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Mrs. Leighton McPherson

Telephone interview

Columbus, Georgia

June 7, 1962

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Telephone interview with Mrs. Leighton McPherson, Columbus, Georgia, June 7, 1962 by Forrest C. Pogue.

/She apparently has quite a sense of humor/. Said that she and her husband had a place at Warm Springs. Since FDR didn't have room to entertain, he used to have them entertain his friends and the newsmen. Had a lot of parties. In Columbus entertained people at the post. Knew Marshall quite well. Columbus went overboard for the people at the post. Little for them to do there.

Marshall was a sensitive person. He could be the sternest, hardest person imaginable. But he could be quite human; had good sense of humor. Recalls teasing him by signing herself "Broken-hearted" when he married. He once asked if he could come by to see us. I teased him and said my husband is away come on out. He visited us a lot. Came often on Wednesdays. Once we had Lowell Thomas here. Marshall and he carried on a lengthy and brilliant conversation. Marshall is remembered here with a great deal of affection.

She says that Marshall first met FDR at Warm Springs while visiting in her place. Said that FDR lived next door.

She says that several of Mrs. Marshall's friends carried on a campaign to get her married off to Col. Marshall. He was very secretive about his plans. Later said he couldn't imagine how they knew he was interested in her. She had been in school with Mrs. Worsley and made several trips here to visit the Blanchards. On her trip after her husband's death, she arrived in deep mourning. Met Marshall at Hudsons.

Marshall was very self-sufficient. He had good help and entertained beautifully. He had many lovely things from China which his first wife had brought back. He liked people and they were devoted to him.

Related through marriage to young Joe Stilwell (I don't recall whether it was her daughter or niece who is married to him).