

*Interview
with
Jane LeMay Lodge,
Daughter of
Gen. Curtis LeMay
September 10, 1998*

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Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society

Oral History Interview Form

Interviewee: Jane LeMay Lodge

San Juan Capistrano, CA

Interviewer: Barbara W. Sommer

Date of Interview: September 10, 1998

Place of Interview: Mrs. Lodge's home

Length of Interview: 2.5 hours (three cassettes)

Oral History Release Form signed: September 10, 1998 (unrestricted)

Abstract of Interview: *Mrs. Lodge spoke of her childhood years, first in Germany while her father served as Commander of the United State Air Force in Europe and oversaw the Berlin Airlift, and then at Offutt Air Force Base while her father was Commander-in-Chief of the Strategic Air Command, headquartered at the base. Mrs. Lodge referred to Bellevue, Nebraska (just outside Omaha) and Offutt AFB as her hometown, saying she was spared the constant moves made by so many military families because of her father's position at SAC.*

In describing her years in Nebraska, Mrs. Lodge talked about the family home and the cook, Sgt. Phil Waterman, who watched over her during her parents' frequent travels. She described her father's work, his work ethic, and his commitment to SAC and to the United States. She discussed her mother's role and her work as the wife of the Commander-in-Chief, including the entertaining done by her parents. She discussed and described her parents' friends in Omaha and commented on the importance of this group of people to the growth and development of the SAC base. She talked about family trips and fun times, about meals, about family pets and about famous visitors during her father's tenure at SAC. She ended the interview with a discussion of her father's career after leaving SAC, including his run for Vice President on the ticket headed by Governor George Wallace, and a discussion of his legacy.

Mrs. Lodge is very loyal to Nebraska. During a break in the interview, she described being so interested in the outcome of a University of Nebraska Cornhuskers football game that she called directory assistance in Lincoln, Nebraska, to ask the operator, not for a telephone number, but whether the team had won or lost. She described the Piedmont area in Lincoln where the Lodges lived while her husband, Dr. James Lodge, ran his pediatric physician practice in the city and talked briefly about joining the Junior League and about the friends they had made during their years in Lincoln.

Dr. and Mrs. Lodge also talked about their memories of General LeMay. In one story, they mentioned the General was never very aware of the how expensive non-military items were and was always, as a result, astonished about how much something for the family would cost. To avoid upsetting him, Mrs. LeMay and Jane would often "conspire" to keep information about how much they paid for various things from the General. For Christmas one year, Mrs. LeMay decided she wanted a specific, quite expensive, tablecloth. She purchased the tablecloth herself and let the General know he should consider that to be her Christmas gift. Shortly before Christmas, someone asked Mrs. LeMay what she wanted. She said she wanted the tablecloth. During this conversation, the General inadvertently learned the cost of the tablecloth. When his turn came and he was asked what he wanted for Christmas, he recovered enough to reply, "Well, I guess I want half a tablecloth."

After the interview ended, Dr. Lodge described General LeMay as the "ultimate American patriot."

TAPE ONE, SIDE ONE

BWS: Please start by giving a brief summary of your father's career.

JLL: The Army Air Corps, after they were married, was in Hawaii. I think they were there a year or two. Then I think he went to Langley, because I was born in 1939. Then the war, this is kind of sketchy, the war began in 1941. During the way, the five years during the war, my mother and I lived in Lakewood, Ohio, with her parents. The war would have ended in 1945. We went to Washington, D.C. My father was head of research and development in Washington at the Pentagon. We were there for a year and then, I think, in about 1947, that would have taken us to Wiesbaden, Germany. He was in charge of Air Forces - Europe there. We were there for a year. Then, from there, we went to Omaha, Nebraska, where he took over SAC [Strategic Air Command] at Offutt [Air Force Base]. We were there nine and a half years. Then he went on to Washington and he was there, as vice chief of staff and chief of staff [of the United States Air Force], until he retired in 1964. That is a thumbnail sketch.

BWS: Wonderful career. I know that has been well document.

JLL: Well, I think so many people always ask you what it is like, living in the military and moving around so much. But, we really didn't move around. I think they moved more often from the time that I was born until I was probably in the third grade then after that. Because people came and went with three-year shifts at Offutt, but we were there for nine and a half years. So, it just felt like that was home. That is where I grew up. So, we really didn't have the experience that most Air Force families have, every four years at a new base.

BWS: Offutt really was your home. Do you remember the moves and things prior to this. Your grandparents?

JLL: Yes, I do. I remember during the war. Of course, my father was gone for five years and he came home twice during that time. I remember my grandparents lived on a wonderful street with very old homes. My mother had been born in the house that they lived in. They had a big porch. I remember they had a big porch and, of course, on summer evenings, all the men that weren't at war would sit out on the porches with their families. And I always felt deprived because I didn't have a father that sat on the front porch. I think the first time my father came home, it was winter. I had made such a big deal about sitting on the porch because I wanted everybody to know, "Yes, I really did have a father." So, I remember that he sat out on the porch. It was below zero weather, but we sat out. I don't think anybody else saw us. We were the only ones sitting out on the porch.

During that time, my mother...my mother was an RN [registered nurse.] She worked at, I think it was called, the Clarkson Hospital. She worked at a veteran's hospital in Cleveland there. And, of course, both my grandparents were living, so I am sure it was a wonderful time for my grandparents, to have us there. And my cousin. My mother had one sister. And I think Jack, my uncle, was in the military. So, we saw a lot of my two cousins. It was kind of a family time, too.

BWS: Did you know what your father was doing?

JLL: Yes. I knew. I was about five or six. I started first grade in Lakewood [the suburb of Cleveland where Mrs. Lodge lived with her mother when her father was gone during the war]. Yes, I knew. Of course, he wrote my mother every day. I have all the letters that he wrote. And, of course, I think they are all looked at very carefully, I am sure, before they are sent home. So

there is probably not much of anything of what he really was doing. But, I think a lot of the articles and pictures and things that were in Life magazine during that time and how really dangerous some of those missions were. Of course, he was telling my mother, you know, I am going out for a mission today and it is going to be nothing. Then, of course, a few weeks later, she would see some of these terrible pictures and things like that in the magazines. I do remember my mother saying, that when she was working at the hospital, of course they had a lot of casualties from the war that were coming back through that particular veterans hospital, and, of course, no one connected on who she was, and I think a couple of them were saying, "Boy, I tell you, these generals' families live...they are lucky and they are probably protected," and all that kind of chit-chat. I think my mother finally told one, "My husband is over there and he is flying those missions along with everybody else."

