from my freshman year in high
2 school -- went out to De Pauw University with me, girls didn't
3 go to college, back in those days, they either got married or
4 were supported by their papas, well -- and just sat around the
5 house -- and not so much community activity either.

6 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, what kind of image did you have
7 going on to De Pauw from Central, how many girls in your grad-
8 uating class went on to college?

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: Very few, comparatively speaking,
10 I would think of a dozen possibly if I took time but Jane went
11 because she didn't want to get married. She was considered
12 the most popular girl in Central High School back in those
13 days and she didn't want to be married and it didn't occur to
14 her to go to work and so she went out there. I tease her and
15 say she went out there to see the Indians in Indianapolis
16 because she had never been west of Harrisburg.

17 MRS. CUTTLER: And you went, you had partly a family
18 tradition but were you considered very avant-garde to go, or
19 terribly intellectual? Were you considered a student or an
20 activities type?

21 MRS. HOSTETLER: I was an above average student but
22 I was not an exceptional student, but I was born to go to De
23 Pauw, there was never any question about that, that's a college
24 like -- Um, one up here, it's out of business now, but a tra-
25 ditional college that whole families, my uncles, and aunts, and

1 cousins went there, and why can't I think of its name, oh yes,
2 --Swarthmore.

3 MRS. CUTTLER: Oh Yes.

4 MRS. HOSTETLER: It's very much that type of college.
5 And, as I said -- another thing that my mother did that I
6 know you will get a great big kick out of, I had a hair rib-
7 bon on before I had enough hair to hold a hair ribbon on.

8 MRS. CUTTLER: I see.

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: She was always pushing me ahead.

10 MRS. CUTTLER: She knew you were a girl.

11 MRS. HOSTETLER: She was getting me -- she could be
12 very fast.

13 MRS. CUTTLER: You said she was a bit avant-garde
14 in her thinking, did she ever work, was she ever a member of
15 the working press?

16 MRS. HOSTETLER: Oh yes, because when I went to my
17 freshman year in college, this is quite a story, she went to
18 work for Frederick J. Haskin newspapers syndicate and became
19 the editor there, and she had never worked before, but she had
20 had a rather colorful life as a newspaperman's wife and knew
21 interesting things and they had a question and answer service
22 and a feature story service and she was editor of the quest-
23 ion and answer service. Later on, after Jane's father died
24 she worked there as assistant to mom.

25 MRS. CUTTLER: In those early years, as you were

1 really quite centered in downtown Washington, did you ever
2 venture forth into Montgomery County?

3 MRS. HOSTETLER: Oh yes, but another reason we knew
4 a good deal about Montgomery County was that they only had
5 eleven school years in those days and many Montgomery County
6 people came to the Washington high schools for their senior year.

7 MRS. CUTTLER: So you actually would have made
8 friends with the people who lived in the county.

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: For instance, Allison Chapin out
10 here, he's living up near Damascus now, is one of the ones
11 who came into Washington and we found that we knew quite a few
12 people when we moved out here.

13 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, did you -- have any kind of
14 public transportation, if you wanted to take a jaunt to Mont-
15 gomery County in those days' how would you have gone out?

16 MRS. HOSTETLER: You would have gone on the old
17 streetcar that they had, they haven't torn up all the old
18 tracks yet, I believe.

19 MRS. CUTTLER: And how far did that come into the
20 County?

21 MRS. HOSTETLER: It came right to the County seat.

22 MRS. CUTTLER: To Rockville.

23 MRS. HOSTETLER: And then, otherwise you had some
24 friends with cars. There were commencing to be more cars and
25 my family didn't go in for cars until I was grown up, but Jane's

1 uncle and aunt and her cousin still live in Rockville and we
2 used to come out to the Fireman's dinner and her aunt would
3 help run the benefit, you know, and get the wives to make the
4 food, fix the food, and so we knew quite a few county people
5 when we came out.

6 MRS. CUTTLER: And did you always, what sort of an
7 image did you have, did you think you were going to the Coun-
8 try when you came to Montgomery County?

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: Pretty much so, and when we finally
10 moved out here in 1934, the Hostetler s bought the farm in
11 1920 and it was a very good farm then, but absentee landlord-
12 ism doesn't work and it went to pieces until finally the house,
13 which is where I'm living now, burned down and we came out one
14 summer to camp and decided that we liked it out here and in
15 the meantime I was doing freelance newspaper work and some
16 magazine work and I thought it needed some more economic,
17 sociological information, what was going on in the world to-
18 day, so I went out to the University of Maryland and got my
19 Masters out there in 1934, so you see it was not immediately
20 out of college.

21 MRS. CUTTLER: No, by no means. Let's go back to
22 the story about how your husband acquired the farm. Your
23 husband had been a classmate of yours at Central High?

24 MRS. HOSTETLER: I knew him, not until my junior
25 year, I guess. Some of our school classes were backdated, you

1 just might know somebody by name but my first date with him
2 I think was my junior year. And then immediately after our
3 graduation in 18 he enlisted in the Marines, and he later,
4 the story goes, won some money in a crap game and when he got
5 home he decided he wanted a farm. That's just what he wanted.
6 Now, neither his father nor my father could understand this
7 because they both had grown^{up on}/ farms and they'd had enough farms
8 in their day. As I said my father was a newspaper man and
9 his father was a patent lawyer, and if you want to talk about
10 somebody brilliant, he graduated from college and then put
11 himself through patent law himself, came to Washington in
12 the Patent Office and later became the first solicitor of
13 patents.

14 MRS. CUTTLER: His name was?

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: Theodore Allan Hostetler.

16 MRS. CUTTLER: And he was the first Commissioner
17 of Patents.

18 MRS. HOSTETLER: No, not commissioner, solicitor.

19 MRS. CUTTLER; Oh, solicitor, excuse me.

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: Mr. -- oh, I'm trying to think --
21 Robertson was commissioner.

22 MRS. CUTTLER: Oh, I see.

23 MRS. HOSTETLER: And, so.

24 MRS. CUTTLER: So these two professional men, the
25 patent lawyer and the newspaperman didn't understand the young

1 man just out of the marines, who wanted to own a farm. Why
2 do you think he wanted to own a farm?

3 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think he just always liked to do
4 things that were, how shall I say, material, he loved draw-
5 ing, architectural drawing, but he wanted some ground under
6 his feet. Well, his grandfather was a very well known farmer
7 and minister out in Illinois.

8 MRS. CUTTLER: I see.

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think that rubbed off on him.

10 MRS. CUTTLER: I see, this was his paternal
11 grandfather.

12 MRS. HOSTETLER: No, his maternal grandfather, my
13 husband's name, George Minier Hostetler, and he was never
14 called anything but Minnie, except by his parents and he was
15 called Minnie. His grandfather was George Washington Minier
16 of a little town named for him out in Illinois.

17 MRS. CUTTLER: I see.

18 MRS. HOSTETLER: That's near Bloomington, and his
19 father, Theodore Alan Hostetler, came from Bloomington. His
20 ^{from Minier} mother, they were married and moved to Chicago, my husband
21 was born in Oak Park.

22 MRS. CUTTLER: So then your husband, Minnie Hostetler
23 he had middle western farming blood in his --.

24 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, his ^{grand} father was a very well
25 known scientist, I just have a masters thesis that was written

1 on him and he's quoted in all the agriculture things going on
2 in Illinois in those days. He was one of the first presidents
3 of the American Forestry Association and later I worked for
4 the American Forestry Magazine which seems an odd coincidence.

5 MRS. CUTTLER: Yes.

6 MRS. HOSTETLER: I feel as though I know a lot about
7 the family even though I never lived out there.

8 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, do you think that your husband
9 had visions of making it a real working farm or that he just
10 wanted a piece of this for his own edification or did he have
11 thoughts of it as an investment, a sort of getting something
12 for his life --.

13 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think it was a combination of all
14 things. This time he was working with the Martin "Wiegand"
15 special lumber mill in Washington, no, he wasn't working for
16 them then, it was when we moved out here, but he had enough
17 background that it appealed to him and he liked to do things
18 with his hands. He did not finish college because he came
19 back from the marines and went to the University of Illinois
20 and they treated them pretty much like babies back in those
21 days as you know, they had hazing and all that sort of thing
22 and if you've been in the marine corps you weren't going to be
23 hazed by all these sophomores, and so he only went the one
24 year.

25 MRS. CUTTLER: And then he came back and went to

1 work in the construction business and bought the farm. How
2 old was he when he bought the farm?

3 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, it was a funny circumstance.
4 There he was, twenty years old, and when he and his father--
5 cause, he wanted it to be his farm, cause his father wasn't
6 interested, went to the lawyers for the settlement, the law-
7 yer found out he was only twenty and couldn't sign the settle-
8 ment, and so his father signed and we realized later on after
9 we'd put a lot of back and money and living out here that we
10 were going to be subject to an estate tax because his name was
11 not on the deed, so we had to have an affidavit made that
12 while the man was still living -- who was the man a lawyer
13 over in Rockville -- that it was our farm so we would not have
14 to pay estate taxes, but fortunately his father lived for a
15 number of years after that.

16 MRS. CUTTLER: Now you lived in the District then,
17 from the year that you were married and when were you married?

18 MRS. HOSTETLER: In 1923.

19 MRS. CUTTLER: You were married in 1923 and you lived
20 then for eleven years, roughly --.

21 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, and then as you see I was do-
22 ing newspaper and magazine work and then we came out here to
23 camp this summer in the little tenant house. ~~The main little~~
24 house ~~that~~ burned down. A little tenant house down the hill
25 from here had one room downstairs and one room upstairs and

1 we had our bedroom furniture upstairs and I had a card table
2 and a typewriter and was doing ghost writing on a book at that
3 time. I had white overalls, I remember very well, I would get
4 into my white overalls, we didn't have slacks in those days,
5 put up my card table and do my work out here in the country,
6 cause we only had one car.

7 MRS. CUTTLER: What sort of ghost writing did you
8 do?

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: I was, I guess there's no secret
10 about it, but Frederick J. Haskin wrote a book on United States
11 Government and he always had ghost writers for his feature
12 stories. The book is here and I'd be delighted to have you
13 take a look at it. I've marked the chapters that I wrote but
14 there were several people working on that book.

15 MRS. CUTTLER: And you wrote, what subjects did you
16 write chapters on?

17 MRS. HOSTETLER: You want me to tell you?

18 MRS. CUTTLER: Yes, let's find out, we've got to be-
19 gin, find out how you got that way.

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: Okay, the book's in the house so I
21 did the, some of his little pamphlets, parliamentary law is
22 one of them, and this is called the American Government Today.
23 This was copyrighted in 1935, but it was a rewrite of the first
24 edition and let's see, I start out with a chapter on the Coast
25 Guard and the Marine Corps, the Department of the Interior,

1 Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Department of
2 Commerce, the Patent Office, Bureau of Fisheries, Department
3 of Labor, Agriculture Adjustment Administration and Farm
4 Credit Administration.

5 MRS. CUTTLER: Now -- you, so you developed your
6 writing in research abilities really. At this point, what had
7 your major been at De Pauw?

8 MRS. HOSTETLER: English composition.

9 MRS. CUTTLER: Composition.

10 MRS. HOSTETLER: And they didn't have, yes -- no,
11 they didn't have journalism at De Pauw at that time.

12 MRS. CUTTLER: So when you came out to Montgomery
13 County to camp in 1934, it took your heart.

14 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, I thought it was a nice comb-
15 ination of a charm of the South and the get-up-and-go of the
16 Middle West.

17 MRS. CUTTLER: I see.

18 MRS. HOSTETLER: Very much so, and back in those
19 days when I was working on a book, newspaper people, like my
20 father, many of them, were very scornful of schools of journal-
21 ism, they thought you learned "right out of your head," as
22 Hemmingway said it. Now you couldn't get a job on a paper
23 without the journalism, cause they won't waste their time
24 teaching you about elementary things. So I was learning this
25 business by working

1 MRS. CUTTLER: And then when you actually decided
2 to live out here instead of the District, you had all of this
3 background, you had done these things and had these interests
4 already established.

5 MRS. HOSTETLER: And then when I was in the Univer-
6 sity of Maryland getting my masters we took the State exam-
7 ination for welfare workers because this was the depression
8 time. I took two years to get my Masters, so.

9 MRS. CUTTLER: What years were they?

10 MRS. HOSTETLER: '33 and '34.

11 MRS. CUTTLER: Now how did you decide, what made you
12 decide to do this?

13 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, because I -- I had so much of,
14 this kind of information which I needed to be up to date. I
15 was not really current on what the thinking in the world was.
16 I was just using my own bean and I thought I needed a little
17 more than that and then my very dear friend, Marie Mount, was
18 Dean of Home Economics out there and it was pleasant to go
19 out there. I was older than most students, you see, and we
20 had a very close relationship, she had come from Crawfordsville,
21 Indiana, and knew some of my family out there and looked me
22 up when she came to Washington.

23 MRS. CUTTLER: What did you study there at Maryland,
24 what did you take your degree in?

25 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, they made up a fancy title

1 called "Educational Sociology," because they did not have a
2 Department of Sociology or a Department of Economics. I took
3 all the rural things I could think of. In the meantime, we
4 thought we would like to come out here to live. There were
5 rural economics, and, well, we didn't classify things by urban
6 and suburban back in those days. To go back to my husband's
7 interest in this place, we did raise heifers and some cattle,
8 and just had pasture, we did not try to do farming. Of course,
9 we had to have vegetables back in those times when we had to
10 have ration books and so on. His joke about this place always
11 was "We're not growing crops, we're growing real estate".
12 Of course I said definitely -- what developed in Montgomery
13 County.

14 MRS. CUTTLER: The best crop in Montgomery County.

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: Absolutely, unfortunately I'm still
16 in the two acre zoning -- we still have some open space around
17 here. I still have about thirty acres, I guess, we had a
18 hundred twenty five at first and I nibble off a little bit
19 every once in a while. Jane Knox is a realtor, and we tease
20 her and call her Mrs. Nibble because when I need a little
21 money I sell off some of this valuable real estate.

22 MRS. CUTTLER: That's a very nice thing to be able
23 to do.

24 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes.

25 MRS. CUTTLER: Um, so you wrote a thesis to take

1 your degree at Maryland, what was the subject of your thesis?

2 MRS. HOSTETLER: I have that right here and it is,
3 "Adult Education in the Social Planning of a Civic Organ-
4 ization", and that civic organization is the Montgomery County
5 Civic Federation and I think that it had about -- you've read
6 it more recently that I have, it had about seven years, it was
7 about seven years old back in those days. What I was trying
8 to do was show that a civic organization does influence
9 government and these various committees and what the problems
10 were, and the Civic Federation was very influential in form-
11 ing -- well the Civic Federation and the League of Women
12 Voters got the charter, you know.

13 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, it looked as if you showed
14 both that they influence government and that they inform and
15 educate citizens. You have an impressive case there for the
16 adult education that the Civic Federation ---

17 MRS. HOSTETLER: And it was Dr. Broom, bless his
18 heart, the Superintendent of Schools in Montgomery County,
19 who suggested that subject to me and I could consult with him
20 because he felt that the Civic Federation was very influential
21 in shaping the government here.

22 MRS. CUTTLER: Now what, who did you meet in the
23 course of your study of the Civic Federation, that you felt
24 in those years was influential in shaping the course of Mont-
25 gomery County?

1 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, one of them, of course I only
2 attended a few meetings of the Civic Federation, I read
3 their minutes, but that's all gone from me now, but the person
4 who was the most influential person in the County would be
5 E. Brooke Lee. He still is an influence in this county.

6 MRS. CUTTLER: Was he a member of the Civic Fed-
7 eration?

8 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think he probably was, but he was
9 the leader of the Democratic Party out here and he -- theirs-
10 -- um -- I'm stuttering over this because there's a confusion,
11 I think, about Colonel Lee, that he did some very fine things
12 for Montgomery County like establishing Park and Planning, the
13 Sanitary Commission, and Montgomery County is this progressive
14 because he gave it a start but also he became known as a po-
15 litical boss and he thought he knew better than anybody else.
16 In an interview he said that only the people that really knew
17 should have influence in government.

