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Mrs. Wood Honeyman

Portland, Oregon

November 5, 1960

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INTERVIEW WITH MRS. WOOD HONEYMAN, PORTLAND, OREGON, NOVEMBER 5, 1960, BY FORREST C. POGUE

Mrs. Honeyman, sister to Erskine Wood, was congresswoman from Oregon for a time and also headed WPA for the State of Oregon for a period. She is 79, lives with her son in a very fine old house on a hill overlooking Portland.

She felt there was very little she could tell about General Marshall but we had a very warm discussion more on her family than on the General.

She spoke of her father who was first an Army Officer, graduate of West Point, who was stationed at Vancouver Barracks at the time of Erskine's birth and was at West Point at the time she was born. He retired from the army while still a young man and went into law. He represented Lazard-Freres in the west. They were given great sections of land in eastern Oregon to repay them for loans they made and their father represented it. I gather he was quite wealthy.

She mentioned the fact that her brother had lived with Chief Joseph. He was in school at Harvard and shortly after the beginning of his senior year asked the dean if it were possible for him to go home for a month for the fall hunt. To everyone's surprise, permission was granted. Some weeks later, he became ill but despite the illness graduated cum laude. He was sent to Arizona for two years for treatment of T.B. and then went to the south of Germany.

Mrs. Honeyman studied music in New York where she became a friend of the Robinson family. Through this connection, she knew quite well the aunt who more or less reared Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. The Robinsons lived near Hyde Park and through this connection she came to know Mrs. Roosevelt and Franklin Roosevelt before their marriage. Because of this connection, she saw a good bit of the Roosevelts while she was in Congress.

She recalled that the night before Pearl Harbor she was invited to dine at the White House. She mentioned how they would wait to go in until Franklin had been pushed to his place. That evening someone came in and whispered in his ear and he was called away from the table. He did not return. Mrs. Roosevelt chatted with them a time and then they all took their departure. She learned later that a Japanese representative had come to call on the President. She was quite sure it had nothing to do with an intercepted code message.