BWS: He really did, didn't he?

JLL: He did. I think he flew all those missions until he got to a certain rank where the "higher-ups" said, "You are more valuable in the office than you are out there flying." But, I think he never asked the people that worked with him to do anything that he wouldn't have done himself.

BWS: Characteristic of a good leader.

JLL: But he did fly all those missions. And, I think, his plane was hit a few times. It was a scary business for all of them.

BWS: It must have been hard for your mother, in a way.

JLL: I think it was probably hard for my mother. She had a good relationship with her parents and, I am sure, they were a help. But I am sure, just like any family that is sending wives now, or husbands and sons, going off to war, I imagine you think about them every day, what can happen to them. I think it changes people to a certain degree and I think it certainly changes the people that fought that war. It changes them from the time that they went. If they are young, they grow up in a hurry.

BWS: People were somewhat protected in the United States, maybe, up until that point.

JLL: Well, I think so. Except for the Civil War, we have never had a major war fought on our soil, so we don't know what the true terror is of having to get out of your homes. We have had some good friends who were in Czechoslovakia and, of course, in Germany, too, and lost everything to get out from the ravages of war. We are very lucky in this country. We don't know how lucky we have it, really.

BWS: Your father, after the war, was sent back to Germany. Do you remember that period at all?

JLL: After the war, he was in Washington for a year because my mother said that was, really, the only house they ever owned up until that time, as a married couple. They owned a house in Arlington, Virginia, and we were there for a year. Then he got his orders to go to Germany. Just a funny aside story - I was always very interested in horseback riding. When we lived in Washington, you could go to Fort Myer and Fort Myer, of course, the Army kept all those horses for the caissons and their ceremonies. They had a huge stable. And, General Marshall's polo pony was housed there. So, I learned to ride on that polo pony. I remember a wonderful

sergeant taught me how to ride. I was over there all the time. I loved to clean out the stalls. We had no idea that we were going to be moving.

The Army decided they were going to get rid of all these horses. They didn't need it any more. The cavalry was not in existence. All they wanted were enough horses to carry the caissons for the funerals that they had at Arlington National Cemetery. So, I decided that I wanted that horse. Of course, I think, Mother went to Daddy to say, "How are we going to do this?" And Daddy said, "There is just no way. You can't go to the government and buy this horse." Well, of course, that didn't deter my mother. My mother found out, of course, they were having a big auction. She found out how to do it. I think she went to the Secretary of the Army and then she went to, I have forgotten, the Department of Interior. I don't know who handles all of this. But she went and talked to all of these people. She got someone to come with her to the auction. And, of course, she had to find out first where we were going to house this horse. She had done all that research. She had lined up a place at a stable. She had found somebody else who had a horse that would put their horse there, too, so that the horse wouldn't be lonely. She did all this. Well, the day...I think it was two or three days before that auction, my father got his orders to go to Germany. Well, of course, that meant we couldn't buy this horse. I think the horse went to the glue factory, because I think a lot of those horses that they didn't find homes for, they were destroyed. Needless to say, that was a terrible, terrible moment. But we went to Germany.

BWS: Did he expect to go to Germany? That must have been a surprise to him.

JLL: I don't know. I was in the third grade. I would have been eight or nine. That was right after; that was in 1947. So, when we arrived in Wiesbaden, you could still see all the bombing. It looked as if the war had just ended the day before. The military had, I guess they had rented, I don't think they had bought, they had a one-hundred-and-two room house that had belonged to Adolph Henkle, who was a champagne baron in Germany. That is where we lived. It had a hundred-and-two rooms. This place was mammoth. Mammoth grounds. Beautiful grounds. It came furnished. Everything was there as if he had just moved out.

BWS: Where was he?

JLL: I don't know where he was. I don't know whether he leased this house to the government. But, I know that during that time, I remember my parents saying that they had...there was only one hotel in Wiesbaden, so any of the, what do they call them, the "visiting firemen," that came for business or whatever, stayed in this house with my parents. And my mother said she kept seventeen suites up and ready, all the time, for people to come. The house was beautiful. In fact, I have got a picture. I can show you. Beautifully decorated. Silk padded walls. Beautiful furnishings. So, everyone stayed there.

Well, I have pictures of the first day we moved in. Of course, all the help in the house all came out. They were all...the men in their, kind of, black tuxedos really, and the women in the traditional black outfit with the white organdy aprons and hats. There were thirty-six of them that had come with this house. Of course, I am sure that Adolph Henkle could afford to pay all these people, but my mother...my mother said that to run that house, it cost them all of their annual salary plus three thousand dollars of their savings. Now, three thousand dollars in 1947 was a lot of money. And, so Mother said, "I can't keep thirty-six people here." So, she hired and fired. I think the least they could run that house on was seventeen. They had an upstairs maid and a downstairs maid and a butler.

And, of course, during that time, too, right after the war, when they were hiring people, they had to be careful that people hadn't been Nazis or still had those leanings. And I think, at that time, they probably still did. Because, I remember, they hired a governess for me because they traveled a great deal that year. I didn't go along, so they wanted someone in that house that was responsible. I think the first woman they hired, they found out had been a Nazi. So, they hired someone else. The other woman that was there for a year, I kept on a relationship with her until the day she died. But, I know, that she had trouble getting a job after my parents left because she had not been a Nazi during the war. So, I think, she ended up working for a military hotel or something that was there for the military personnel. She was the manager or the housekeeper until the day she died.

It was a fascinating house. I remember we became very close to some of the people. In fact, the chef or the cook that my mother finally hired, and one of the butlers, ended up coming to this country and working for Art Storz in Omaha. For years, he was there.