18 MRS. CUTTLER: Well it sounds as if he's worth a lot
19 of our thought in a little while. Why don't we wind up the
20 Civic Federation and then move into some of those other things?
21 In terms of the Civic Federation, did you get a -- your thesis
22 seemed to suggest a great deal of energy, and a great deal of
23 civic concern and a great deal of intelligence that went into
24 their reports. You pointed out that they never permitted any-
25 thing to be acted on at a meeting in which it was proposed,

1 there was never hasty action but it was always referred to
2 a committee which studied it. And I was interested -- what
3 do, ~~do you~~, did you observe that people who went through
4 that process then moved on from the Civic Federation to other
5 activities in the county, would you consider it a grooming?

6 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think so, and, of course, a lot
7 of their members did later become leaders in the county.

8 MRS. CUTTLER: Can you think of any particular
9 names you think might be useful to our project, for example,
10 or that were important.

11 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think that I'd better reread
12 this now. (Thesis now filed with the Civic Federation)

13 MRS. CUTTLER: Perhaps we could later on, if you
14 think of any names of people that come to your mind it would
15 be helpful for us to know.

16 MRS. HOSTETLER: I haven't read this recently, so I
17 will bone up on it and see -- I discover every once in a while
18 a whole episode in my life that I've forgotten about. It's
19 very sad to relate today I found a notice of a man's death in
20 this county and I used to write his speeches for him when he
21 was running for Congress.

22 MRS. CUTTLER: And his name?

23 MRS. HOSTETLER: Was Austin Burn, oh excuse me, Burn
24 Austin, it's in this morning's paper, I was trying to think of
25 too many things at once, but he was tolerant of the League of

1 Women Voters whereas the old political guard thought we were
2 pretty bad and about all you could do was infiltrate, because
3 I was on the State ^{tral} Cen-Committee when they had only five mem-
4 bers and the vote very often would be four to one, then they
5 would cast it unanimously you see, as a unanimous vote because
6 a majority had won. But he wanted to have the League's name
7 associated with him, that's why he asked me to write his speech-
8 es, because I had been president of the League.

9 MRS. CUTTLER: So he was smart enough to straddle
10 both sides of the fence.

11 MRS. HOSTETLER: That's right. You see Montgomery
12 County's more like that now then it was back in those days.
13 In those days the slogan was, "Register Democratic and vote as
14 you please", and we had that silly law that you had to declare
15 your intentions of being a voter a year in advance. It wasn't
16 a year's residence that you would go and say, "I've lived here
17 a year and I want to register." They'd say, "Have you declared
18 your intentions?" and they'd say, "Well sorry, it's going to
19 be another year", and this was all the way politics was con-
20 troling limited participation.

21 MRS. CUTTLER: Now you obviously got plunged right
22 into Democratic Politics when you entered the county. Had
23 you been active as a Democrat before you --?

24 MRS. HOSTETLER: No, I just simply declared my
25 intentions and then when I registered, I registered as a

1 Democrat but I was still more active in the League at that
2 point, I became president of the League out here and then in
3 the state, and then I decided when Montgomery County had the
4 distinction of losing Mr. Roosevelt for his fourth term, I was
5 going to go out and work for the Democrats.

6 MRS. CUTTLER: I see.

7 MRS. HOSTETLER: And, because I know the other place
8 did lose Mr. Roosevelt at that very tragic time later.

9 MRS. CUTTLER: So it, some of these things that you
10 did were simultaneous. Let's decide how we're going to work
11 this. You got your masters degree in 1934 and at that point
12 you have already mentioned that you took this exam.

13 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, for welfare workers.

14 MRS. CUTTLER: And, passed it.

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: And I was offered a job with the
16 Welfare Department here at seventy five dollars a month and
17 furnish my own car and five cents a mile. That was the going
18 rate in those days and a little girl who is my goddaughter now
19 is going to, she's still in Montgomery County General, and
20 she'll get one hundred dollars a week for her new job; she's
21 had some secretarial experience, but not much.

22 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, that's a commentary on the times.

23 MRS. HOSTETLER: Absolutely.

24 MRS. CUTTLER: So what were your duties as a wel-
25 fare worker?

1 MRS. HOSTETLER: Back in those days they just dump-
2 ted a huge caseload on you because they didn't have enough
3 workers and we were having a depression here in the county.
4 And farms were being foreclosed, many of our leading citizens
5 were on the welfare lists, I'm sorry to say, and I can remem-
6 ber some of those names but I am not going to give them be-
7 cause of hard times.

8 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, let's not.

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: No, and that's right. I couldn't
10 go out and make home visits usually because there were too
11 many. The courthouse, the old red courthouse steps were just
12 lined with people waiting to get in to see the welfare work-
13 ers and be eligible for relief and that's when the Farm Women's
14 Market was started back in those days because farms were being
15 foreclosed and the farm women went in and saved the family
16 farms.

17 MRS. CUTTLER: This was the Farm Women's Market in
18 Bethesda?

19 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, and became one of the out-
20 standing ones here, anyplace I guess, because Mrs. Roosevelt
21 I suppose is the first one that sponsored, patronized it and
22 then many diplomatic people in Washington, leaders would come
23 out to get good fresh farm products and homemade cakes and
24 bread.

25 MRS. CUTTLER: And it's still an institution.

1 MRS. HOSTETLER: It's still an institution.

2 MRS. CUTTLER: So, in the course of your welfare
3 work did you begin to get some feelings about the county
4 government?

5 MRS. HOSTETLER: Oh yes, and of course one of the
6 things that I had the fortunate experience instead of having
7 a miscellaneous caseload which should have been much smaller,
8 the County Commissioners then decided to pay one worker to do
9 nothing but old age pensions applications because they were
10 stacking up so that took me all over the county. You see,
11 you had to do a lot of research, people don't realize that.
12 They think people are just on relief just for the devilment
13 but you had to search the farm records and deeds because that
14 money had to be repaid. It wasn't free money; in other words,
15 people's homes, after their death, were committed to the wel-
16 fare board and the money was refunded.

17 MRS. CUTTLER: I see.

18 MRS. HOSTETLER: And I think that's still the case.

19 MRS. CUTTLER: And did you begin to get some feel-
20 ings about the status of health services and education in the
21 county, as you moved around the county.

22 MRS. HOSTETLER: Very much so. And I not only got
23 to know the applicants for pension but their references. You
24 see, they had to have references, so I learned to know quite
25 a few people out there.

1 MRS. CUTTLER: Now your job you had taken an exam
2 for, that was a merit?

3 MRS. HOSTETLER: No, it was a , it was just the
4 course of sociology I was taking out at the University of
5 Maryland.

6 MRS. CUTTLER: So that was an educational certifi-
7 cation.

8 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, they were just wanting us to
9 know what a sociology major had to know about the state.

10 MRS. CUTTLER: And then did you, when you got this
11 job, how did you come to be offered it, was it through party
12 connections?

13 MRS. HOSTETLER: No, just the University knew that
14 the Welfare Board needed workers desperately with this dep-
15 ression on and several of us were offered jobs over the state,
16 but you see I just happened to be from Montgomery County, but
17 this might interest you, Judge Noyes' father was our section
18 teacher in Central High School.

19 MRS. CUTTLER: What was his name?

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: Alfred, and he was a history teach-
21 er, ancient history as I recall, I don't remember really.
22 And so, I knew Judge Noyes before I moved out here. There is
23 one of the names that I can say I knew; he was, I'm sorry to
24 say, younger than I am, but he got his job at the Welfare
25 Department shortly after I did because they were -- he was a

1 lawyer here in the county and he had the qualifications that
2 the Welfare Board could take him on at that point and he and
3 I shared an office there in the overcrowded courthouse, and
4 now he is a retired judge.

5 MRS. CUTTLER: Yes, well, I was going to ask you if
6 the people in the courthouse -- you obviously met people all
7 through the courthouse -- were many of them people who had got-
8 ten their jobs through political patronage?

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: I would say all of them, the Welfare
10 Board you see, came under the state and they had their own
11 merit qualifications, but the courthouse did not and the court-
12 house workers used to do work for political parties; stuff the
13 envelopes and all the things that you do at an election time;
14 the police ran errands. For instance when we were working for
15 the charter the police came up my little country road and told
16 the people if they voted for it they wouldn't have any more
17 police protection.

18 MRS. CUTTLER: So they were openly working.

19 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, and over the state they think,
20 oh, Montgomery County's different from any place else. It's
21 because a lot of interested, hard working people have made
22 it that way, it would never occur to people nowadays to go
23 to the polls with a pint of whiskey and a couple of dollars
24 and pass it out to the voters. We had hand written ballots
25 back in those days, which sometimes would take days to get

1 them counted and they are very easily thrown out if you want
2 to throw them out, you can say the X went over the little box.

3 MRS. CUTTLER: Or it's done with the wrong color
4 ink.

5 MRS. HOSTETLER: Or wrong pencil. For instance,
6 Perry Wilkenson, who was on the State Central Committee over in
7 Prince Georges spoke to one of the League's state meetings
8 once and he said, "You could do voters a great service if you
9 would tell the college professors they may not -- whip a
10 fountain pen out of their pockets and check their vote, be-
11 cause you have to use the pencil that's in the booth, it's
12 tied in there, and you have to make the X fit inside the box,
13 and if you are not careful about that ^{ballot} you can be thrown out".

14 MRS. CUTTLER: Would it be thrown out if it were
15 for the proper candidate?

16 MRS. HOSTETLER: No, you see, it depends upon who's
17 counting the votes.

18 MRS. CUTTLER: Yes, um, now these were the days,
19 of course, when the organization was under Brooke Lee and I'd
20 like -- you've mentioned -- I'd like to hear a little bit
21 more. When did you first actually meet him?

22 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, my precinct chairman here
23 invited my husband and me to go to a meeting of the Democratic
24 Congress it was called back in those days and it was just like
25 a convention, had signs for the different precincts, you were

1 invited to join that invitational affair.

2 MRS. CUTTLER: Now this congress met to select can-
3 didates.

4 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, any kind of business it want-
5 ed to.

6 MRS. CUTTLER: How often did it meet?

7 MRS. HOSTETLER: Rarely, and maybe once or twice a
8 year and you were -- and you got in by invitation. It was not
9 a right to belong to a political party and we didn't have any
10 Republican primaries back in those days, we just had a Dem-
11 ocratic and I don't know whether I said this before or not,
12 maybe I did, register in the Democratic Party and then vote
13 as you please.

14 MRS. CUTTLER: That was the idea being, that the
15 Democratic Primary was the important place to vote.

16 MRS. HOSTETLER: There -- a -- you didn't have any
17 other place to vote; you see there was only the Democratic
18 Primary. Come the general election you could vote Republic-
19 an if you wanted to, it was not that they -- were controlling
20 votes, and back in those days that wasn't considered too
21 scandalous. You see, Montgomery County has come a long way
22 and we are different from the other counties in the state.

23 MRS. CUTTLER: Is this partly because of the kind
24 of people who live here and settle here?

25 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think so, and of course as you

1 know, I always say it with quotes cause I would get put out
2 by something, but -- we're the richest, and the most intellec-
3 tual county in the United States. And then -- some of the
4 things -- would go just by (Bossism), and when we had the
5 potential of being so great but again the Civic Federation
6 and the League of Women Voters did a great deal.

7 MRS. CUTTLER: How did Brooke Lee preside at the
8 meetings of the Democratic Congress, or did he -- he himself
9 preside?

10 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, and I have to say that when
11 I ran for the Charter Board, he ran for Congress that year,
12 and the League people just couldn't understand me because I
13 was working as hard as I could for the Charter and voting for
14 Brooke Lee for Congress because I felt he had the ability and
15 the intelligence and that's where he belonged -- some people
16 came in and said that I was trying to get him out of my hair.

17 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, that's another possible --

18 MRS. HOSTETLER: But you see, there were a small
19 number of men in the State of Maryland who controlled the
20 state and they could pick up their individual phones, let's
21 say half a dozen of them, and call up each other and they
22 could agree on the state ticket and they could do just any-
23 thing they pleased.

24 MRS. CUTTLER: Now why -- why-- did people -- um,
25 why was he (End of first interview).

1 Today is June 25, 1971, and I am Margaret Cuttler,
2 visiting for the second time, Mrs. Alice Hostetler, and we're
3 going today to pick up the threads of our conversation of ten
4 days age.

5 MRS. CUTTLER: Just to add some footnotes can we
6 have your dates of attendance at Central High School?

7 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, I went to Central High School
8 in 1914, having attended the Peter Force School in Washington,
9 and then I graduated from Central High School in 1918.

10 MRS. CUTTLER: Now, wasn't the new Central High
11 School opened in 1916?

12 MRS. HOSTETLER: My first two years were in the old
13 Central which was over at 7th and O Street because Western
14 High School burned down and instead of going to a temporary
15 school I used to walk over to 7th & O Street. That's where I
16 met Johnny Scharf, Helen was two years behind me and I suppose
17 started her high school in the new school, but the Wiegands
18 and lots of people that we keep up with to this day went to
19 old Central.

20 MRS. CUTTLER: And your friend Jane Ramey, who later
21 became --

22 MRS. HOSTETLER: Jane Ramey Knox, her husband was
23 Hamilton Knox who did graduate from Western.

24 MRS. CUTTLER: Now, we were speaking of some of Mr.
25 Hostetler's forebearers, and you mentioned one who was a great

1 scientist, could you identify him for me please?

2 MRS. HOSTETLER: His name is George Washington
3 Minier, he was my husband's grandfather, and there's a great
4 difference in generations in that family, and in my family
5 because George Washington Minier was born in 1813, my grand-
6 father wasn't old enough to be in the Civil War, he was six
7 years old when the war came along. So that I've always
8 felt that I was living history with the Hostetler family. I'm
9 proud of the Minier family too.

10 MRS. CUTTLER: Now, we mentioned your masters thesis
11 last time, let's go back to that.

12 MRS. HOSTETLER: It was called Adult Education in
13 the Social Planning of a Civic Organization, and was sugges-
14 ted to me by Dr. Broome, who was Superintendent of the Schools
15 here in the county. And it really is as I can see the begin-
16 ning of county, even city planning. The Civic Federation had
17 these very careful studies of current problems and then my job
18 was to show what the development was and it shows definitely
19 that the -- proposals they made were adopted and particularly
20 in health and education and transportation. In fact it was
21 about a Belt Line Railroad that they started their studies,
22 and were successful in getting this county planning which we
23 take for granted now.

24 MRS. CUTTLER: Now, who were some of those people?

25 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well one in particular was Frederick

1 P. Lee, and I don't think I put very much by name in here,
2 I was just talking about projects. But Fred Lee gave a great
3 deal of time and care to the Civic Federation, he had been
4 trained in writing bills for the United States Senate and
5 then he just -- the next move was to develop the Charter form
6 of government Brookings Institution had suggested.

7 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, he was a practicing lawyer in
8 Washington, wasn't he?

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: That's right, and we'll never pay
10 him for what he did for Montgomery County because we would
11 never have had the funds in the first place, and to get that
12 kind of talent and time, and then also he served as the First
13 Chairman of the Council County Manager ^{of} ~~form~~ Government.

14 MRS. CUTTLER: Well then you feel that his work in
15 the Civic Federation laid the groundwork for his work on the
16 Charter.

17 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, I do. And you see at the same
18 time the League was becoming interested in the Charter Form
19 cause the Brookings had made their report so the two organ-
20 izations got together and worked for -- uh, I think I was pres-
21 ident of the League at that time.

22 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, when you were a League member
23 did you work with any of the civic associations people part-
24 icular?

25 MRS. HOSTETLER: Not particular, as you know the

1 League Board keeps you busy most of the hours of the day.

2 MRS. CUTTLER: And when you prepared your thesis,
3 you depended more on the minutes than you did on interviewing.

4 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, minutes, the minutes of the
5 Civic Federation and they were very detailed and full of
6 information and I did make some interviews.

7 MRS. CUTTLER: Do you remember who you --.

8 MRS. HOSTETLER: Not particular, that was a long
9 time ago.

10 MRS. CUTTLER: That was a long time ago. Um -- what
11 do you think the Civic Federation might have had to do with
12 the eventual formation of a non-partisan group in our county?