But, we had a lot of fun. They had a secret...they had a wonderful library that was thirty feet tall and you had the little spiral staircase that went up. You could walk along the balconies. Of course, being nine years old, none of those books meant anything to me. But it would have been wonderful if had I been older when I had been there. It would have been fascinating to see what kind of books were there. And he had a little, up there on the balcony, was kind of like a little, secret conference room that he had. Then, you pushed a button, and a wall opened. It was a bookcase on the other side that led into the other part of the house that we hardly ever went into.

It was a fascinating house. It was beautiful. I remember that he must have had children, because they had a huge playroom that had "Hans and Fritz," which was "Our Katzenjammer Kids." In the old days, with the cat, the cartoon strip. Beautiful things. The governess I had was a fascinating woman herself. She came from a very good family. There were three girls in the family. They lost things during the war, too. I think her family home became apartments. Someone owned it and it became apartments. One of her sisters worked in the academic, university, setting. She translated Greek and Latin. The other sister, I forgot what the other sister did, but we would go and visit her often. And, of course, during that time, everything was still rationed for the Germans. They got one loaf of bread a week. It was that wonderful, dark Pumpernickel bread. I would go over and visit Paula and, of course, I would eat her whole week's ration of bread. She would put that thick, creamy butter on it and then this coarse sugar on top. Well, of course, Mother would get all upset because I was eating up all her...but she would much rather have the white bread. So, from the commissary, we would take her that awful white bread. I said, "Boy, I loved it." I loved the dark bread. In fact, years later, when my husband and I went back to Wiesbaden and visited my old governess and her sister, we went again and had the same bread with the sugar.

BWS: Was she well educated?

JLL: Very well. They were all very well educated. But she told stories about during the bombings. Her mother died in the basement of the family home during one of the bombings. It was an interesting experience.

I went to an American school, there, but I played with a lot of the German kids in the neighborhood and, like a child does, learned to speak the language. It was wonderful. I remember, that during that time, my mother had to feed one meal a day to these seventeen people. Mother would try to set the table. She would have a salad plate. "Here is a plate for your

bread." But, I guess, they were so afraid that someone was going to take their food, you know, they would put it all on one plate. But they had to pay for feeding them one meal a day. I think when she hired the cook, of course, she had to ask him if he knew how to cook some of the American staples that we are all used to. He said, "Oh, yes. Oh, yes." So, I think, one day, Mother wanted him to make a strawberry shortcake. He said, "I know how to do that. There is no problem at all." Well, when the strawberry shortcake came to the table, the cake was probably OK, but he had taken frozen strawberries right out of the freezer, and on top of this cake was this stack of frozen, like solid, strawberries. So, I think, Mother kind of talked...they figured out together and cooked together in the kitchen.

BWS: Was your mother a good cook?

JLL: Yes, my mother was a good cook. And my mother could do a dinner party with five minutes notice for two people or four hundred people with nothing in the icebox. Phenomenal. I think a lot of this stemmed from...my father really never liked to go out to eat. He would rather stay home. He was always saying, "Oh, come over here. Helen will fix it." And she always did. She really was a good cook and really a wonderful hostess. I think she had a knack for making people feel at home. She always, most always, when they entertained foreign dignitaries or air attaches', she always had it at home. You know, you can go to the club or you can do...but, I think, a lot of these people visiting this country for the first time really felt very relaxed and at home being invited to your own home and entertained in that way.

BWS: They must have been honored, too, to have been in General LeMay's home.

JLL: Well, I think so. I think when we think of celebrities, or we think of well-known individuals, I think we tend to think they are not human. They are different than you and they are different than me. But that really isn't the case. I don't think there was anybody more humble or more down-to-earth than my father. He has the reputation for being gruff and a disciplinarian and a perfectionist, and I think he probably was in the business environment, but when he was out for a personal evening with friends, he was just one of the people. He was never demanding. I suppose, when he retired, like so many of them do, they get so much for a speech or they...he was never interested in that. He just didn't do that. If he felt it was something he wanted to do, he went and did it. He never asked for any remuneration. Probably, looking back, that wasn't all that bright. But that is just what he did. He never really demanded the things that, probably, would have been due his station.

My son's godfather was a brigadier general in the Army reserve and he was a hotel executive in Las Vegas. He would come, he spent Christmas and Thanksgiving with us from the time my son was born until he died, and he would fly in to El Toro and Daddy would meet him. Well, Charlie always got the biggest kick out of it, because he loved to see all the people standing around there that saw Daddy carry his suitcase. Daddy would go on the plane and carry Charlie's things and help him into the car. Charlie got a big kick out of it. But, that is just the way he was.

BWS: Interesting insight into your father.

JLL: He was like any other father to me. We did the same, normal functions everybody else does all day long, you know.

BWS: You said your folks traveled quite a bit in Germany.

JLL: They did. They did a lot in Germany. I think my mother went around...I know that she went with various women from other countries and I know, I don't whether they visited. I think it is documented somewhere. But, I know that they traveled a lot. I went on some of them, but a lot of them, they went on their own. Of course, during that time, in Germany, we didn't have the fresh meats, the fresh fruits. We were rationed right along with the German people. The only fresh meat we got was when my father would go out hunting. He would go boar hunting and he would bring home the boar. My mother knew how to fix boar five hundred different ways and, of course, never told anyone that is what it was. We didn't have fresh fruits and things. I think the first trip we took to Paris, I think we went to the Ritz Hotel for lunch. I remember, this is being nine now, so, of course, everything looks bigger in your mind than it probably was, but I remember a beautiful table in the center of the room and there were just baskets of wonderful fruits. My favorite was Bing cherries. I remember this basket that was just overflowing with these gorgeous Bing cherries. I remember saying, "I have got to have some of those." I guess the waiter said, "Would you like some of them?" I said, "Yes. I would like all of them."

But I think we all got along. We all got along on what we had. But, we didn't have all those amenities. I know that my father did go out hunting a lot.

BWS: He had a lot of responsibilities, as well, didn't he?

JLL: I think he did. And during that time, some of the American families sent...it was in vogue to send your kids to school in Switzerland. My parents didn't do that, simply probably because of my age, but it was very unstable there. And they never knew whether they would have to be getting out or whatever. And they didn't, of course, want me some place long distance, they couldn't get a hold of me. But, I know, my parents had taken over their American car. And they kept it loaded all the time with clothes and provisions because they never knew if they would have to vacate and get out in a hurry. The Russians, I guess, were threatening at that time.

I do remember Christmas Eve, things got a little unstable. I remember my father had a high level meeting in the house Christmas Eve and, of course, all I was worried about was, "If they don't get out of there and go home, Santa Claus won't come." But that was a very tenuous time.

BWS: Things were very unstable in Germany right after the war.

JLL: He was probably very busy and so was my mother, but I loved it. I was having a wonderful time. And the governess I had, it wasn't as if they were doing a governess because it was in vogue to do a governess, I think it was because they needed someone that they could rely on in that house. That would take care of that house and me when they were gone.

BWS: And that they could trust? The Berlin Airlift was ...

JLL: All these times. The Berlin Airlift and, I am sure, the Cuban Missile Crisis. I didn't really see a lot of the tension that I am sure existed with my father, because he never...if he discussed anything with my mother, it was never in front of me and it was never at the dinner table. We just didn't do that. I know during the Cuban Missile Crises, he was chief of staff, and my husband and I were married and we were living at the Air Force Academy. Of course, the Air Force Academy had instigated some safety measures, too. They had decided that every family was to have a foot locker and, in that foot locker, were to be their supplies. Seven gallons of water per person. OK, you have a wife there whose husband is now off wherever he is supposed to go and she is alone in these quarters with this five hundred pound foot locker with all this stuff and, maybe, three little kids. And they were supposed to get that in the car and go

up to the Academic Area. Well, finally they decided there is no woman who is going to be able to drag any of that stuff into a car, so they decided you would stay in the quarters. We all had basements. They gave out boards that would go over the window wells and then they gave us sacks to put the sand in for sandbags. So that we could all stay in the quarters. Of course, they had displays of survival equipment in the PX and commissary you were going to buy. I guess I was like the typical American family, "It is never going to happen to me and it is not going to happen here. So, why do I need to go out and buy all this stuff I am never going to use?"

A lot of people used to say this, because when we were there Jim [James Lodge] was a major. He was a pediatrician in the Air Force Academy hospital. I guess everybody thought that I had a direct line to the top, so, if anything was going to happen, I would get the call first and then they could run out and do what they did. I said, "Listen, I would be the last one that was going to be called. Daddy is not going to be on the phone to call me. He is going to expect that I have already done my thing and I am supposed to be intelligent enough." And he probably never would have.

I know that when my husband and I got married, my husband was in the Army and he was supposed to go to Munich for station [note: station is a term for assignment or base location]. That was when the Berlin Wall was in full swing. Of course, we did not have the rank to live on base, so we would have lived on the economy. I remember the night of our rehearsal dinner, at the rehearsal, my father came and he said, "I want you and Jim to ride home in the car with me. I want to talk with you." And he said, "You know, you are going over into this area that you never know whether things can flare up." My father said to me, "You get yourself an airline credit card and a pair of good walking shoes. You don't wait until they say the 'women and children leave.' You get out."

TAPE ONE, SIDE TWO

JLL: I had trouble finding my way to the corner drug store. I am not known for my sense of direction. And I am thinking, "I am going to have to walk to the Swiss border." Well, that scared you to death. Well, we ended up, we didn't go to Munich. But that is about all he would tell me. I wasn't to have any special privileges, which makes sense. But he would give you a few things. He would always say, "You read. You become aware of what is going on around you. You pay attention and do what you need to do when the time comes."

BWS: But he would help you a little bit, in that sense?

JLL: He would help, in that sense. But, we were to know what we were to do.

BWS: He gave you the tools to help yourself?

JLL: That is right. We had a plan in Washington during the Cuban Missile Crisis. I think before the Cuban Missile Crisis, there were maybe two or three flaps that were serious. My mother and I had always had...the escape plan was to go to Arthur Godfrey's farm in Leesburg, Virginia. They were very close friends. No matter where we were, we were all to meet there. Well, there is no way that you would have ever gotten there because all the highways were civil defense highways. They would have been closed. And you would have been safer to go in the basement or wherever you were. But that was always the plan of what we were to do. Fortunately, we never had to do that.

BWS: At least you had thought about it.

JLL: An example of him not saying anything. I went to the University of Maryland, so I would drive from Bolling [Air Force Base, Washington D.C.] to the campus every day. I had a convertible. It was a hardtop that you just took off. I was sitting at the breakfast table and I said, "It looks like a nice day. I think I will take the top off today." It must have been a day we were having a flap, because he said, "Don't take the top off today." Then, of course, I would say, "Why not? It is a gorgeous..." "Don't take the top off." That is all he had to say. He wouldn't say, "This is what is happening..." or whatever. He just said...I mean, when he said it, you did it. "Don't take the top off." That is kind of the way he handled it. Cool under the line of fire, I guess.

BWS: He must have handled stress well.

JLL: I think he must have. But, of course, in those days, you didn't make that big a deal. You didn't have a psychiatrist on every level to counsel you for this, that, and the other. I think it came with the job and you handled it. I think my mother was very good, probably, at handling that. So she would try to have quiet dinners at home or to make sure that when he came home, everything was peaceful. He could relax. I think that is probably why, in later life, he really liked to be home. He liked to have his friends come to the house. Because he had to go to so many business cocktail parties and, of course, he has never been good at idle chit-chat. So, he really never liked doing that. He much preferred to have them one-on-one. That was much better.

BWS: It is a nice way of doing things.

JLL: My husband tells the story...usually when you go to some of these dinners or these cocktail parties, and, of course, Daddy wouldn't say very much. In later years, he couldn't hear very well, too, so I don't know how much of it he was really hearing. But someone would come up and talk

to him. And, of course, they would be so thrilled at meeting him that they would just start talking a mile a minute and would just divulge anything and everything. And he was a very good listener. He would learn so much more that way than if he was doing the talking himself. So, I don't know whether that was by accident or by design. But, I have always thought that a person learns a lot more if they are listening to someone than if they are doing the talking.

BWS: What is the term now? Schmoozing? He was not a "schmoozer?"