13 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think it was very important for
14 the Civic Federation because they were wanting to use profes-
15 sional people from Washington, who were in the government,
16 and who could not take part in partisan activities and they
17 also had members of both the Democratic and Republican parties
18 in that membership. So it just became a natural thing to go
19 into non-partisan

20 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, were you very active in the
21 Democratic Party at that time that the non-partisan people --

22 MRS. HOSTETLER: I became active later after I be-
23 came League President because it seemed to me that it was
24 futile to try to get legislation and things that were recomm-
25 ended by the Civic Federation unless you could vote and of

1 course the legislature has always been predominatly Democratic
2 and they were my interests too.

3 MRS. CUTTLER: Yes.

4 MRS. HOSTETLER: But I thought that the League was
5 having it's college education but needed to go to work.

6 MRS. CUTTLER: Richt. Well, now you first joined
7 the Montgomery County League in what year?

8 MRS. HOSTETLER: I'll say about '36, it was when
9 the -- (Olive Clapper) had revived the League. It had just
10 gone by the Board and the Baltimore League dominated so very
11 much and they even held the state League dues in their own
12 treasury, and the President who took over after Mrs. Ellicott
13 went out of the League was in Baltimore County and she put
14 the pressure on me to be the League President in a county out-
15 side of Baltimore, and that's what the National League wanted
16 too, because they wanted to get the real League structure
17 here. At that time Mrs. Ellicott was supporting the League
18 and this was ^{why} Margaret Livingston just cut off all the people
19 who were not paying dues, which was a very brave thing to do.
20 It cut the membership way down, and the membership really was
21 in name only.

22 MRS. CUTTLER: Now, who was Margaret Livingston?

23 MRS. HOSTETLER: She was the President of the Mont-
24 gomery League before me.

25 MRS. CUTTLER: Before you, it was Olive Clapper, then

1 Margaret Livingston and then you. But getting back to the
2 formation of the Montgomery County League, there was National
3 League interest in strengthening the state and counter balancing
4 off setting the power that was --.

5 MRS. HOSTETLER: Dominating in the city. And I
6 understand that was true in other organizations, if they had
7 very little strength or power in the state, everything was
8 Baltimore.

9 MRS. CUTTLER: Now did I understand you to say that
10 Mrs. Ellicott, who was I think the State President, that she
11 supported the League financially?

12 MRS. HOSTETLER: Um-huh, and she paid Miss Engle's
13 salary, who was the executive secretary for many years and it
14 was the old fashioned way of doing things. Instead of individ-
15 ual members running their own place.

16 MRS. CUTTLER: It was not necessarily evil, it was,
17 on the contrary, very public spirited and got the League going.
18 Now is this Mrs. Ellicott related to the Dr. Ellicott who
19 was our Health Officer?

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes.

21 MRS. CUTTLER: In what way?

22 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think she was his mother.

23 MRS. CUTTLER: I see, now, so you started out in the
24 League -- what did you first do?

25 MRS. HOSTETLER: I served on the Board as Chairman

1 of Government, I think that department was called in those
2 days. And later, after I was President, when Dorothy -- you
3 know, who's now up in Connecticut, oh dear. She became League
4 President, she also served on the First Council we had here,
5 I'll think of her name in a minute.

6 MRS. CUTTLER: Hemstead or Hinstead?

7 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, Dorothy Himstead.

8 MRS. CUTTLER: Now is that H E M?

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: H I M --.

10 MRS. CUTTLER: H I M --

11 MRS. HOSTETLER: S T E A D.

12 MRS. CUTTLER: I see. Now did you go directly from
13 the Montgomery County Presidency to the State Presidency?

14 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes.

15 MRS. CUTTLER: How many people were in the Montgomery
16 County League when you were President? Do you remember?

17 MRS. HOSTETLER: Oh -- maybe one hundred fifty, I'm
18 not sure.

19 MRS. CUTTLER: Did you have many units, was it set
20 up in units as they are now?

21 MRS. HOSTETLER: No, what we had was monthly luncheon
22 meetings in different sections of the county and we tried to
23 have them in churches because the food was so good and so in-
24 expensive and we would like to support them.

25 But even then, Maryland women did not approve of

1 government and it's operations, they felt that --/all nasty
2 politics and some churches wouldn't let us come.

3 MRS. CUTTLER: Oh, how interesting. Um -- then did
4 you have a program of some sort?

5 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, I think I still have one little
6 copy of the program that I can dig out. But we were conform-
7 ing to the national structure at that point.

8 MRS. CUTTLER: Were there discussion meetings or
9 were there speakers?

10 MRS. HOSTETLER: Usually -- we might have a speaker
11 and a discussion.

12 MRS. CUTTLER: And would you sort of take the views
13 of the members then in order to get some stands at the lunch-
14 eon?

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: Not particular, we would go to a
16 county meeting once a year and prepare ourselves to take act-
17 ion at that point, see what we learned, how we -- it wasn't
18 nearly as formal a structure as there is now.

19 MRS. CUTTLER: In the community, how were you re-
20 ceived, apart from the women who didn't want to give you any
21 lunch?

22 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, I was so enthusiastically
23 received that that's the reason I became President. I had other
24 plans, and I discovered that the upper counties were pleased
25 that I'd been nominated, and I was so desirous of being assoc-

1 iated with the upper county, where I lived, instead of being
2 just downtown metropolitan part of the county, that I was
3 completely complimented and accepted.

4 MRS. CUTTLER: I see.

5 MRS. HOSTETLER: Might not say yes -- well in fact
6 I had said no, and I called up and changed my mind when these
7 gals said they were glad I was.

8 MRS. CUTTLER: Um, how did your Democratic Party
9 friends, by then you were, you'd been --

10 MRS. HOSTETLER: No, I really didn't become commit-
11 ted to the Democratic Party in action at that point. Now that
12 -- President Roosevelt lost his fourth election in Montgomery
13 County, that put my backup, and I decided that it was time for
14 us to stand for the things we believed in. I believed in the
15 Democratic Party and in President Roosevelt.

16 That really got me going also, we could get nothing
17 done in the legislature, unless we were working in the party.

18 MRS. CUTTLER: I see. Um -- well -- you mentioned
19 last time being invited to join the Democratic Congress by a
20 neighbor, what was the neighbor's name?

21 MRS. HOSTETLER: His name was Claggett, I can't think
22 of -- there were two brothers and I can't think of the name of
23 this brother who lived out here on the farm that's on a lane --
24 well its called Norton Lane now. He called on us one night
25 and invited us to join. He was Chester Claggett.

1 MRS. CUTTLER: Now was he a Precinct Chairman?

2 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, and in those days they were
3 appointed, and he was just -- one of the group that always
4 agreed.

5 MRS. CUTTLER: Had he been appointed by Colonel Lee?

6 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, and his associates. And
7 going back to Colonel Lee and the young men in the state who
8 could telephone each other, they were associated in the first
9 world war.

10 They came back to this country with the finest of
11 intentions, they felt that they had learned some things that
12 we should know in this country, and maybe avoid another war.
13 So they were very strongly united in their feeling about --
14 you must do something about government. Then they became
15 the controlling influence, but they didn't want to listen to
16 anybody else.

17 MRS. CUTTLER: Now, who were these --.

18 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, Preston Lane was one of them,
19 and he became Governor later and I -- ones from the other part
20 of the state and I don't know too much --.

21 MRS. CUTTLER: Was Millard Tydings one of them?

22 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, yes he was.

23 MRS. CUTTLER: Getting back to --

24 MRS. HOSTETLER: I must say they did very fine things.

25 MRS. CUTTLER: Well they certainly -- yes indeed.

1 MRS. HOSTETLER: They did.

2 MRS. CUTTLER: Why do you think Mr. Claggett invited
3 you and your husband to become part of this Democratic Con-
4 gress?

5 MRS. HOSTETLER: Oh, I think it was just friendly
6 neighborliness.

7 MRS. CUTTLER: At that point were the other Demo-
8 crats aware that you were active in the League and this kind of
9 thing.

10 MRS. HOSTETLER: When I went to my first Congress
11 that Brooke Lee, as I said, presided over, and he was not only
12 an excellent presider but a very dominant one and he would not
13 give you the floor, unless he happened to want to.

14 And that's still true to this day any meeting besides
15 -- non-recognition is the way you control.

16 I was President of the League at that point and
17 wanted to make an announcement about a League meeting on a
18 subject that the meeting was considering and he wouldn't re-
19 cognize me until the meeting was over. I had that happen more
20 than once.

21 MRS. CUTTLER: I see. What do you think that his
22 motivations were? Of course he did come from a political fam-
23 ily with a strong tradition in politics. You say he came back
24 from the war with some ideas?

25 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes.

1 MRS. CUTTLER: Um --

2 MRS. HOSTETLER: And felt that it was very import-
3 ant. But he also felt that only his views were important,
4 nobody/^{else's} counted.

5 MRS. CUTTLER: Well what do you think his political
6 objectives were?

7 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think that -- political leader-
8 ship, after all in his, the Lee family. There had been Sen-
9 ators and, I guess, Governors, as I recall, but -- going back
10 to Lincon's day, the Lee's have been very strong.

11 I won't just put it on the basis of personal ambit-
12 ion because I think he really had the commitment to a -- govern-
13 ment was pretty simple in those days, not too many people took
14 an interest in it.

15 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, and it certainly was a strong
16 tradition with people with that kind of a background.

17 Do you think that he had any thoughts of personal
18 advantage?

19 MRS. HOSTETLER: Oh yes, I think that, I think he
20 owned a great deal of property and he wanted the taxes to be
21 the kind that wouldn't hurt him. And it was claimed that his
22 property, a lot of it, was not even appraised and assessed.

23 MRS. CUTTLER: I see. And how about in the building
24 of roads and sewers?

25 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, he wanted them next to his

1 MRS. CUTTLER: I see.

2 MRS. HOSTETLER: But that's even common today.

3 MRS. CUTTLER: And so if there were any fallout for
4 other people, that would be fine, but you do feel that he was
5 sure to take care of his own.

6 I've heard it said that at one point in the depress-
7 ion his business affairs required him to withdraw from active
8 politics, do you have any recollection of that?

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: Very little but I can suggest to
10 you Henry Bane, I think, knows that story, and -- there was
11 a banking failure and the story is that he withdrew for years
12 because of loss of money. But they also say that when he came
13 back, he not only restored his fortunes, but he paid for any
14 that were lost, I don't know.

15 MRS. CUTTLER: What were your personal relations
16 with him? Did you have much contact with him?

17 MRS. HOSTETLER: A very pleasant social contact. I
18 always had the feeling that I was being taken for a ride, he
19 was being so cordial and so nice. But we never quarrelled and
20 we got along ostensibly.

21 As I say, he wouldn't recognize me if he didn't want
22 to on some piece of business, that might be county business.
23 But he did that with everybody, he chose his own adherents to
24 recognize.

25 MRS. CUTTLER: Why did other people accept his lead-

1 ership if it was domineering?

2 MRS. HOSTETLER: Because, he's quite a charmer. He's
3 a very stunning looking man with a nice personality, and he
4 dominates people. Unless -- then they're people who were not
5 dominated, were very anti.

6 MRS. CUTTLER: Did you consider him a highly intell-
7 igent man?

8 MRS. HOSTETLER: Oh yes.

9 MRS. CUTTLER: Or a highly educated man?

10 MRS. HOSTETLER: And I'll have to say what you said
11 before, "Intelligent in his own interest", but there was fall-
12 off, as you said that Montgomery County did benefit by some of
13 the things, like the Park and Planning, Suburban Sanitary Comm-
14 ission.

15 MRS. CUTTLER: These were things that he started?

16 MRS. HOSTETLER: Started, yes.

17 MRS. CUTTLER: How about in the area of education or
18 libraries, anything like this? Weren't ~~this~~ kind of services
19 important to him?

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: Not particularly. And I can remem-
21 ber one meeting when the rank and file of the Democrats who
22 were getting very active out here came to this meeting because
23 they wanted to have a vote taken on an education bill and let
24 the legislature know that Montgomery County wanted it.

25 And he promised the man -- who was presiding for him

1 at that meeting, promised to let these people have the floor
2 later, but he wanted to finish the business of the meeting
3 first. And when the business was finished he adjourned the
4 meeting. All the good old guys got up and walked out and all
5 the people who wanted this piece of legislation sat there and
6 it was quite a sizeable group, and it was really amusing to
7 see the old guards slip back into the room again. That they
8 were not going to miss anything that was going on.

9 And the proposed bill was adopted and by the voice
10 vote of a -- they didn't call it a Democratic Organization
11 Meeting they just said it was assembled Democrats and the
12 vote legislature.

13 MRS. CUTTLER: And where was he during this point?
14 Did he stay in presiding, he presided -- no, he left?

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: No, he had another man presiding.

16 MRS. CUTTLER: I see, another man. It was this man
17 who went back on his word then?

18 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, and the Colonel just sat there,
19 he started to go but he wasn't going to miss what was going ^{on} --
20 that was one of the first very active actions of the people who
21 were going to be Charter leaders..

22 MRS. CUTTLER: Now who was this man who was presid-
23 ing, do you recall his name?

24 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think that -- I know that the man
25 that I have a mental picture of is dead and I'm struggling to

1 get his name. And he was the one who did the dirty work and
2 he was a Silver Spring man, but I'll have to give it to you
3 another time.

4 MRS. CUTTLER: We'll think of it, but that's quite
5 an interesting story.

6 MRS. HOSTETLER: It was really the first big action
7 that gave us a little taste of success.

8 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, now how was it that Colonel Lee
9 acceded to having Brookings come out and make a study of our
10 government. How did that request come about and how come did
11 he say yes?

12 MRS. HOSTETLER: He Couldn't help it because there
13 was an election coming up and there were -- this activity in
14 the -- Brookings had offered to make a study for five thous-
15 and dollars, which of course was just ridiculous, and the con-
16 dition was that they could do it when their experts were avail-
17 able. And it didn't have to be done under pressure.

18 MRS. CUTTLER: Now this was about 1938, wasn't it
19 something like that?

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: About that. And here was an elect-
21 ion and his commissioners weren't going to be elected if they'd
22 refuse to pay five thousand dollars/^{be-}cause you couldn't turn
23 down an offer like that.

24 And so that Brookings offer was accepted and the
25 report was made, which as you know was a masterful thing. I

1 still have a copy of it that I can use for reference.

2 MRS. CUTTLER: Now who was instrumental in getting
3 Brookings to make this offer?

4 MRS. HOSTETLER: A Doctor ^{Merriam} Mariam, who lived in Kens-
5 ington.

6 MRS. CUTTLER: And he was the President of Brookings?

7 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think so at that time, he'd been
8 very prominent in the governmental studies circles, he was well
9 known. And he had quite a following

10 MRS. CUTTLER: So since he lived in Kensington, if
11 he'd lived in Arlington we would have been out of luck.

12 MRS. HOSTETLER: That's right.

13 MRS. CUTTLER: Now we've talked about this Democratic
14 Congress that met, how often did they meet?

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: Oh, once or twice a year, whenever
16 they had a piece of business they wanted to --

17 MRS. CUTTLER: I see, according to the whim of the
18 leader. And how involved were the people out here in your
19 neighborhood in precinct work and in the Democratic Party?

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: Not at all. We started a little,
21 we had a very fine Precinct Chairman, of the old school, ^{U. S. St}
22 Chester Claggett, who lived down the road here, he's been dead
23 five or six years now, I guess. And Chester carried names of
24 people in his little pocket that he would see got out to vote.

25 And they only brought the people out to vote that

1 they wanted, and that was about the time that the League start-
2 ed furnishing volunteer drivers. Because they always paid
3 from the Democratic Party, twenty dollars a day to go and
4 pickup the little chosen few.

5 Somebody was always there with a bottle of whiskey
6 and two bucks and that's the way that precinct's were run
7 back in those days.

8 MRS. CUTTLER: You got two dollars for your vote.

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: If you belonged to the right group.

10 MRS. CUTTLER: I see, if you voted the right way.

11 MRS. HOSTETLER: And you got a nice snort of whis-
12 key, and maybe even got a half pint. But people don't believe
13 Montgomery County was ever like that. They always say, "Oh,
14 Montgomery County's different."