JLL: No. Everybody says he was cold, he was aloof, he didn't talk much. And it is true. He didn't talk much. But if you got him on a subject that he enjoyed, his hunting or fishing or his ham radio or sports cars or things like that, he was very interesting and he loved to talk about it. And I think he was probably the best speaker, speaking off the cuff, of anybody I know. But, you see, he couldn't do much of that. He could after he retired. But, when he was in the military, he had to make sure what he said is written down so he couldn't be mis-quoted. He had a phenomenal memory.

BWS: Did he like to tell stories about himself? Things that he had done? Learning to fly?

JLL: Yes, he would. And I think who he really enjoyed doing that with was young people. Because, I think, after he retired, they were living in Newport, he would get numerous letters and calls from high school or grade school kids that wanted to come and interview him or something and he never said, "no." He was very good. Very good at visiting with them and talking with them.

BWS: Your mother, in a social situation, would have...?

JLL: My mother would have probably done the most talking. My mother was very outgoing. Very gregarious. I think they were a good balance for each other. But, I know, it was fun, especially...I was older when they were in Washington, living at Fort Myer. Of course, I was married then and living in Colorado. But I used to come back and was lucky enough to attend some of the parties they had. She would have fifty people in that house at a seated dinner. The guests were always amazed at how she could have these seated dinners. But, she always did.

BWS: Did she have favorite dishes or foods that she relied on?

JLL: I think she did. I think she probably came up with various different things. I think Sgt. Waterman, whom you will be talking with, who was the cook, I think he knows this and I am not stepping on his toes, he had worked in a mess hall. He was used to fixing all this "stick to your ribs." All that kind of stuff. And, of course, mother wanted a little different. I don't know whether mother thought he was the top cook in the world that she could have had. But he was the most loyal, the most loving. He means more to me, really, as much to be as my family does. I talk to him at least once a month. Very down-to-earth. If they went away, sometimes he would stay in the house. He was a worse disciplinarian than my parents would have been. If a boy came to pick me up, he practically wanted to know their history. Driving record and all that kind of stuff. And if I was a minute late, it was worse for than my parents.

BWS: He felt responsible.

JLL: I always kid him, because he made wonderful chocolate chip cookies. I have got his recipe. I have done the same steps. My friend in Laguna does the same thing. We can't make them as good. And we used to eat those by the handful. I remember Mother and Daddy ate a lot of

salmon. I guess they had people that sent them salmon or Daddy went salmon hunting. I thought, "If I ever grow up, I am never eating another piece of salmon."

It seemed like they were always on diets. My parents were always on diets. I think they had to watch what they ate because they went out so often. But, Sgt. Phil Waterman can tell you some funny stories. That cookie jar would be full all the time. Daddy would go in and he would take a handful. And they could never understand why he wasn't losing a few pounds. You forget you are eating all this on the side.

They had beautiful parties. Mother always took great care in doing spectacular desserts and trying to do things that, in some cases, would be very American or something that would flatter the people who were coming from a different country.

BWS: It took a lot of organization.

JLL: I think it did. And a lot of planning. Of course, she was lucky. She had the people in the household there that helped her. Because, looking back, my father was a general officer ninety-eight percent of my life. Things were a little different. Of course, we lived in quarters at Fort Myer and at Offutt and Bolling.

BWS: Do you remember your father accepting the command at SAC?

JLL: I remember him coming home and saying they were moving to Omaha, Nebraska. I remember my mother saying, "Where is it?" I don't think that is putting Nebraska down because I think there are people today that don't know where Omaha, Nebraska, is. And they may not be all bad. And I remember moving to Omaha. Of course, I remember them saying, it had been old Fort Crook, and that the Army, when they moved out, they took everything that wasn't nailed down.

So, there was practically nothing there except the old quarters that were built in eighteen-something. And, I think, the quarters that run down "Officers' Row," or "General's Row," now, the floor plan is all over the Army. If you go to Fort Myer, they have the same...they all look alike. So, I think, there was one architect who built them all over the Army. And, they were wonderful then. The porches were screened in, which they are not now. There was no air conditioning in those days, but, for a nine-year-old, that doesn't make any difference. I think slowly, over those nine years, they upgraded them. Upgraded the kitchens. Put in air conditioning.

BWS: You had your own furniture?

JLL: And mother was great about that. I don't know how she made drapes from one house fit another. I think, before you moved in, they might have put in new carpeting or they might have painted them or something. But she always seemed to make things fit. And I think the military, those wives know that. They know what to keep. The best thing, you clean your closets out every two years. Which, if you live in one house for fifty, you don't do that. So that is a good thing, too.

It was wonderful. I consider Nebraska my home because I have lived there more than any other place except here, now.

BWS: It was a prestigious command for your father, it appears.

JLL: I think it was. I think at the end of the war, this country realized we weren't prepared when we went into that war. And if you read some of the accounts that I know the museum [SAC Museum] probably has on my father, when they first went to Europe, they had crews that their first time in an airplane was flying across the Atlantic. So, really, our country was not prepared. I think, after the war, I think the administration and this country decided, "This will never happen to us again. If we have to go again, we want to be prepared." And I think this probably was the reason for starting SAC. I don't know what the reason is that they chose Omaha except maybe it was in the center of the country. In an unknown place? I don't know. But, I think, it was centrally located, maybe that is why they went there.

BWS: It had been on the East Coast.

JLL: Yes, it had been. For a year. And I think they decided maybe they had more room to spread out. I don't know.

BWS: What was your father's reaction to being named...

JLL: I think he probably considered it an honor. I suppose he considered it a challenge. I think his...with so many discouraging things that I have read on my father, beginning with SAC, the administration in this country asked him to build something that would keep us safe and would keep us prepared. They are not saying, "Build this, we are going to war." This is, "We are building this to keep us safe and to keep us from having to go to war." That is what, I think, so many people overlook. I think this was a tremendous challenge. When he got there and the people in that command, I don't think there was a crew that could have done a professional job. So, he really was starting from scratch. The people who worked in SAC at that time, they all felt they were the very pinnacle of beginning something that could be really fine and worthwhile. I think they all worked long hours and I think my father really...if you took on a task, you did it well, you did it thoroughly, and you did it the best you can. And I think uppermost in his mind was always, "How can I train these people to protect them in the long run and to protect anyone else we have to protect?" The only way you do that is by training and learning and doing the best job you can. So, there were long hours. He had to be tough on the people. If you are not...they have got to be tough, too. But, I don't think, again, he ever asked anyone in his command to do anything that he wouldn't have been willing to do himself. I think that is where he got the respect. I don't think you will really find anyone that worked under SAC that wouldn't have admired him and been willing to do anything for him. I know he worked long, hard hours. But I am convinced, and I don't know the American public really knows, the role SAC played in keeping us out of war. I think that having a strong Strategic Air Command...and it really was "Peace is our Profession." I think that it kept us all safe. And it kept what we are enjoying today.