15 But after the League furnished these volunteer
16 drivers, year after year, one year the money was returned to
17 the Democratic Party, because none of it was used here. That's
18 when we bought our addressograph, with the money that was re-
19 turned.

20 MRS. CUTTLER: The League did, you mean the party
21 gave the money to the League?

22 MRS. HOSTETLER: No, that's when the party got its
23 addressograph.

24 MRS. CUTTLER: Oh, the party's addressograph, I see,
25 I see.

1 Well, what kind of people lived out here in Potomac
2 when you first came out here?

3 MRS. HOSTETLER: When we came mostly farmers. This
4 was definitely a farm neighborhood with dirt roads down here
5 and no electricity or telephone. We didn't get electricity
6 or telephone till 1936.

7 And when you look at this neighborhood now its un-
8 believable.

9 MRS. CUTTLER: It is. Now, a -- was there any zon-
10 ing out here than?

11 MRS. HOSTETLER: No, no zoning.

12 MRS. CUTTLER: And when did zoning come in?

13 MRS. HOSTETLER: Oh, I've forgotten, I really don't
14 know, but I know that I lived in the area that has two acres
15 zoning and across the road on Glen Mill Road its much
16 less than that, it's half an acre or something like that.

17 MRS. CUTTLER: Now, getting back to -- to politics,
18 how, how was it for women in the Democratic Party affairs in
19 the '30's?

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: Just a social affair, they furnished
21 the food and went to the parties and when they had meetings
22 in Baltimore, they would be welcomed in the suites that every
23 county set up or maybe several counties together.

24 They were welcome there for the refreshments, the
25 room visiting, they went around, usually the night before the

1 meeting started people were up all night long, socializing.
2 You were very much honored if you were included in that ex-
3 clusive group.

4 MRS. CUTTLER: Now how were the slates put together?

5 MRS. HOSTETLER: Whoever was acting head at the time,
6 if it happened to be a Governor, and up until Mac what's --
7 his ^{McKeldin} --/name, we didn't have a Republican Governor, and the
8 Governor really had control of who was going to be on the slate.

9 MRS. CUTTLER: There was no such thing as an open
10 primary?

11 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, supposedly we voted on the
12 delegation of the State Delegates ^{to the national convention} /but the list was all pre-
13 pared and the majority carried very easily.

14 MRS. CUTTLER: And when did people file?

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think after they pub-crawled all
16 night long they went round trading folks from county to county,
17 "We'll vote for you if you'll vote for us", they got a fairly
18 balanced slate out of that. Then the nominating committee
19 came in ^{and} / presented the names and they voted.

20 MRS. CUTTLER: Now this is at -- they were voted in
21 at a state wide meeting and what was that called, the meeting?

22 MRS. HOSTETLER: I keep using the expression, deleg-
23 ates and I can't we have them now you know. You have your
24 State Central Committee which is now called ^{Central} Democrati~~y~~ Co-
25 mmittee and then you have the group that you send to the

1 Convention Committee, and that was it.

2 MRS. CUTTLER: I see, there was a State Nominating
3 Convention?

4 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, and people who went from this
5 county were usually chosen and hand picked.

6 And the first time I went the vote was always, I
7 think it was one to four, maybe, we only had five delegates
8 at the time, and then it was cast as a unanimous vote.

9 But I was thinking that there was a little gain,
10 there were some things that they didn't want just their way,
11 they would go along, so we could make a little gain, here and
12 there in something that they didn't think so important.

13 MRS. CUTTLER: Now, how many of these meetings did
14 you go to?

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think I only went to two of them,
16 because I was active on the State Central Committee as we call-
17 ed it in those days and other people were sent.

18 We were trying to enlarge the people, into there,
19 not themselves, but the quantity, interested in state politics.
20 And so we kept trying to bring in new leaders to send to the
21 State Convention.

22 It was quite a social affair.

23 MRS. CUTTLER: You did so many things simultaneously.

24 MRS. HOSTETLER: Are you right! I just wonder now
25 how the days were long enough, but they were interesting.

1 MRS. CUTTLER: I remember that while you were doing
2 all these other things, you and your husband were trustees of
3 the Potomac School, how did that happen?

4 MRS. HOSTETLER: Oh, that happened by default, by
5 the fact that there were no trustees at the school. And it
6 was a little country school in a fairly new building, but very
7 simple.

8 Most of the Maryland people were going to private
9 schools in those days. Nobody was interested in this little
10 school, so we thought that -- we were very great fans for
11 public schools and we said we were willing to serve.

12 MRS. CUTTLER: Even though you had no children in
13 school.

14 MRS. HOSTETLER: That's right. Then came the war
15 and no gas and all these private school children had to stay
16 in Potomac. And then some of their parents were interested
17 in coming on the Board and the PTA was formed.

18 And we didn't resign from the PTA, we hadn't had
19 one, we just resigned as trustees. Because here were parents
20 now, taking an interest in, as you know, the Potomac School
21 is quite a pretentious school now.

22 MRS. CUTTLER: I'd like to go back to the time you
23 spent working on -- in the Welfare Department, and clarify a
24 few things there.

25 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes ma'm, should I do a little

1 filling in while you're thinking.

2 MRS. CUTTLER: No, it doesn't matter, this -- a --
3 you know when you begin you think you have to be so formal,
4 and I think --.

5 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, I was just thinking --

6 MRS. CUTTLER: If you have something to fill in,
7 then by all means.

8 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well the machine's running --

9 MRS. CUTTLER: Yes

10 MRS. HOSTETLER: At the Welfare Board in those days,
11 a Miss Dorothy Everson, and a Mrs. Kurtz, Dorothy Kurtz, they
12 were both Dorothy's, were the executive and the assistant
13 executive. They gave us all an education because they were
14 professionally trained people. And here they had a staff, as
15 I think I told you one time, who were paid seventy-five
16 dollars a month and furnishing their own cars and getting five
17 cents a mile. Who were, oh some of them were high school --
18 they had to be high school graduates, I guess, very few
19 college people.

20 We were all required to come to meetings where
21 people came to speak to us and we had a smattering of an
22 education. That's the beginning of Welfare in this county..

23 MRS. CUTTLER: Now, at the time, when you were em-
24 ployed as a county welfare, or a case worker, how long had a
25 County Department of Welfare been a state requirement? Was

1 this something quite new?

2 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, it was quite new, The Social
3 Service League, as it was called in those days had been here
4 for many years and Dr. Jacob Byrd had been chairman of it for
5 many years. And then later -- a Catholic University student
6 came out to make a study of a welfare agency in a county.

7 It was quite unusual that we had had this, fortunat-
8 ely, by private leadership. And then the state law was passed
9 requiring the setting up of a welfare department. And that's
10 when the new people were brought in and we took the -- work
11 that could be funded by public funds, and the Social Service
12 League was still funded by private funds.

13 MRS. CUTTLER: That was a private organization, that
14 for years had been our only --

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: That's right, and of course nobody
16 else had even that.

17 MRS. CUTTLER: And when you came in you took over
18 what you could get state funds or state and federal funds for?

19 MRS. HOSTETLER: That's right.

20 MRS. CUTTLER: And they still did some of the work?

21 MRS. HOSTETLER: And they did a different type of
22 social work and we took the aid to dependent children and
23 that sort of thing.

24 MRS. CUTTLER: And they were still operating then,
25 when the Charter study was made, the Brooking study was made?

1 MRS. HOSTETLER: And they're still operating now
2 under a different name. I forget what it is, I've been out of
3 touch with it for so long.

4 MRS. CUTTLER: Did the local department basically
5 administer the same programs as it does today?

6 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, not as many.

7 MRS. CUTTLER: And did you think you had enough
8 money locally?

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: I suppose no one ever does, because
10 the department did grow.

11 And the Social Service League stayed with private
12 consultations and people who could pay for consultations
13 would go to the Social Service League, and present their prob-
14 lems. We handled the tax supported things.

15 MRS. CUTTLER: Well now, we have talked round and
16 about Charter, but let's get more directly into the movement
17 that brought about Charter.

18 How did it happen that you became a member of the
19 Charter Board? You were a member of the Charter Committee?

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: That's right, and the Charter
21 Committee was headed by Alan Gardner. And he had a board and
22 then we all tried to get memberships to join this Charter
23 Committee. And then when we finally came to the point that it
24 was going to be on the ballot, the requirement was that the
25 vote to accept or reject the Charter was on the ballot.

1 Then the Committee's names were proposed, if it
2 were accepted, then the vote on the names would be counted,
3 if not, it was gone.

4 The proposal from -- that ^{was} I/proposed, was from the
5 Charter Committee. Their Board met one night.

6 MRS. CUTTLER: And they chose five names?

7 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, and they were primed to be
8 very representative of the county and of the interests. They
9 had a farmer, they had a lawyer, well two lawyers, Fred Lee
10 and Thomas Anderson, and they had a man, a leader in trans-
11 portation and then they had a woman who was interested in
12 many community activities.

13 MRS. CUTTLER: Now, Thomas Anderson and Frederick P.
14 Lee were the lawyers, Alice Hostetler, was the woman, Carlton
15 Brooke was the farmer, and Stephen James was the Transpor-
16 tation.

17 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, that's right.

18 MRS. CUTTLER: And you went on, you ran as a slate
19 proposed by the Charter Committee. Were other slates proposed?

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: The Colonel put in a slate, and
21 this is where he slipped and I can't believe it's possible.
22 He put five people on the slate who had spoken against having
23 a Charter.

24 And our slogan was, " Why are you putting the cat
25 to watch the canary?"

1 Because these men had been -- oh, talking terribly
2 about the Charter, it was a freak thing, what's a Charter and
3 so forth. And then their names were proposed and of course
4 when the Charter carried not one of them carried.

5 MRS. CUTTLER: Obviously it was a foregone conclusion
6 that anyone for Charter would vote for your group.

7 Well how did you go about working on this Charter,
8 did you have a Chairman?

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, Fred Lee was the Chairman.
10 And I think I said on many occasions that he gave us an advance-
11 ed degree in education because he really worked us hard.

12 We met at least two nights a week and then -- the
13 deadline came we worked more than that. And he brought people
14 from other states, New York State, some man that he knew up
15 there came down. And I told you the name of the other man
16 that's the leader to -- from -- came from Ohio.

17 It's just awful, this business of names escaping us,
18 I'll give it to you.

19 MRS. CUTTLER: It'll come out later.

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, because he's very, very well
21 known, he came from Ohio and spent a whole Sunday with us.
22 Oh, yes -- Charles Taft --
23 /And he told us, "Don't think that when you have it passed,
24 that it will stay done, you have to keep after it all the time".

24 MRS. CUTTLER: We've learned that, haven't we?

25 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, and so that -- only person

1 that took a worse beating than Fred Lee was his secretary.
2 She had to type all these subjects that we had.

3 And he had the theory that we could not divide the
4 load, each take a specialty, each one of us had to defend the
5 whole Charter, had to know every word in it. Because we had
6 to support it.

7 MRS. CUTTLER: Did you find as a group that it was
8 fairly easy to get a consensus among the five of you.

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: In fact, sometime later we felt
10 that that's a fault of that group. We'd been better off if
11 we'd had at least one person against it because we'd have got
12 a little warning that we couldn't get by.

13 For instance, we had to put in the salary for the
14 proposed County Manager, and we knew that didn't belong in
15 the Charter but we knew that that was one of the things they
16 were accusing us of.

17 Getting a man here who was going to get a fantastic
18 salary and get all this power and everything, so we had to
19 write it in very particularly.

20 And there were probably other things because we did
21 lose the first Charter by a small vote. And the second Char-
22 ter was practically the same Charter after a couple of the
23 minor changes ^{were} made.

24 MRS. CUTTLER: Do you think it was the minor changes
25 that made the difference or just that the people were readier,

1 having been softened up by the first --

2 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think it may have been both,
3 particularly the softening up. And the publicity that had
4 occurred from having one Charter campaign.

5 MRS. CUTTLER: Do you think that ^{when} we had our proposed
6 State Constitution in 1968, we might have taken some lessons
7 from that first Charter defeat that we perhaps ignored?

8 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think so.

9 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, what would those lessons be?

10 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well it shouldn't have slapped in
11 the face of all these workers in county buildings all over the
12 state.

13 You see, they had this one requirement that these
14 jobs were going to be cut out. Well you just don't cut our
15 a batch of people like that overnight, and those people formed
16 an organization to defeat the Charter. And they were influen-
17 tial people in the parties. And I'm just using that one ex-
18 ample.

19 MRS. CUTTLER: But that was something that we had,
20 in a sense, seen the first time the Charter went out.

21 Now the second Charter Board, the second go-around,
22 you were on the second Charter Board?

23 MRS. HOSTETLER: No, I was not, it was completely
24 different the second time. And apparently had very little
25 interest, they just had a revamped first Charter. And then

1 those people have never followed up, for instance, they'd
2 been invited to take part in studies, resurveying the Charter
3 and they have no interest at all.

4 MRS. CUTTLER: Now this was Norman Ames, Howard
5 Bailey, George Rust Cambye, William C. Hansen and James Hayden.
6 Who was the Chairman, which one of these people?

7 MRS. HOSTETLER: I don't remember.

8 MRS. CUTTLER: But they really didn't have quite the
9 same grounding that your group had.

10 MRS. HOSTETLER: But Bill Hansen is one of my neigh-
11 bors up the road here. And of course I knew Mr. Cambye. But
12 they never put the years in it, they were just a committee,
13 like this and had no real interest.

14 MRS. CUTTLER: But, when this Charter was passed
15 then it was when Frederick Lee became the --

16 MRS. HOSTETLER: First President of the Council.

17 MRS. CUTTLER: Do you have any more thoughts about
18 Mr. Lee, he seems to have been such a dominant force in Mont-
19 gomery County.

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well he, ^{was} and of course this is only
21 one of his specialities. He is probably the outstanding auth-
22 ority on azaleas in the United States, and all you have to
23 do is look at his yard and realize why he is.

24 MRS. CUTTLER: Now as I remember that first time
25 that you ran for the Charter Board, this was a non-partisan

1 election?

2 MRS. HOSTETLER: That's right.

3 MRS. CUTTLER: Now, did either party take a stand
4 on the Charter?

5 MRS. HOSTETLER: Just the Lee Branch of the Democra-
6 tic Party, was adamant against the Charter and called it a
7 freak and all sorts of names.

8 MRS. CUTTLER: In other words it was not an official
9 Democratic Party stand, it was just one segment of the party
10 which opposed it. Now what tactics did they use?

11 MRS. HOSTETLER: Making fun of it and saying that
12 it had never been heard of, nobody ever had a Charter. Well,
13 of course any organization has a Charter or a Constitution,
14 and we could talk that one down.

15 They just said we were going to raise salaries and
16 bring in expensive county managers so that's why his salary
17 was written into the Charter. And later was taken out be-
18 cause it had no business being there.

19 I've forgotten the other things but they mostly
20 made fun of us.

21 MRS. CUTTLER: And did they make personal attacks
22 on the people who supported it?

23 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, they called us do-gooders and
24 we were all lumped together.

25 MRS. CUTTLER: Did they trade on the fact that they

1 were the old --

2 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes -- I'd forgotten that -- they
3 represent the county really, that we were all newcomers.

4 MRS. CUTTLER: I see. Now you were holding the
5 Presidency of the League at the time you ran for Charter?

6 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes.

7 MRS. CUTTLER: And did you have to resign?

8 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, it was near the end of my
9 term.

10 MRS. CUTTLER: I see. And -- a -- then after your
11 -- a -- Charter service you watched the defeat of Franklin
12 Roosevelt in 1944. And it was then that you determined to
13 become more active yourself in the Democratic Party.

14 MRS. HOSTETLER: Because I could vote for Mr. Roos-
15 evelt, but I couldn't talk for him, because I was supposed to
16 be non-partisan, you see. There was no activity in the county
17 for him at all.

18 The labor union's had a little truck down in Beth-
19 esda that had some literature on it, and that was the only
20 Democratic action that was taken here. And I thought it was
21 time for some national interest to be shown.