BWS: Did he ever articulate that? He must have understood it.

JLL: I think he understood that. I think he always felt that strength...if you go to the table to negotiate and you don't have strength, no one is going to listen to you. You have to be strong so no one is going to come into your backyard. I think that is why he worked so hard to do what he did. And I think he did a fantastic job.

BWS: Great responsibility. Beyond just the responsibility in an Air Force sense.

JLL: I think you probably had to select and choose who you had in that command and who was going to be willing to work those long hours. I think from the very beginning that he realized, and my mother - and this is where my mother comes into this partnership - is that in order for the

officer or the airman to do his job, to be away on TDY [temporary duty], to be gone away from his family, he has to know his family is being taken care of at home. This is when my mother started the Dependent's Assistance. It is now called Family Services. My mother started that. That was that you had support at home. The wives all got together. If a tragedy happened, there was someone there to help that family. Or if a new family moved in, it was kind of like the Welcome Wagon. They would be there for the family so that the husband could leave town and feel the family was well taken of.

And, then, of course, they needed housing. They needed barracks. That is where they came with the Wherry Housing.

BWS: Your father was instrumental in designing that.

JLL: That is right. I guess they went to Senator [Kenneth S.] Wherry. I think what my parents...when any military base moves into the community, there is always a kind of pushing away, thinking that a bad element is coming in or, "I don't know about this. It is going to ruin our community. It is going to make us bigger than we want to be," and all this. My parents were very instrumental in going into the Bellevue and the Omaha community and, really, making friends. Making relationships. I think that is when they started the Air Force...it was that committee. I can't remember what it is called. Strategy committee.

BWS: The SAC Consultation Committee.

JLL: Maybe that was it. That had a lot of the Omaha people. I think that is how they got to Senator Wherry.

BWS: Senator Wherry had been involved in bringing SAC to Omaha and he was a real strong supporter of the Air Force. He must have been a good ally for your father.

JLL: I remember the Pettis family. Ed Pettis. He owned Brandeis. Then, there was Jacobs, who owned Bozell and Jacobs, advertising. There was a Storz. Art and Bob Storz, family. The LeMars. Mrs. LeMar. All the top movers and shakers in Omaha became very close.

BWS: How did your parents meet them?

JLL: I would think my mother would have had a party and invited them to the house. That is usually what she would do. They made a big effort to do that. I think it made all the difference in the world. And I think they have carried it on today. They have always worked as a partnership.

BWS: The Storz family led the way for the housing support.

JLL: They did. They were great people. And Ed Pettis and his wife, a beautiful lady. They were all involved. And, of course, they were all involved in Ak-Sar-Ben. Ak-Sar-Ben was going full swing. That was the highlight of the season. I remember Mother always saying that what you wore to that, the ball gown that you got...people would travel all over the world from Omaha to get this special gown. And, I think, a couple of times, a couple of them had the same one, which was a tragedy. But, the Omaha people were wonderful and so many of those people remained friends with my parents long after they...V.J. Skutt, who was Mutual of Omaha, was a good friend. They really put out for the military. It was great. But, I think, a lot of that had to do with the personality of my parents, too, and really wanting to. It is like, "We are really a visitor in your home. We are moving into your state and we want to make the best of it for all."

BWS: And you were bringing a huge installation out and a good deal of activity. SAC was quite a coup.

JLL: Almost any military base that comes in, it brings millions of dollars of revenue to that state.

BWS: But, SAC, as the center of it...

JLL: The prestige. But, Bellevue was a town of fifteen hundred people. Mission, the main street, was the only paved road in the town. I think, like most of those little towns, they had I don't know how many bars. And a grocery store. And one restaurant. This lifelong friend I have, who now lives in Laguna, her parents were not happy with the military coming in because they had moved from Omaha. She said, "If we wanted to live in a big city, we would have stayed in Omaha. We moved out to Bellevue because we feel that that is the country. That is really where we wanted to be." Over the years, they see this town...I don't know what it is now. It was twenty-five thousand at the last count. Now, of course, they have all the different schools. They had one school when I was there.

BWS: And Omaha was not that far away.

JLL: And there was nothing. There was nothing between Bellevue and Omaha. That was all open territory. The Crossroads, which is in south Omaha, that just came later. That came after we left Omaha. That was all...it was just like open territory.

BWS: Fields.

JLL: That's right. And I used to...another person you could talk to is General [Michael] Ryan, the chief of staff of the Air Force. I kind of laugh, soon after my parents died, when I would go to a lot of these Air Force functions, they were still my parents' generation that I was seeing. Now, they are my generation and they are my age or younger. General Ryan was in Omaha when he was in high school.

BWS: Mike Ryan.

JLL: Mike Ryan. He was a freshman. He went to Creighton Prep. We ran a little bus, or a big staff car, because we had a girl that went to Central High School and we had a girl that went to Duschene, we had just the Ryan boys - he had an older brother - that went to Creighton Prep, and then I went to Brownell Hall. So we just ran...that little shuttle ran every day making the rounds.

BWS: When did you start at Brownell Hall?

JLL: I went to Bellevue half of my fourth grade year and my fifth grade. Then, when I was in sixth grade, I went to Brownell Hall. But I had such a funny high school career. If somebody looked at my transcript, they would think I was maladjusted. I went to sixth through ninth at Brownell Hall. Then, I really wanted to go to Bellevue High School, because all my friends and everything I did with was with this friend with this Bellevue High School. I went to all their football games, all their functions, their proms, dated all the boys, where I did very little with the people at Brownell Hall. My mother finally said I could go my sophomore year. So, I went my sophomore year to Bellevue. Then I went my junior year to National Cathedral School for Girls in Washington, D.C., because Mother thought it would be good for me to go away. I would

appreciate home more. So, I went to boarding school there for a year and then came back and graduated from Brownell Hall.