22 So at that point I thought, this is where I get
23 active in politics. There are things that you can only get
24 that way.

25 MRS. CUTTLER: And how did you go about becoming

1 active?

2 MRS. HOSTETLER: Having the Lee people invite me
3 to join the slate for the legislature, which I could not then
4 accept because I was so pro Charter ^{and non-partisan} and they were so anti.
5 And there was legislation that had to be passed in the State
6 Legislature to make the Charter effective.

7 Then they came back and offered me the Chairmanship
8 of the Delegation. And I didn't know in those ignorant days
9 how important that was, and I probably wouldn't have known
10 how, to make it important, had I accepted.

11 I think -- I'd just been out voted on everything and
12 that would have been the story.

13 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, why do you think that they
14 asked you to run?

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: Because I think that organizations
16 that I was associated with, they thought that they would carry
17 the rest of the slate if we had a slate. If I were ^{on} the whole
18 slate, why they -- person would vote for the one person he
19 knew, and then just say, "Oh well, I'll take the rest of it too."

20 MRS. CUTTLER: So they could get strength through
21 your slate, their slate, but then when they got down to Annap-
22 olis there would be enough of them to out vote you?

23 MRS. HOSTETLER: That's right, and so at that time
24 my little ego swelled up. They had no strong candidates for
25 the Senate, and so I decided I'd run for the Senate.

1 MRS. CUTTLER: This is the State Senate?

2 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, State Senate. Not knowing
3 what I know now about how difficult it is. And then -- um --
4 the -- I -- oh then they put in two candidates against me. So
5 that split the vote as you see. And the man that did win the
6 primary lost and we had our first Republican Delegate in
7 years and years and years.

8 MRS. CUTTLER: Who ran against you, what Democrats?

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: Ed Northrop^{later Judge,} was one and I've for-
10 gotten the name of the other one who won. Then that was when
11 the man who was a school expert, and lived in the county for
12 many years won his first Republican election as a Delegate.

13 MRS. CUTTLER: Was that Roy Tasco Davis?

14 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, that's who it was, and then
15 he had two terms. And he was always so nice to me and said,
16 "I had no idea I'd ever be elected." Because he counted Rep-
17 ublican votes, he knew how few there were.

18 MRS. CUTTLER: Then, what were your relations with
19 the Lee organization after this election?

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, I just was outside, that's
21 all, but you see, in the meantime -- a -- the Democrats in
22 the county were -- commenced to get stronger. And they weren't
23 all in the Lee organization, there were the newcomers who
24 were getting stronger -- and that developed.

25 And then I became a member of the Democratic State

1 Central Committee in 1920, and served four terms on that.

2 MRS. CUTTLER: In 1920 or 1950?

3 MRS. HOSTETLER: '50, excuse me, '20's when they --
4 sufferage came.

5 MRS. CUTTLER: You served, how many terms?

6 MRS. HOSTETLER: Four.

7 MRS. CUTTLER: Four, and were you elected to those
8 four terms?

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, and in 1966 I did not run. I
10 served '50 to '54 to '58 to '62 and to '66, and then I did
11 not run in '66. I felt that sixteen years was a long pull.

12 MRS. CUTTLER: Who were the Chairman during that
13 period, those four terms?

14 MRS. HOSTETLER: The first one was Warren Browning,
15 and -- I think the other, Oh dear -- but I was Vice Chairman
16 of the first one, which was a (sop) thrown to the anti League
17 group.

18 MRS. CUTTLER: Now was Mr. Browning a League man?

19 MRS. HOSTETLER: Definitely.

20 MRS. CUTTLER: And do you remember who the last
21 Chairman was?

22 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well (Ward Caddington) was Chairman
23 in the middle there and ^{Ann} Brown was Chairman the last time I
24 think.

25 MRS. CUTTLER: And was Ann Brown a League person?

1 MRS. HOSTETLER: Oh no, she was anti Lee.

2 MRS. CUTTLER: And (Ward Caddington) was a Lee
3 man.

4 MRS. HOSTETLER: Definitely.

5 MRS. CUTTLER: I recall your telling me that a lot
6 of slates, county slates, got selected in (Ward Caddington's)
7 basement.

8 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, there was the one famous one,
9 because they used to talk about the fact, that how shocking
10 it was to have slates ready made. And actually this party in
11 (Ward Caddington's) basement was a representative group. Each
12 one pushing for its representative and was not a single group
13 when it came out. But then people talk about slates made in
14 (Ward Caddington's) basement.

15 MRS. CUTTLER: I see.

16 MRS. HOSTETLER: At that point.

17 MRS. CUTTLER: You think it wasn't really all that
18 unrepresentative.

19 MRS. HOSTETLER: No, he had invited a representative
20 group because he wanted the people he wanted in.

21 MRS. CUTTLER: I see, so he wanted them to support
22 his people. It was to his interest to get a representative
23 group.

24 MRS. HOSTETLER: That's right.

25 MRS. CUTTLER: Now then when these people had been

1 kind of agreed upon in his basement that -- they would go out
2 and file when?

3 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, at that time, we were filing
4 pretty much when we wanted to. But in the olden days, they
5 did not file until the last minute, before the closing of the
6 polls. Because they didn't want to have people running that
7 -- to get names on the ballot, you see.

8 MRS. CUTTLER: This would restrict the number of
9 names on the ballot?

10 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, if nobody competed, the name
11 didn't have to go on the ballot.

12 MRS. CUTTLER: I see.

13 MRS. HOSTETLER: And that's one of the contributions
14 that the League made. We had several of our members who would
15 run in order to get the State Central Committee on the ballot.
16 It wasn't on the ballot usually because just five people --

17
18 (START OF TAPE ONE, SIDE TWO)

19 September 1, 1971

20 And I am Margaret Cuttler on my third visit to Mrs.
21 Alice Hostetler in Potomac, Maryland. And we are going to
22 continue our discussion of Mrs. Hostetler's civic and political
23 activities in Montgomery County.

24 Last time, Mrs. Hostetler, we were talking about
25 your service on the Central Committee for the Democratic State
Central Committee for Montgomery County. And you served four

1 terms, from 1950 to 1966, during a period when the Central
2 Committee changed any number of -- things about its operations.
3 I'd like to hear something about those changes that took place.

4 MRS. HOSTETLER: Actually some changes had taken
5 place before I was on that committee. Because of sheer polit-
6 ical pressure that -- for instance, the precinct elections of
7 their Chairmen, that was started before I was on the Committee.
8 Joe Simpson was on it -- Charlie Miles -- Charlie Busher was
9 on it-- I've forgotten. But they just had to respond to that
10 pressure and some of them sincerely thought it was a good idea.

11 The Republicans had no -- they'd always had their
12 officers appointed. Nobody in the state elects their chair-
13 man and they thought this was a good grass roots move and I
14 think they felt they would elect the people they wanted. But
15 it gave a break for the newcomers to get into the party --
16 membership in the party.

17 We had the most elaborate procedures, with big vote
18 boxes to put the votes in. And I really cannot remember all
19 those things -- and they still^{have}/pretty much -- of procedure to
20 have these precinct elections. It's expensive to get the no-
21 tices out, its a big mailing now to get to all Democrats. And
22 we were required to advertise them in the paper, I think we
23 had them -- at least two papers.

24 But I think it really gets activity and participa-
25 tion and interest in the party. Some people just hold a -- in

1 name only job and never do much, others have beautiful files
2 -- keep the addresses up to date, and the newcomers, they
3 call on them, and really have a very fine precinct organizat-
4 ion. But that just-- adds human frailties -- some do not.

5 MRS. CUTTLER: But when you went on the Democratic
6 State Central Committee, and were elected to that position,
7 you were elected also as Vice Chairman of the Committee.

8 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes.

9 MRS. CUTTLER: Was that by the Committee itself?

10 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, the Committee elects its own
11 officers and Warren Browning was the Chairman and they nom-
12 inated another League person to be Chairman. And I -- that
13 was really my first brash step -- I think I spoke up and said,
14 " I really think this isn't going to make a very good impress-
15 ion on voters in the county if the leadership comes all from
16 the one group". And Warren agreed with me, and he said he'd
17 like to nominate me to be Vice Chairman.

18 MRS. CUTTLER: So they withdrew the other name, do
19 you remember who the other person was?

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, it was (Ward Caddington).

21 MRS. CUTTLER: (Ward Caddington), I see.

22 MRS. HOSTETLER: And they all thought it was a good
23 move, because they were trying to win support of all democrats,
24 you see.

25 MRS. CUTTLER: So they weren't totally dragged,

1 kicking and screaming, they could understand that.

2 MRS. HOSTETLER: That's right, and of course I only
3 had one vote. And when we went to the State Conventions back
4 in those days the vote would be five and later I think, six
5 to one.. And then they would cast it as a unit.

6 MRS. CUTTLER: But you were always the one.

7 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, but it was a unit vote that --

8 MRS. CUTTLER: As Vice Chairman did you have any
9 opportunities at all, to begin to broaden up member participa-
10 tion in the Party?

11 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, members of the Party had gone
12 out to the -- I don't remember the name of it, Liquor Conven-
13 tion in California, because we had the dispensaries you see,
14 which -- a very good thing. We get school money from the
15 dispensary, don't we? And so that -- they'd gone out there
16 and Warren said, when he left, "You just take over while I'm
17 away," so I called a meeting.

18 MRS. CUTTLER: You really did take over.

19 MRS. HOSTETLER: And we had quite a number of people
20 at one of the schools. And we had no money and they literally
21 passed the hat at that meeting to get out a mailing to have a
22 bigger meeting. Because I had to put it in the paper -- just
23 announced it and written some letters. And so then they got
24 a mailing out with the money that they raised that night.

25 They were very active about school affairs then.

1 And, the old guard always said that it would just cost more
2 money and raise taxes, you see. And the League and the new
3 people said, well, they were willing to pay for the schools.
4 But the old thought was, you never discussed raising taxes
5 in a political campaign, that was too touchy.

6 MRS. CUTTLER: I see. How did the -- how did Mr.
7 Browning and the people who were in California react to this
8 meeting?

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: They flew home

10 MRS. CUTTLER: They heard about it?

11 MRS. HOSTETLER: They heard about it and flew home
12 to see what was up. A funny part about it is -- we won't put
13 this in the transcript, but at those meetings they're given
14 liquor by the big liquor companies, and they all had to leave
15 their liquor out there in California because they couldn't
16 carry it, it was too heavy.

17 MRS. CUTTLER: They were in such a hurry to get
18 home they had to leave it behind. Well, that wasn't designed
19 to make you very popular.

20 Did a -- did he have to go along -- once the meeting
21 had been called -- he had to go along with it.

22 MRS. HOSTETLER: And there was one meeting -- and
23 practically all these meetings were about schools. And there
24 was this one meeting that was presided over by the Lee represen-
25 tative, and a young ^{woman} got to the floor to discuss this thing

1 that was to be put before the County Commissioners, and it was
2 about school, and the presiding officer said this was not on
3 the agenda, and it could not be called.

4 And he said -- and there was great indignation that
5 -- they -- cause they said if the Commissioners met next week,
6 they wanted this matter before them. And he said, "Well after
7 the meeting's adjourned, you may have the floor." And so,
8 after the meeting was adjourned -- all this big group of people
9 walked out -- Mr. Lee walked out, everybody else walked out.

10 The meeting was supposedly adjourned, and I can re-
11 member a man that -- later became very active in the party,
12 standing up, he was over six feet tall ^{had} and/a big voice. And
13 he said, "You promised this young lady that she could have
14 the floor, aren't you going to recognize her?" And the speak-
15 er -- I mean the presiding officer then recognized her and
16 all the people who had exited started coming back to the meet-
17 ing. They were going to see what was going to happen. And
18 the matter that they wanted to have presented to the Commis-
19 ioners at the next meeting was voted on -- not as a Democratic
20 Party meeting but as a citizens' meeting.

21 MRS. CUTTLER: I see.

22 MRS. HOSTETLER: And it was presented as a group of
23 democrats, I guess -- met at this -- they called it that rath-
24 er than an official meeting. But anyway -- the matter was
25

1 passed and was presented to the --

2 MRS. CUTTLER: Do you remember who the man was who
3 asked for the floor?

4 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think it was Drex Sprecher.

5 MRS. CUTTLER: Oh yes, that sounds like him. And
6 do you remember who the presiding officer was?

7 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, if I can just come up with his
8 name, he died quite some time ago, and his wife is an artist,
9 I remember that and -- we can get these for the transcript.

10 MRS. CUTTLER: Now what -- this meeting was not the
11 first meeting that you called, this was a subsequent, later.

12 MRS. HOSTETLER: And we commenced to have meetings
13 at that point.

14 MRS. CUTTLER: Well -- yeah --you really broke the
15 ground then, and Mr. Browning more or less had to go along
16 then with fairly regular meetings.

17 Did you have any -- you -- were Vice Chairman then,
18 have any other opportunities, or after you had done this once,
19 did you ever get any other chances.

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, we had a big meeting in Beth-
21 esda at an old club down there, and that was when Ann Brown
22 commenced to be active. She had come here from Pennsylvania,
23 and had been very much interested in politics, that was true
24 of a lot of people, because you see they'd had experience other
25 places.

1 MRS. CUTTLER: I see.

2 MRS. HOSTETLER: And party work, and they wanted to
3 be active. And so Ann helped put on this dinner meeting a --
4 down in Bethesda and became very -- she was one of the ones
5 with a well organized precinct.

6 And they used to have monthly, or maybe weekly meet-
7 ings at each other's homes and they'd take their children.

8 MRS. CUTTLER: And this is pre -- we're talking about
9 meetings of precinct Chairmen.

10 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, and precinct people getting
11 activity. And they'd bring their children and sit and talk
12 and that's the way things started, very informally but it has
13 become very formal now.

14 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, can you tell me a little bit
15 about the background and occupation of Warren Browning?

16 MRS. HOSTETLER: He's a lawyer and a very successful
17 one as of today. He's county family, well the -- there's
18 Browningsville, in the upper part of the county. And, (Ward
19 Caddington) was a political figure and he had a job with --
20 under the Election Committee -- I'm trying to get these people
21 sorted out. Rose Dawson, of course was the Republican, who
22 was, for a long time active.

23 And Ward was -- had some sort of a paying job, and
24 was very active in county affairs. And that was the thing
25 that Charter was very particular about -- about the letting

1 of contracts, you see. And Ward would let contracts to people,
2 that was a nice plum and people would vote for the man who
3 let them have the contract.

4 It seems fantastic now that things were so crudely
5 done. But that's the way -- well, I think there were only
6 forty to fifty thousand people here in the county in those
7 days.

8 And many good things, Helen Scharf refers to the
9 Park and Planning, they did a good job when they started. And
10 we do have lovely parks, and we do have good recreation
11 grounds. And that was one of the things -- but also, the
12 people with power got roads put by their property.

13 MRS. CUTTLER: Well did (Ward Caddington) then,
14 follow Mr. Browning, as Chairman of the Democratic State Cen-
15 tral Committee?

16 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes.

17 MRS. CUTTLER: And what kind of a -- Chairman was
18 he then?

19 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, I'd say he was a very auto-
20 cratic Chairman. And -- he had a -- great patronage power.

21 And, of course, in those days there were many, many
22 people who were appointed to office. And actually one of the
23 things that some of us liked was the appointed School Board,
24 because -- you don't always get the qualified people, in the
25 professional way, when you elect.

1 But we were raising so much (flak) in those days,
2 that first they didn't announce when the School Board election
3 was going to be held.

4 Somebody would resign and the next day somebody
5 would be appointed to the School Board. Well, they -- we
6 didn't go for that and we wanted to know when the appointments
7 were going to be made and we promptly got in touch with the
8 Governor, if we didn't like them.

9 And that was quite a good deal of political
10 pressure on the Governor and the Governor would then appoint
11 qualified people.

12 And -- what's her name -- Sanderson, Mrs. Sanderson
13 on the School Board, she was one of our first people to be
14 on it -- and she was appointed by the Governor.

15 She was an excellent -- there were other good,
16 qualified people cause the Governor just had to appoint
17 people that Montgomery County would respect.