BWS: Why did your folks send you to Brownell Hall?

JLL: My mother thought it would be a good experience for me to go away to boarding school.

BWS: To Brownell?

JLL: No, to National Cathedral. I had a choice. We went and looked. We looked at Holton Arms. There was...the one that Jean Harris was at. I looked at that one. There was one other. I think one of them wore uniforms and I had worn uniforms and I didn't want to do that. And then, I think the one where Jean Harris was was a little bit too regimented. I didn't want to do that. So, we chose National Cathedral. They had ninety boarders at that school. They had kids from various countries. It was a great experience except you just didn't have the freedom. You couldn't just walk out of that school and go shopping or go to a movie. You had to have a chaperone with you. You just didn't turn some girl from Kentucky loose in Washington, D.C. It was a good experience. I guess my mother got her money's worth. I did appreciate home after that.

BWS: It is hard to go away sometimes, especially if the girls have been together for a long time.

JLL: And the thing is, I had never really been away from home. I think I had been to camp. But, when all of a sudden, you are deposited into what looks like a very strict environment.

BWS: Why Brownell?

JLL: I don't know. We were Episcopalian and it was an Episcopal school. Maybe that is why. I don't know how my mother really chose it. But, in those days, the school structure had been the old Happy Hollow Country Club. It had that main big building, that wrap-around porch and the gymnasium in there. Fantastic. And then, I think, they had that one building that was up a little. The brick structure. There were twelve in my graduating class. There were nine in the freshman class. There were not many kids. I think it ran through nursery school. There were no boys there, then. It really was, most of the classes, in fact, all of the classes were held in that structure. Like most Episcopal schools, you went to church every day. You went to your half hour church service in that beautiful little church. I enjoyed it, but I never really felt aligned with that school. I guess you put up with anyone who they think father is in a position, they automatically think that either you are going to be snobbish or stuck-up or you are going to want certain privileges or they will say, "You think you are smart because you are a general's kid," or whatever. I guess I just felt more accepted...

TAPE TWO, SIDE ONE

BWS: If you would, talk about the school. You felt more accepted out in Bellevue, because that is where you lived.

JLL: I remember there was only one school. It was on Mission. It is that one on Mission. The high school, the grade school, everything was in that one building.

BWS: Is that where most of the kids from the base went to school?

JLL: I think most of the kids from the base went there. I guess now, most bases have their own schools. So, I don't know where they go to school now, but I am sure that all of them went there. It was a different time.

BWS: How would you describe your father as you remember him at that point?

JLL: He was gone a lot. He worked long hours and he was gone a lot. And, I think, in later years, when I was thinking of getting married, I always said, "I am going to marry a banker that lives in one town and never leaves it. Instead of having a husband who is always gone." Because they traveled a great deal and they entertained a lot. And, of course, when you are a teenager, when you are young, you are into your activities. You are not thinking about a lot of the stuff ...until, I guess, I was a little older, did I pay attention to some of the people that would come through. But, you know, he was just like any other, normal parent. I think my mother probably did most of the disciplining and most of the arranging of things to do and things like that. They were strict. My father was strict. He always would say - he wouldn't say, "You have to set an example" - but he obviously wouldn't want me getting into trouble that would reflect on his position or whatever. You behave yourself and, later on, you don't talk to the press and a lot of these things, which has proved out to be sound advice.

BWS: Were you aware of that at the time?

JLL: Not probably until I got into high school. Then, when I got into high school, of course, I never would have done anything that...I mean, I would have kept going. I wouldn't have wanted to come home and face my father. He never yelled at you. But, a look could say volumes. And he did, he expected you to behave. And I had a curfew. I had to be home at a certain time. I always did. And, you just respect that. I think kids are different today. There was more respect for your elders than there is today. Things are a little different.

BWS: Did you have parties at your house?

JLL: Oh, yes, I did. I always had birthday parties.

BWS: Parties when you were a teenager.

JLL: I had parties when I was a teenager. In fact, I have got a couple of pictures to show you. I always had a birthday party. Not until I got older did I do dances and things where you had boys and stuff. But Mother always went all out. I think my thirteenth birthday party, I would have been at Brownell Hall. We took over the Officer's Club and I had a big slumber party. They had a bus that brought all these girls from Brownell. We had a big slumber party. It was great. My father was there and he danced with me. But, yes, we did a lot. And then, my mother started a

teenage club. I have pictures of her painting. She painted murals all over the teenage walls. She got a lot of the women together and they got the furniture. We did all kinds of...we had dances there and we had parties there. New Year's Eve. I think one New Year's Eve, I must have been junior in high school, I have forgotten - but my parents, Arthur Godfrey and his friends took his...and they went to Thule [Greenland] to entertain the troops. That was New Year's Eve. So, they were gone. We were having this big party in the teenage club. That is when Sgt. Waterman came into play. He was staying there. Karen came over and her date and my date. And I probably had more than one dress to wear, but you know how a teenager...you decide the dress you are going to wear and nothing else...well, I broke the zipper getting into this formal. Well, you would have thought it was the worst thing that could have happened to me. So, here is Sgt. Waterman sewing me into this dress. Here he is. He sewed me into this dress and then, I guess, had to snip me out of it when I got home. But we did, we had lots of wonderful parties. We had swimming parties with the old Officer's Club there, which is now, I think, the NCO Club. I did a lot of things. And Daddy was always around for the important functions.

But, you know, we didn't have much time to go on a vacation, like a family vacation. An annual family vacation. I know that used to go...the only really regular thing that we used to do is we used to go to the Broadmoor in the Colorado Springs. He was a really close friend of Thayer Tutt, the Tutt family, that owned it. The Penrose family and then the Tutt family owned it. We would go there at Easter. Of course, the Broadmoor is a little different now. In fact, for two years, not this summer, but the two previous summers, we have taken our grandson there. And it looks just the same. The man who owns the Nashville Old Opry owns it. He has left it just the same. He has just kept it up beautifully. In fact, it is a fantastic place to go for a vacation and very reasonable. So, we spend a week there and our grandson is still talking about it. He is young enough, he thinks Colorado is just up the street. So, we have been there a couple of times and it really brings back lots of memories, because we had a good time there.