18 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, would you say that (Ward
19 Caddington) had to go along with the trend established under
20 Warren Browning of Precinct Chairmen participation, even
21 though he was very autocratic?

22 The party still began to move more -- to more
23 grassroots participation under him?

24 MRS. HOSTETLER: I would say that's a good
25 description, because he liked his job and he wanted to be

1 elected, and so he would cooperate with more people instead
2 of this little hand-picked group that used to be.

3 MRS. CUTTLER: Were there any special things that
4 happened during his four years as Chairman, that you can
5 think of?

6 MRS. HOSTETLER: I'm not really -- I think there
7 was just more party activity. We commenced to have more
8 meetings and, did commence to know each other, and I'll have
9 to give that one some thought.

10 MRS. CUTTLER: Now, how about -- was Willard Morris
11 the next Chairman?

12 MRS. HOSTETLER: I don't think so. Willard was a
13 very talented money-raiser. But, they used to have at least
14 one dinner -- before an election.

15 And maybe they'd have it before the primary election
16 as well as the general, and the Governor would come and the
17 dinner was \$250.

18 And that was raised -- and -- he, of course, raised
19 much of that money from the realtors in the county. Actually,
20 that's one thing about the charter that we discussed -- not
21 having anybody in the real estate business on the charter
22 boards, that would be elected.

23 And, of course, we knew we didn't dare do that
24 because the charter would have never been adopted if we put
25 in anything as tough as that.

1 The real estate pressure in this county was very
2 great and not always for the best. The realtors wanted the
3 roads and parks to go where they wanted them to go.

4 MRS. CUTTLER: Now was (Ward) -- did (Ward Caddington)
5 ever have any connection with the real estate?

6 MRS. HOSTETLER: I don't know that he did overtly.
7 You see, the -- these things were done so quietly and privately.
8 The power went to people that -- it was not done democratically.

9 Let's put it that way.

10 MRS. CUTTLER: Now, what was Willard Morris' occu-
11 pation?

12 MRS. HOSTETLER: Willard had a men's shop over on
13 Four Corners there, and he now is the State Election Official.
14 He probably knew more about elections than anybody.

15 He was very -- he used to make up ballots -- I've
16 forgotten what his particular office was, but he could make
17 the ballots and he would redistrict when the districts were
18 too crowded.

19 And his experience -- he knew a great deal about
20 political activities, laws, and when the Chairman of the
21 States was last appointed, he was made the Chairman.

22 MRS. CUTTLER: So he's not the state super --
23 administrator --

24 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, and he really knows his
25 stuff -- no question about that.

1 MRS. CUTTLER: Now, Ann Brown -- came along as the
2 final Chairman of -- when you were on the committee and she
3 was one of your -- one of your own?

4 (Laughter)

5 How did it happen that someone not in the old guard
6 came to be Chairman? What -- what sort of a shift took
7 place?

8 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, Ann was willing to -- there
9 was some particular matter before the State Central --
10 Committee at that point and she was willing -- I'm not saying
11 there was anything wrong about it -- to vote the way the
12 party wanted her to vote.

13 And, so there were four votes for Ann -- for --

14 MRS. CUTTLER: She was able to get support then
15 from both factions?

16 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes.

17 MRS. CUTTLER: And what direction did the State
18 Central Committee and the Democratic Party in the county
19 take under Ann?

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, unfortunately, that's when
21 we had our debacle. Remember when we lost the whole works?
22 Because the party was getting pretty much divided.

23 And -- it was a stunning blow to wake up and find
24 that we had all the Republican council members and then
25 fortunately for the Democrats, their leadership was so bad

1 that four years later we were able to reverse that trend.

2 You know, that was the time when they cut school
3 budgets and -- did some things that these people who were so
4 very interested -- who became politically conscious because
5 they were interested in schools.

6 And they just wouldn't go along with this.

7 MRS. CUTTLER: You mean fortunately for the Demo-
8 crats the Republican leadership was so bad --

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes. I didn't make it clear.

10 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, was this the period when you
11 helped to launch the Dollars for Democrats Annual Drive?

12 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, that was done when Preston
13 Lane was Governor. And there was a big party in Kenwood for
14 him and Vivian Simpson was Secretary of State and there were
15 other people here in the County who had prominent positions.

16 And there were -- Elizabeth Asay was one of them
17 and Hazel Allen, whose now very active -- of course,
18 Elizabeth's moved away.

19 And there were three or four of us who decided to
20 collect some money at this luncheon, 'cause we didn't have
21 any money.

22 And we got permission from the State Central
23 Committee and we actually printed -- little tickets that we
24 could sell for one dollar.

25 And, I guess, that's how we said Dollars for

1 Democrats.

2 MRS. CUTTLER: Do you remember who coined that,
3 Dollars for Democrats?

4 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, I think that Marjorie --
5 was -- Garfield, she was another one of the ones who was
6 active -- and she might be able to -- it was sort of a consen-
7 sus, I think, --

8 MRS. CUTTLER: This was you and Vivian Simpson and
9 -- oh, I mean -- the, you say, the three or four who really
10 began it.

11 This was you and --

12 MRS. HOSTETLER: Elizabeth Asay and Elizabeth was
13 particularly helpful in there. And I'm pretty sure Marjorie's
14 one of them.

15 And we had a table at the door where people came in
16 and interestingly enough, a county family that I know well,
17 now. They are two women, the mother-in-law and the daughter,
18 came to this party and they were just stunned.

19 They didn't know politicians were nice people and
20 they talked to me about it afterwards. This beautiful home
21 and everything was so lovely.

22 And the Governor was there --

23 (Laughter)

24 MRS. HOSTETLER: -- and politics took on a decent
25 aspect at that point.

1 MRS. CUTTLER: It had become socially acceptable
2 at that point.

3 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, yes. That's right. And I
4 remember I was so fortunate to be State President when
5 Marguerite Wells was the National President.

6 MRS. CUTTLER: Of the League?

7 MRS. HOSTETLER: ^{Yes.} /And she was -- oh, she was so
8 brilliant and knew her stuff. And she said at the meeting
9 that -- I said well, something was going to be respectable
10 some day -- I've forgotten what it was.

11 And she said, I expect to find the word politics
12 respectable some day.

13 (Laughter)

14 MRS. CUTTLER: You think you have lived to see it?

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think so.

16 MRS. CUTTLER: Now, Dollars for Democrats is now --
17 isn't that a national --

18 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, it was, but with the
19 changing national committees and so forth, some people
20 resented the fact, you see, that we gave a third of the money
21 to the State, a third to the national committees and
22 a third locally.

23 And some of them didn't want to pass the money on
24 to the State.

25 MRS. CUTTLER: I see.

1 MRS. HOSTETLER: And -- or the national committee.
2 And, at this point, the money stays in the County. That --
3 that's just gone by the boards 'cause nobody really promoted
4 it nationally.

5 MRS. CUTTLER: It's too bad because it really does
6 -- is --

7 MRS. HOSTETLER: That's right. If you get a dollar,
8 you get a vote.

9 MRS. CUTTLER: That's right.

10 MRS. HOSTETLER: And -- of course you're not
11 limited to dollars, either. Many people give much more than
12 dollars and they have special gifts committees and that sort
13 of thing.

14 Jane Knox is one of the best dollar raisers in the
15 county. She was always out collecting in the neighborhood.
16 She'd call on new people -- and she's a money raiser, like
17 Willard Morris.

18 MRS. CUTTLER: Was the source -- were the sources
19 known generally to the members of the Central Committee or
20 was this generally kept within the people who had raised the
21 money?

22 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, I think that actually, you
23 see, it did become a door-to-door -- we literally went from
24 house to house and it became a general small d Democratic
25 process.

1 But -- and they wouldn't believe that the first
2 dollar drive that was handled by the State Central Committee --
3 that we'd raise any.

4 And they were just frank and honest and said, why
5 we had no idea. I think it was a third of the money -- and
6 when they'd always gone and tapped the wealthy people, you
7 know, or people who wanted privilege or patronage.

8 And when they found out that literally asking for
9 dollars and going door-to-door we raised a third of the
10 budget, that was a revelation.

11 And it's been kept up all this time.

12 MRS. CUTTLER: Would this be the time to have any
13 comments about your national Democratic connections or parti-
14 cipation?

15 As I recall, you were active in the Women's
16 National Democratic Club. Is there anything there that you
17 think --

18 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, I think that one of the things
19 which was very fortunate for Montgomery County -- nationally,
20 people operate through state organizations.

21 But here we were living right on the border of
22 Washington, and we could drop in the National office and
23 they were always nice to us, and wanted to give us leadership.

24 And we got advanced that way, whereas if you'd been
25 in a mid-western state, you'd have to go through the State

1 organization and local county organization.

2 So, we -- India Edwards was the leader at that
3 time and then Katie Louchheim and they were always very good
4 to us.

5 And then wanted our people to do some national
6 work, too. For instance, I was sent out by the National
7 Committee to some western states and then later, when I
8 became President of the Woman's Club, some of the Woman's
9 Club people were sent to the far west -- well, we tried to
10 cover all the States.

11 And we -- the team that I was with, went to
12 Montana and Wyoming and Colorado and they -- the impression
13 they wanted to give to the Democrats in the village someplace
14 was that National Committee did care for them -- was concerned
15 about them.

16 That they -- and this time they sent us out to
17 Colorado to try to impress the local organizations that the
18 National Committee was impressed and as our plane arrived, so
19 did President Johnson's plane.

20 (Laughter)

21 MRS. HOSTETLER: It arrived -- he -- he felt that
22 much concern about the western states he was there and we
23 thought maybe they'd call us back -- there were three of us --
24 and -- but they had had them made the appointments with the
25 different organizations in these four or five -- four States,

1 I guess.

2 And we served our little introduction, saying you
3 are important to Washington.

4 MRS. CUTTLER: So, this was in more or less private
5 interviews with the leadership, rather than -- you didn't
6 speak to a group?

7 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, --

8 MRS. CUTTLER: -- or both?

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: Both. Both. I still have a
10 marvelous souvenir from the -- well, I might just go -- why
11 don't I go and get it?

12 It seems that the Department of Agriculture
13 publication have made a statement to the effect that Cheyenne,
14 Wyoming had the purest air in United States.

15 And at this particular place, Cheyenne, the Board
16 entertained us for dinner and then we had a meeting there,
17 and at our places were these little bottles of purest air in
18 the United States.

19 (Laughter)

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: I still have it to this day. And
21 that's what it says, that the donor was the Mayor up there
22 and they had sent these little bottles to a big meeting down
23 in Florida where they wanted little souvenirs to go and
24 somebody gave the bottles from the drug store.

25 And to this day I just really treasure my purest

1 air.

2 (Laughter)

3 MRS. CUTTLER: We'd like to have a lot more of it
4 here.

5 (laughter)

6 MRS. HOSTETLER: So -- yes, we'd like to have it
7 everyplace. We had no idea that it was going to be such a
8 serious situation as it is now.

9 MRS. CUTTLER: No. Is there anything special that
10 happened when you were President of the Woman's Club that
11 you'd like to tell about?

12 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes. A very important thing. And
13 that was -- we had our first Negro member. And that -- we
14 can't believe it now, but it was a very ticklish subject back
15 then, in those days.

16 I know Katie Loucheim -- when she knew I was going
17 to be President of the Club -- said I feel sorry for you,
18 Alice. You're going to face a terrific problem.

19 And there were two ^{Negro} candidates for -- and I consulted
20 with past Presidents and consulted with the committee --
21 the Woman's Club, the National Democratic Club.

22 The Board elects the members. You have a sponsor.
23 You have a nominator and two sponsors -- or they did in those
24 days.

25 And then they passed upon it in a board meeting.

1 And the Chairman of the committee was -- I know
2 you're not interested in this -- Daisy Harriman was and I
3 remember when I called on her, to say that this -- we were
4 going to face this and Adlai Stevenson was the candidate for
5 President, I wasn't about to have this thing aired in the
6 Washington newspapers the way the American Association of
7 University Women -- you know, they divided at that time.

8 And -- we cannot have that happen to the Democratic
9 small d - Democratic Club. And so that -- when I went to
10 see Miss Harriman and got her reaction, she said, of course,
11 they should be permitted and President Wilson, who was one
12 of the sponsors of this Woman's National Democratic Club,
13 was always for it being a serious -- not a social club.

14 It should be a political power. And she said, do
15 you have the votes?

16 (Laughter)

17 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, who were the sponsors -- there
18 were two candidates for membership. Who were their sponsors?

19 MRS. HOSTETLER: I don't remember at this point,
20 but I'll tell you the first woman who was elected, was
21 the singer's wife --

22 MRS. CUTTLER: The --

23 MRS. HOSTETLER: -- Porgy and Bess.

24 MRS. CUTTLER: Not Paul Robeson or --

25 MRS. HOSTETLER: No, no.

1 MRS. CUTTLER: The local man?

2 MRS. HOSTETLER: No, no. He was the one who started
3 in New York.

4 MRS. CUTTLER: Oh --

5 MRS. HOSTETLER: And -- oh, well, this business of
6 names. Getting me down.

7 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, this is something we can
8 check on.

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, but anyway, she was -- is
10 still one of our very fine members and the other woman with-
11 drew because she wasn't interested in just being a member.

12 She wanted to be the first.

13 MRS. CUTTLER: Oh, I see. When she heard that the
14 other lady had been elected, then she withdrew. She was not
15 serious.

16 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes.

17 MRS. CUTTLER: -- not seriously interested in the
18 Club.

19 MRS. HOSTETLER: And, -- I remember when we had the
20 memorial service for President Kennedy, this wonderful singer
21 he teaches at the Howard University -- put on the singing.

22 And it was beautifully done. Maybe if I --

23 MRS. CUTTLER: Duncan somebody?

24 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, maybe --

25 MRS. CUTTLER: Todd Duncan. Todd Duncan.

MRS. HOSTETLER: That's right. I was going to get

1 my little book here --

2 MRS. CUTTLER: I was reaching for that name and I
3 kept saying he's a local man --

4 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes -- yes --

5 MRS. CUTTLER: I knew that he had some Washington
6 connection -- but --

7 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes -- he -- he teaches at
8 Howard --

9 MRS. CUTTLER: That's it. Todd Duncan.

10 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes. And she's a very active
11 member and, of course, we have many Negro members now. I
12 can remember Mrs. Woodrow Wilson coming to luncheon and
13 sitting next to me.

14 And saying, well she was talking -- a waitress
15 nodding her head,
16 passed and she said/do you have members now? And I said,
17 oh, yes.

18 I was so proud to be able to say it.

19 MRS. CUTTLER: Oh, yes.

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: And she said, well, that was
21 certainly the Pres -- she called him Mr. Wilson's attitude
22 that we must have.

23 And it was not to be a social club.

24 MRS. CUTTLER: Did you have trouble getting the
25 required number of votes on the Board?

MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes. There were many tears --

1 I'll give you an amusing bit by the Magnolia girls, they're
2 called.

3 And they were very teary-eyed and but it was fun.

4 MRS. CUTTLER: You lined things up before the
5 meeting so that you wouldn't have and --

6 MRS. HOSTETLER: The Chairman of the committee,
7 who was to make the report, begged off, said, oh, there was
8 so much opposition and shouldn't we postpone this.

9 And I said this is on the agenda for today. I never
10 did a thing that was -- all I had to do was look at our
11 Constitution, and know that there was no restriction -- that's
12 how lucky we were, you see.

13 And there was no restriction at all and you just
14 had to have your nominator and sponsors and that was it. And
15 there was no excuse in the world for our not going ahead,
16 except counting the votes.

17 (Laughter)

18 MRS. HOSTETTER: And one of the finest speeches that
19 we had was by Mrs. Boggs, Mrs. Hale Boggs, and of course,
20 that was a very delicate position for a Southern congressman's
21 wife.

22 And she got up and spoke about the Christian view-
23 point. Of course, we should have Mrs. Todd Duncan and the
24 others.

25 And now -- of course, she's -- they've lived here

1 in the County for so long they're practically Montgomery
2 Countians. And she goes home for elections, but she was a
3 great person, stood up and some of the others said according
4 to our Constitution, it was proper and we could go ahead and
5 -- there was no backscratching or anything of the sort.

6 It was just put on the line that this was the way
7 our Constitution was written.

8 MRS. CUTTLER: Do you think there were people who
9 might have made more of a fuss if it hadn't been during an
10 election when they knew they just couldn't rock the boat --
11 and so that played into your hands then. That leverage.

12 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, yes.

13 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, that must have made you feel
14 very good.

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, it did, but it almost
16 ruined a vacation for me almost, because with the weeks of
17 anticipation of trying to see whether we could carry this
18 and just couldn't lose it, I had planned on this day to go
19 down the inter -- the inland waterway yacht with friends.

20 And I got myself down from this meeting -- it was
21 over -- and we spent the night on the Potomac someplace.
22 And in the morning we went ashore to get some breakfast at
23 a little restaurant there.

24 And there was ⁱⁿ the Washington Post on the front
25

1 page that we now had a Negro member.

2 And, of course, we never announce our members.
3 Never. We just voted ^{a member} in and you're notified and pay your
4 dues and that's that.

5 But somebody had leaked this and, of course, it
6 looked as if I might have done it and well, I have to go
7 home, I guess.

8 I'd hate to be away with this business -- that
9 I'd done this and then walk out on them and that was the day
10 of the Monday luncheon.

11 And, so I was taken to the airport in Norfolk, got
12 on the plane and flew back to Washington for this luncheon.
13 And I was -- the body was there, you see, and not off
14 gallavanting someplace.

15 And then in the afternoon, flew back to Norfolk.
16 So it was quite a --

17 MRS. CUTTLER: That was quite something, and that
18 way no one could accuse you of ducking out.

19 MRS. HOSTETLER: That's right.

20 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, I would say that was noble of
21 you.

22 MRS. HOSTETLER: I always said it cost me \$35 --
23 but there it was.

24 (Laughter)

25 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, maybe that was a small price to

1 pay.

2 (laughter)

3 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think it was.

4 MRS. CUTTLER: Are there any other things we should
5 include while we're talking about the Democratic Woman's
6 Club?

7 MRS. HOSTETLER: I don't know that there were -- oh,
8 we had the most suc -- well, not the most because we've had
9 other affairs where we raised money -- but we had the famous
10 play, Jenny, and -- and Ann Chapman played the character of
11 Jenny

12 And it was all in pantomime, but somebody read the
13 lines, you see. And we had two performances of it, one at
14 the Sheraton, which one of the ones -- not Sheraton Park --
15 the bigger one.

16 And then we had it for the husbands afterwards and
17 Katie Loucheim was one of the writers and Dick Cole's wife,
18 she -- the two of them wrote this thing.

19 It was so well done and it was put on at the
20 National Convention later on. And lots of people in clubs
21 would want the manuscripts and used it, so that was quite
22 nice.

23 And then as you know, we -- I don't know if you
24 know -- but -- this money raising thing is a big affair and
25 we had the Lippazzaner Horses.

1 MRS. CUTTLER: Oh.

2 MRS. HOSTETLER: I had the special night and
3 Mrs. Johnson was there and I guess that was the biggest money
4 raiser we ever had until this last year when we had our
5 Bazaar and it was so very, very well attended.

6 And, you see, so many things were given at the
7 Bazaar and I remember one time President Wilson's cane was
8 auctioned off and various other things like that raised many
9 thousands of dollars.

10 MRS. CUTTLER: I -- can you refresh my memory --
11 when was it that you were President of the Women's National
12 Democratic Club?

13 MRS. HOSTETLER: 1955.

14 MRS. CUTTLER: 1955.

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: '55.

16 MRS. CUTTLER: 55?

17 MRS. HOSTETLER: '55 and '56.

18 MRS. CUTTLER: Why don't we now go back -- I
19 remember that in our last interview we were discussing the
20 election of 1946, when you ran for the primary nomination to
21 the State Senate and at the time, Roy Tasco Davis, a
22 Republican was elected, because the Democrats were divided.

23 And you mentioned that Senator Davis had told you
24 afterwards that he had not expected to win. And I thought
25 we might review that a little bit.

1 Why do you think he did win?

2 MRS. HOSTETLER: Because the machine split the
3 ticket. You see, they -- I did not announce until I thought
4 I was the only candidate and then they brought out Northrup,
5 Eddie Northrup.

6 And Eddie Northrup and I ran against each other and
7 there was a third man in the primary. And he got the
8 nomination, and did not win the election.

9 Tasco, the other man just didn't have the --
10 and Eddie Northrup, of course, was -- it was obvious why he
11 was brought in.

12 And that was the way it worked out.

13 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, what happened to Eddie
14 Northrup after that?

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: He went to the Legislature and
16 became, I think, Majority Leader in the House and then he
17 went to the Senate and then he was made a judge.

18 I think it was at -- at that time that Peggy
19 (Schweinhaut) took his seat. I'm not really sure, maybe it
20 was somebody else.

21 You see, we commence to get more judges in this
22 county because it was so big and then Peggy went to the
23 Senate.

24 I took her seat in the House.

25

1 And that picture over on the wall -- she's showing
2 me around, the House.

3 (Laughter)

4 MRS. CUTTLER: So, you were appointed by ^{the Governor} -- at
5 that time.

6 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes.

7 MRS. CUTTLER: And you served out her term?
8 And then you served still another spot?

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: Another appointment. Because
10 they felt that it -- I was not going to run that -- and they
11 didn't want any of the people who were going to be candidates
12 in the primary to get the appointment.

13 That seemed like --

14 MRS. CUTTLER: Someone -- give someone an unfair
15 advantage?

16 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, and so I was given the
17 appointment and for the -- with the understanding -- they
18 knew I wasn't going to run.

19 MRS. CUTTLER: So, in other words, you promised
20 them that you wouldn't run if you got the appointment.

21 MRS. HOSTETLER: It wasn't -- I mean --

22 MRS. CUTTLER: It was an understanding rather than --

23 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes. And so that was when I got
24 the other one.

25 MRS. CUTTLER: When you were in the Legislature, did

1 you have much of an opportunity to do anything that you
2 considered significant?

3 MRS. HOSTETLER: No, I thought it was a great
4 disadvantage -- and I told one -- I said -- he was in the
5 Legislature at that time.

6 I said I just don't know how you all get any sleep
7 or do anything. And he said, well, remember we started out
8 three years and we're working up to this business, and knew
9 the ropes and I had to go down there and find it all out in
10 one year.

11 MRS. CUTTLER: You had a year each time?

12 MRS. HOSTETLER: And had a -- yes, --

13 MRS. CUTTLER: One session?

14 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes. In the first session, it was
15 a very difficult one because one of the Prince George's
16 members pulled a fast one after Eddie -- Eddie Northrup was
17 it -- was off the Legislative Council.

18 He let it be known that he was going to put up a
19 big dam here in the Potomac and I found it out and I thought
20 my neighbors and friends will just never speak to me again.

21 Because we'd had this big to-do of not having a
22 big dam. We all thought that was nicely shelved and here we
23 had nobody to represent our Legislative Council and Prince
24 George's pulled this fast one.

25 I got on the phone and told the Citizen's Association

1 here in Potomac, which is a very powerful group of Western
2 Montgomery County citizens and got some of their leadership
3 who were well informed people and always anti-dam of any
4 kind except, perhaps small ones.

5 And they came down to Annapolis and convinced the
6 Legislative Committee that this was a very bad thing and
7 they were so well informed and the man who was trying to get
8 the dam was so ill prepared, that these people carried the
9 day and we did not get the dam.

10 MRS. CUTTLER: Who was this man?

11 MRS. HOSTETLER: He was a member of the Legislature
12 from Prince George's -- he was later elected to Congress
13 from Prince George's.

14 He was --

15 MRS. CUTTLER: Was he a Democrat, a Liberal? Was
16 he Carlton Sickles?

17 MRS. HOSTETLER: No, no. It was before Carlton's
18 time. And -- it was -- he was actually elected to Congress
19 but he was not re-elected to Congress.

20 And --

21 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, that name will come to us --

22 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, we'll get those names, but
23 it was -- you just -- you have to imagine how I felt knowing
24 what the citizens association here felt about that high dam.

25 And, heavens, the first day I'm here to find this

1 out and have to get a rescue squad and, of course, Peggy
2 Scheinhaut came to the meeting and spoke first because she
3 had to go to another meeting.

4 And she told the man who had -- she said I think
5 you're very ill advised and I hope that you will -- well, I
6 don't know what she hoped.

7 But anyway she didn't spare the words when she told
8 him that Montgomery County was on the river and his county
9 wasn't.

10 So, well maybe it is further down.

11 MRS. CUTTLER: Yes.

12 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, but here it was right here.

13 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, so if actually you had not
14 been there, would another member of the delegation have
15 spotted that?

16 Maybe it was very fortunate --

17 MRS. HOSTETLER: The other members of the delegation
18 were quite concerned. And Edna Cook wasn't -- every member
19 of the Legislature has to have its own -- or his or her own
20 special concern for a very few things.

21 MRS. CUTTLER: True.

22 MRS. HOSTETLER: You just cannot cover the water-
23 front. And Edna's, of course, has always been schools and
24 this happened to be my waterfront --

25 (Laughter)

1 MRS. HOSTETLER: And Warren didn't care. And nobody
2 was going to take any leadership and well, Warren tipped me
3 off.

4 He said, well you better get somebody down here and
5 talk about it and go for a committee.

6 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, then you certainly had the
7 feeling --

8 MRS. HOSTETLER: And I remember when they were
9 trying to -- do you remember when they were trying to get
10 permission for the counties that our foreign diplomats had
11 to ride through -- to permit colored people and it was not
12 a statewide voter - this thing -- you couldn't get that and
13 the Baltimore -- had two Negro women in Baltimore city --
14 Verda Welcome and ~~the~~ -- she's still in there.

15 And the other one has since died. And we sat
16 there absolutely with the votes upon the board and we
17 couldn't get them and the Governor had sent down his request
18 and the thing was defeated.

19 It was just hot potatoes that time.

20 MRS. CUTTLER: And finally, that -- in some way
21 that was worked out, whether it was by some diplomacy, I
22 don't recall.

23 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes. Well, it was a later
24 session when it actually became a state-wide issue and not
25 just a corridor, but that finally passed.

1 MRS. CUTTLER: Now, in your second session at the
2 Legislature, were there any particular things that you can
3 remember?

4 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, actually I did not serve --
5 and this is a funny thing -- because you see I took the --
6 at the fall term and then we didn't meet until January, but
7 in case there'd been a special session, I was sworn in.

8 MRS. CUTTLER: In other words, you took a lame
9 duck term the second time?

10 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, and I actually told Governor
11 Lane -- I mean Governor -- the present Governor -- that I
12 wanted that money -- that I wanted to give it to Montgomery
13 County Democrats.

14 (Laughter)

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: And I think he thought that wasn't
16 really cricket, but we had a big, hot campaign coming on and
17 I was able to give it to them for the campaign.

18 And there was no special session, but there was
19 talk of one at that time.

20 MRS. CUTTLER: Now, we were starting out a little
21 bit about -- in fact we had skipped around -- we mentioned
22 that Senator Davis was surprised as the Republican to win
23 in '46 and he talked about the Republican sweep when they
24 took everybody.

25 Have you any -- and then you also mentioned that

1 the Republicans don't elect their precinct chairman.

2 Why don't we focus just for a minute on the
3 Republican party in Montgomery County and see what comments we
4 might have on the Republicans in -- before the charter and
5 after the charter and -- anything about their leadership or
6 the characteristics of the Party.

7 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, I think that it was
8 considered that the Republican Party people are more social
9 minded than we are.

10 MRS. CUTTLER: Now, when you say social minded,
11 in what sense do you mean the word "social"?

12 MRS. HOSTETLER: I mean that it is not in the
13 serious sense. They like parties and affairs and entertaining
14 and that was where their leadership comes in their women --
15 put on these lovely affairs and ours are just commencing to,
16 you know, we do more doorbell stuff.

17 But, they're very fortunate with Gilbert Gude
18 because the Gude family are well known and many, many
19 Democrats vote for Gilbert.

20 And (Adolphe) Gude was one -- his father -- was
21 one of our very first friends -- good friends out here -- and
22 he was one of the ones who made it possible to close the
23 poorhouse, which was a disgrace.

24 We had them all over the state at that time and
25 a Republican was Chairman of the County Commissioners,

1 Brooke Johns, at that time. And Brooke went out to visit the
2 poorhouse, and it made him sick -- goody.

3 But, however, the Republican's were not about to
4 close it because that was a ticklish thing. And I got (Dolphe
5 who was their Chairman, at that time, to come to the meeting.

6 MRS. CUTTLER: He was the Chairman of the Republican
7 Party.

8 MRS. HOSTETLER: And he came to the Commissioners
9 meeting and they voted to close the poorhouse.

10 And you see, the old age pensions were coming in
11 at that point and there was no point in having it.

12 That was the job that I had in the county, that
13 having worked for the Welfare Board, and I got my masters
14 degree, I had taken the state examination that we all took in
15 class and passed as a social worker for the Welfare Board.
16 And I felt I ought to take the job, it was like never intern-
17 ing, you know, just study medicine.

18 And, -- I'm getting two or three stories going at
19 once -- I've got to stop and select what I'm going to tell
20 about. Oh, I had a regular case load, much too big, because
21 that was the depression time.

22 And when the Commissioners discovered that the old
23 age pensions were piling up, they decided to pay the salary
24 of one worker to do nothing else but old age pensions. And
25 I was fortunate enough to be that worker. And that's how I

1 commenced to know the county so well. Not just having a dis-
2 trict but I went up all the back roads and -- place, and did
3 the old age pensions specialty -- and -- if you weren't carry-
4 ing a balanced case load, of course, you (inadubile) go faster.
5 And so, that was a very valuable experience that I had out
6 here in the county.

7 MRS. CUTTLER: Now, as you say we are jumping around
8 a little bit and I am jumping around in my questions. You did
9 so much concurrently, but we've talked a number of times
10 about the 1946 election, in which you ran for the State Senate.

11 Now, at the point that you decided to run in the
12 State Senate, you were involved with the League of Women Voters,
13 and you were involved with the Charter Committee.

14 MRS. HOSTETLER: Everything happened at the same
15 time.

16 MRS. CUTTLER: And suddenly you decided from these
17 sort of non-partisan civic type organizations to become polit-
18 ical, now was that a difficult transition for you?

19 MRS. HOSTETLER: No, because I felt it was absolut-
20 ely essential. We were never going to accomplish the things
21 we wanted if we didn't have some representation in the legis-
22 lature. Because, actually, in those old days in the legis-
23 lature, people who were promoting a certain bill would be in
24 the room when it passed and not even know it. And you wouldn't
25 know it until June, when it became the law.

1 And there were some of these things -- and -- I went
2 to -- and this was gravely misunderstood; I went to Alan Gard-
3 ner, who was Chairman of the Citizens Charter Committee, and
4 said I wanted to resign because I felt that there were things
5 that we had to have for the Charter from the legislature. I
6 wanted to go to the legislature and work for those things be-
7 cause there would be nobody else who would want to work for
8 them.

9 I spent two hours at lunch with him down at the
10 (Cosmos) club, saying this, and his final verdict was, he
11 wanted a bird in the hand rather than a bird in the bush. I
12 went home and wrote him a letter of resignation.

13 But he did not wish it -- he hung on to it, until
14 finally the papers were commencing to say that I was double
15 crossing the Charter people, and all this bad stuff, even my
16 friends wondered what was going on. So I talked to Fred Lee,
17 and I said, will you please ask Mr. Gardner to -- permit pub-
18 lication of my letter of resignation? And it was dated, so
19 that of course -- but, you know you don't catch up with --
20 corrections.

21 MRS. CUTTLER: Why do you think he wanted you to
22 stay on the Charter Committee? This bird in hand, do you
23 think that was his only reason?

24 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, I just had worked so hard for
25 the Charter, I think he thought I should continue to work for

1 it. And I felt that the next step had come, to take for the
2 Charter, to get some legislation that we needed.

3 MRS. CUTTLER: But -- what was his party connection?

4 MRS. HOSTETLER: Republican.

5 MRS. CUTTLER: He was a Republican, do you think
6 this had anything to do --

7 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, I would not be so rude as to
8 say that.

9 MRS. CUTTLER: It was a rude question.

10 MRS. HOSTETLER: Because a -- you know everybody on
11 the Charter was just pure as a lily, we were not political.

12 MRS. CUTTLER: It was just more his -- he was --
13 his convictions -- his own commitment to the Charter led him
14 not to be able to understand.

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: That's right, and of course, he
16 knew I was a Democrat, but anyway the legislature was Democra-
17 tic; I think there were only three members that were Republi-
18 can at that time.

19 How in the world were you going to get anything
20 through. I remember when Louise Gore, who lives over yonder,
21 had this big political party for the Speaker of the House, and
22 I teased her and I teased her parents, and I said, well it was
23 darn nice of you to have a party for the Democrats. Because
24 we were all Democrats then, practically.

25 Her mother, who was a sweet old gal said, "You know

1 I think Louise wants something".

2 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, how much contact had you had
3 with Louise, over the years.

4 MRS. HOSTETLER: Oh, long term let's say, very casual
5 and very pleasant. But, we're just neighbors out in the
6 country.

7 MRS. CUTTLER: You've never locked horns on political
8 issues, particularly?

9 MRS. HOSTETLER: No.

10 MRS. CUTTLER: Um -- how about your League friends,
11 you mentioned that the Charter people didn't understand --
12 particularly when --

13 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, the League didn't support me,
14 you know.

15 MRS. CUTTLER: They didn't support you?

16 MRS. HOSTETLER: No.

17 MRS. CUTTLER: Well they don't support any candidat-
18 es, you mean your friends just -- why resist?

19 MRS. HOSTETLER: They thought I'd be the bad girl.
20 And you see, Alan Gardner did not release my letter of resign-
21 tion, and they didn't think that was proper. I hadn't resigned.

22 MRS. CUTTLER: And they didn't understand, even after
23 it was finally released.

24 MRS. HOSTETLER: And of course, some League members
25 did. Dear Aethal, Alan resigned from the League Board because

1 she wanted to work for me, she knew me, but she also wanted
2 to work against the Lee machine. But to this day, I'll never
3 forget Aethal); she's a very hard worker and a very intelligent
4 worker, and knows what she's about. And she had political
5 bringing up, but I've forgotten where her home was. She knew
6 the strength of political parties.

7 MRS. CUTTLER: Do you -- have any more things that
8 you might want to -- to philosophize about in terms of the
9 Republican party.?

10 MRS. HOSTETLER: We flirted with that a little bit.

11 MRS. CUTTLER: Anything about their geographic
12 strength or their philosophy, or anything about the way they
13 appear to have developed, you've watched the Democrats develop,
14 what changes have you seen take place in the Republican party?

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, they finally had a primary
16 when they didn't use to have a primary. Also, they've had
17 excellent candidates. I think Tommy Anderson and Harry Lerch
18 were two very fine candidates in this last election. And
19 they've other -- you see the county is conscious now, politic-
20 ally conscious, and it didn't used to be.

21 They just wanted to complain in the old days. And
22 now we've got people who are experienced, and who -- in both
23 parties bring leadership.

24 MRS. CUTTLER: Well what -- um-- what do you think
25 of your -- as a person committed to your Democratic party, what

1 do you think about the ticket splitting that seems to go on in
2 this county. You were mentioning the Democrats who vote for
3 Gude, and so on. How does this strike you as a party worker?

4 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well I used to have a slogan that I
5 never turn down a single vote, you know, if it were split for
6 me, that would be just fine. And if they wanted to split for
7 one of their friends, why that's understandable. But I do
8 think that the friends have to be qualified, not just cause
9 you love friends.

10 And that of course is what makes elections, when
11 people do that. And it's mighty lonely to be elected and not
12 have the ticket with you, because how are you going to accomp-
13 lish anything? You're just one person.

14 If you've taken a - and should of course, have a
15 platform, and these people agree to a platform, then you've
16 got some issues to stand on and make some accomplishments.
17 But if you just go and run around by yourself, it's not very
18 successful.

19 MRS. CUTTLER: Why don't we switch now to the con-
20 tinuing interest that you had in the county Charter. You were
21 a member of the first Charter Review Board and worked hard on
22 the Charter Committee. Then over the years I'm sure your
23 interest continued because as I remember in the 1960's the
24 County Counsel appointed you to serve on the Charter Review
25 Board, I'd like to hear about that experience.

1 MRS. HOSTETLER: Oh, I think part of my continuing
2 interest is, in general, about the Charter, but also because I
3 objected so much to the elected executives. I thought, bled
4 and died not to have that, and on the first Charter Review
5 Committee, only one person wanted ^{an} elected executives.

6 Because the purpose of the Charter was to have di-
7 vided authority and exchange of ideas -- all power will flow
8 into one person's hands, there's no question about it.

9 You know, they've done this out in San Mateo, Calif-
10 ornia, they got an elected executive and then they got rid of
11 him because the power all came in through patronage, contracts,
12 and things of that sort.

13 And why have two expensive people; we've got, as you
14 know, an elected executive, which just increases the cost of
15 the County's government. And I kept arguing against it, work-
16 ing against it in the League, unsuccessfully. And I just
17 could not understand the League coming out for the elective
18 person who was going to be all powerful, and he certainly has
19 turned out to be difficult, let's say.

20 MRS. CUTTLER: Now you were on the first Charter
21 Review Board.

22 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes.

23 MRS. CUTTLER: And that you say, there was only one
24 person wanted it; who was the one person, do you remember?

25 MRS. HOSTETLER: Was it () Smith, I'm not sure.

1 no, no, no, no it was David Reich.

2 MRS. CUTTLER: And then, your Board didn't recommend
3 it, but then there was a subsequent Charter Review Board that
4 did recommend it.

5 MRS. HOSTETLER: And our -- appointment came about
6 in an interesting way. Each member of the Council -- selected
7 one representative and then the two Charter Committees were
8 invited, but only two of us showed up and were interested.

9 And the Second Charter Committee was never really
10 interested at all, and -- they -- didn't pay any attention to
11 it, but -- his name -- but he and I went regularly to this. And
12 the Chairman was a very accomplished man and was a good pre-
13 siding officer and he got things done. There was nobody on
14 that Committee that wanted the elected executive.

15 It defeated the purpose of shared responsibility--
16 was the main purpose of the Charter.

17 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, who were the main forces in
18 bringing out the idea, do you know?

19 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well, I think I know, but I'm just
20 gossiping -- it's a personal opinion, but I think it was Royce
21 Hansen.

22 MRS. CUTTLER: I see.

23 MRS. HOSTETLER: I think he sold Ida Mae on it. Ida
24 Mae and I have appeared many times in opposition to each other.
25 Boy, she's paying a price for it now. Even if it turns out well

1 we're going to have to be patient and see how it turns out.

2 She's had many painful experiences, through this
3 process.

4 But, Marjorie Garfield, and -- oh, there were sev-
5 eral of us Leaguers, who went to League meetings and spoke
6 against it, to no avail. And you see, I'm not damning new
7 people but actually we lived through the days when we had
8 single control out here. We were experiencing and knowing
9 what it was about. And all these nice new people here would
10 say, well it's a nice idea to have an elected executive, we'll
11 pay for him.

12 MRS. CUTTLER: So you did speak out publicly.

13 MRS. HOSTETLER: Oh, yes.

14 MRS. CUTTLER: In hearings on it and so on.

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: And wrote letters to the paper, I
16 have still a copy of the letter, and letters to my friends.
17 I had them mimeographed and sent them, I did everything I knew,
18 but I was not successful.

19 MRS. CUTTLER: There are just lots of people who
20 have moved here after the -- they probably didn't know who
21 the early Charter people were, they didn't remember the strug-
22 gle.

23 MRS. HOSTETLER: And that's something that I called
24 Judith Heiman about, and she said she's concerned.

25 I've read some of the League publicity that's coming

1 out with the ball and I said nobody ever mentions Olive Clap-
2 per's name, and she's the girl that brought the League to
3 life.

4 MRS. CUTTLER: That's true, and I'm sure they don't
5 know.

6 MRS. HOSTETLER: And she said, " I am concerned about
7 that," and she said, "There's something big coming up in the
8 ball", and she said that she felt that Olive's name should
9 be featured at that particular time.

10 I wouldn't have been in the League if it hadn't
11 been for Olive Clapper, and lots of others. And she had the
12 delightful experience of having the big party over at the Con-
13 gressional Club, because I got this --

14 MRS. CUTTLER: I don't think we can print that.

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: Well -- a, the week before the Dem-
16 ocratic Committee endorsed the Mayor of Baltimore for the
17 primary election, which some of us think is absolutely in-
18 correct, you, what do you have a primary for if you're going to
19 do that? And she had invited those several candidates for the
20 Governorship, and all day long she kept getting messages from
21 this man in Baltimore -- it was the meeting; it was very impor-
22 tant, and he would try to get there, and try to to get there.

23 And finally, when the luncheon was about over, she
24 got the word from him that he couldn't come and you see, he'd
25 already been endorsed. And this nice Governor, who was elect-

1 ed, was a young man and made his speech there and was well
2 liked. And one of the men got up and said, the same old thing,
3 "When I look into your beautiful faces, and the first thing I
4 do when I'm Governor is have a party and invite all of you".

5 MRS. CUTTLER: All you lovely ladies.

6 MRS. HOSTETLER: Yes, that's right. You just wouldn't
7 think anybody would do that here but the people did it. Any-
8 way he made such a good speech, and all the League members
9 went home and told their husbands, and he got himself jolly
10 well nominated and enlisted. (Herbert O'Connor)

11 And he -- he -- put me on the Juvenile Delinquency
12 Commission, which was quite an experience, very important and
13 of course -- we -- the ~~whole~~ ^{were} juvenile laws ~~w/s~~ junked and a
14 whole new section was written. Because it was -- you know --
15 how our constitution is so spotty, and we just took everything
16 out of it. And we had a paid executive, and we had people
17 come from out of state; Charles (Dack) talked to us, well no,
18 I guess he talked to us about the Charter, but this was a very
19 big thing.

20 Then after that Bud ~~Noyes~~ became the -- Juvenile
21 Judge, and had as you know, a very fine reputation, nationally,
22 as a Judge.

23 Well, let's see, what else did we start out about?

24 MRS. CUTTLER: I think we've covered your feelings
25 about the Charter. I guess really, we're at the point where

1 any sort of general observation that you might have about the
2 changes you've seen in the county, and the way things have
3 changed out here in Potomac, would be appropriate.

4 MRS. HOSTETLER: The Hostetler's bought this place
5 in 1920, and we used to come out here for picnics and that
6 sort of thing. And it was a running farm, a good farm at that
7 point, but under absentee landlordism, which always happens,
8 it ran down terribly.

9 And in the summer of '34, my husband and I came out
10 here and literally camped in the little tenant house, because
11 the big house that the tenant was in, burned down.

12 And we took our bath's in Piney Branch, and we
13 cooked outdoors, and when fall came, we didn't want to go back
14 to our little Georgetown house. We rented it, and then we
15 rented a room in Rockville. And came out in the Spring and
16 started fixing that house up and never expected to -- we were
17 going to rebuild the house up here on the hill. But war came,
18 and all of that, so that -- we stuck out the war down there and
19 enlarged the house because it was so little.

20 But, dirt road, no developments around here, we didn't
21 have electricity or a telephone until '36; two years we lived
22 here with oil lamps, and had a (Bucket - a - day) stove in the
23 bathroom for hot water. I found that with running hot water
24 you could do pretty well, it wasn't so bad.

25 But I was working for the Welfare Board then, and

1 my husband was working, Arlington -- what was then the Wiegand
2 Mill. And those were the days that it was very simple out
3 here. And we felt very fortunate because we knew a lot of the
4 farm people out here. And we felt that people who move out
5 here now are just moving into suburbia.

6 And my husband was a member of the Potomac Band, and
7 learned to play an instrument because he was so -- he thought
8 that was the nicest thing that ever happened to him, being in
9 the Potomac Band. And Jane and I still see members of the
10 band, her husband, later was in the band. And that was a most
11 elite club in the county at that point.

12 MRS. CUTTLER: It sounds so. I heard you had two
13 Grand piano's in your remodeled farmhouse.

14 MRS. HOSTETLER: Part of that was just our own per-
15 sonal taste. We had no interest in nightclubs.

16 And war came, and actually people would save their
17 gas and come out here, and we'd have four people at a time
18 playing the two pianos until the wee hours of the morning,
19 sometimes almost until daylight. But we just enjoyed piano
20 music.

21 Then after I sold the house to Admiral and Mrs.
22 Hartwig, who live down there now, I left one of my pianos in
23 the house because she's a musician. And Olive Clapper's
24 daughter had the other one for awhile, and then finally, I
25 decided I was no longer a night - sitter - upper and listener

1 to the piano, and I sold one and I still have the other one
2 in here, but we had many, many good times.

3 MRS. CUTTLER: And the big house on top of the hill.

4 MRS. HOSTETLER: That house was built by Francis
5 Leech, C-I-S, Francis. He was a patent lawyer, and grew up
6 in the same Mt. Pleasant, that my husband grew up. And his
7 father, Dr. Leech, was the Hostetler doctor, back in those
8 days. And when Francis married, his wife wanted to live out
9 in the country.

10 So that was just a little house then, it's been
11 added to. And Arthur Hilland, a lawyer, in Washington and the
12 county, lives up there. His wife is a big Republican and
13 they're all very good neighbors.

14 MRS. CUTTLER: And then you built this house.

15 MRS. HOSTETLER: In '61.

16 MRS. CUTTLER: In '61

17 MRS. HOSTETLER: Moved in '62

18 MRS. CUTTLER: And all around you now are very eleg-
19 ant suburban type homes.

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: And fortunately, still some of the
21 families are here, who want it kept like this. For instance,
22 the (McConihes) down at the corner, and they want to keep it
23 as a farm, and the people across the road from them, the
24 (McLeanses) do. And so we still have some open space here.

25 MRS. CUTTLER: And you have given some of this land

1 to the state?

2 MRS. HOSTETLER: To the county.

3 MRS. CUTTLER: To the county, and it will be perm-
4 anently open space.

5 MRS. HOSTETLER: It's this house and fourteen acres.
6 And they're going to put a -- it's not to be a recreation place,
7 it's to be a study place and they're going to put a trained con-
8 servationist in the house.

9 And the Park and Planning didn't even really want it
10 for recreation, they felt they had enough land, but they did
11 want it for a study place. And there's a board of directors,
12 two from Park and Planning in whom the title rests, two from
13 Hood College and two from the Maryland Ornithological Society.

14 And if there's ever any change it reverts to the
15 estate. And that's what they told me about Blair House, that
16 the reason that's never been changed is because the law is
17 that strict, that if they ever change the purpose of Blair
18 House the property would revert to the estate.

19 MRS. CUTTLER: I see.

20 MRS. HOSTETLER: And apparently they've got a very
21 good setup and I'm very glad that Jimmy Hewitt is head of
22 that, he's served his years and knows what it's all about

23 MRS. CUTTLER: Well, it must be a good feeling then,
24 to feel that this will always be kept this way.

25 MRS. HOSTETLER: I was sitting on the porch out

1 there, several evenings back -- how long it took to do this,
2 it took over two years to make the arrangements, but I just
3 sat there, and I thought, wouldn't that be a crime to look
4 down on five or six houses here, and I'm just not going to
5 let that happen.

6 And I knew that my heirs would have no interest,
7 and they'd sell it immediately and of course it would go into
8 a development. So I got this -- I can fix this, and I did.

9 MRS. CUTTLER: That sounds to me like you -- it's
10 the slogan of your life and a great place to end, I can fix
11 this, so I did.

12 This has been so pleasant, so thank you.

13 MRS. HOSTETLER: I want to say thank you to you be-
14 cause you've been so patient and let me fumble and mumble
15 when I don't remember, and I know I'm going to edit some.

16 MRS. CUTTLER: Well -- we'll -- I'm sure will enjoy
17 reading it over.

18 End Tape one, Side two.
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