BWS: Your father had a lot of people around him at SAC that were hand-picked. Good people. Do you remember some of the key people?

JLL: General [Thomas] Power. General [Francis] Griswold. You know, sometime, it might be...General Griswold, they were stationed together right after they were first married. "Grizzly" and Jeff had been married a couple of years and had a baby - their first daughter - when they were all stationed. They were very close friends until the Griswolds died. And their second daughter is married to Sidney Pollack, the movie director. Very nice people. Really nice people. Mother and Jeff were very close. Very close friends. They ended up...they lived in Omaha. General Griswold ran General Pontiac over in Council Bluffs, which was really...who owned the Cadillac agency. It was all their money.

BWS: Edmondson? Briggs? Rosie O'Donnell?

JLL: Rosie O'Donnell. In fact, we would visit them in Colorado. I think he was in Colorado. I remember all those names.

BWS: Hoyt Vandenberg, the Chief of Staff?

JLL: No, I don't remember him. He died young, too, didn't he? Of course, there was [Carl] Spaatz and Ira Acre, which was earlier on. I wouldn't have know them.

BWS: They were important to your father.

JLL: Yes, it was a nucleus of outstanding people. But I remember the names. We all lived...General [John] Ryan was there; Mike Ryan's father was there.

BWS: When your father first arrived, there is that story that he was interviewed by the Omaha press and they were so thrilled that this was going on. He was a little discouraged about what he was finding. He had been given of this very prestigious thing, but that it was in pretty bad shape.

JLL: In fact, I have a speech here that General [Russell] Dougherty gave which you should read. I don't think he would mind if I quoted it. When Daddy first got to Offutt, he says, "When General LeMay, the forty-two-year-old gutsy combat commander in Europe and the Pacific in World War II, had left Europe where he was running the Berlin Airlift to take command of the newly-created Strategic Air Command in October, 1948, and move his headquarters to Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska. He is quoted upon arrival at SAC as saying, "We didn't have one crew, not one crew, in the entire command who could perform a professional job. We would need to re-build the organization completely before we would be ready to fight.' And General LeMay proceeded to build it completely and make it ready to fight. His creed was, "A force that cannot fight and win will not deter."

BWS: Your father was quite direct in his speech.

JLL: I think so. He usually says, it has been said, when he spoke, you listened because usually it was worth it. He was never one for idle chitchat. So, usually, when he would speak, you would listen. I think he was a very thoughtful individual. He took what he was doing very seriously. I don't think you are going to ever find another better American, better patriot, better attention to detail and to duty, for his time frame and the job he was asked to do, than anyone.

BWS: It was a difficult time.

JLL: It was a difficult. It must have been a monumental, monumental job, because I think of the long hours of training and being ready and, you know...

BWS: And the post-war world was unstable at best. No one really knew what was to come.

JLL: What is happening today, which irritates me no end, is you have got these, if you want to call them, eggheads, historians - you have got people that didn't live through that time, and now, they think it was funny.

[telephone rings. recorder off briefly.]

BWS: You are quoting from a speech.

JLL: I am quoting from a speech that General Russ Dougherty gave at a symposium at the University of North Texas at Denton, Texas. I don't think he would mind me quoting that. Picking up that he said when my father got to SAC, they didn't have a crew that could do a professional job. He said, "The extent to which General LeMay succeeded in his re-building and training efforts with SAC through the next decade and his incomparable example to other commands must be evaluated as one of the, if not the, most significant command action of the Cold War. I would say today, he was, for over ten years, the consummate Cold War commander."

He also said, "General LeMay's demands were, 'You must train as you plan to fight. Every training mission must be as intense and demanding as an actual combat mission. There is no room for second best. Measure up or get out.' We began serious, all-source intelligence collection on potential targets, on Soviet equipment, tactics command, constructs. We knew our enemy. He instilled in all of us a sense of purpose, a sense of mission, a mission in which everyone of us, from the lead pilot to the ground crewman pulling the chocks from under the wheels, felt he had an absolute, integral role in the success of our efforts. And this was carried down through the organization with an intensity and zeal that inspired excellence. General LeMay was tough, he was uncompromising, but he was not sadistic. All of us knew where he was coming from and what he was trying to do and we wanted to be part of his team."

BWS: That is nice.

JLL: He is very well-spoken and a wonderful individual. It was very nice and he sent me...he really had some very nice things to say.

BWS: What were your father's beliefs about strategic vs. tactical planning?

JLL: You know, I have never...I have speeches and interviews and things that he has done. I think I have read one interview that talked about...someone had asked him what were some of the most difficult decisions that he ever had to make. And I think one of them was that low-level bombing in Japan. There were one or two others. Simply because he said, "If I made a mistake, I probably would have been out." It must have been terrible. When people write articles and say that he...there were a couple of very bad articles saying that he wanted to start World War III and that he was a war-monger and a hawk. Then you read an interview, where he is interviewed, during the war when they did that low-level bombing and he wasn't able to be on that mission, when he stood on that runway, counting those planes, knowing how many planes took off. Counting those planes. Standing there until the last plane is back. Now, a man who doesn't have any sensibilities and is sadistic and doesn't care where he is going or who he steps over, isn't going to do that kind of thing. That isn't a man that is going to fight for better pay and better housing for the people who work for him. And that is what he did. I always think that if he had a legacy at all, it would have been that he cared for everyone in that command. He wasn't just the one that was making that command. It was everyone that worked for him, like this speech said, down to the crew people, the maintenance people. Everyone played an important part and he wanted each one of them to have the best pay and the best housing that the military could provide. And I think both my parents were always working for that end.

BWS: Morale.

JLL: And the morale. And I think that is why they retained the people they did in those days. And why people wanted to be in that command. I mean, they knew he was tough.

BWS: Was he fair?

JLL: I think he was very fair. I always would say that he would give anyone a second chance but his family. He expected perfection and doing the right thing out of his wife and his daughter. He got it. We wanted to make sure that you didn't do anything wrong. As I said earlier, he would never scream at you, but you just knew. And you just wouldn't do certain things, you know.

BWS: Pride.

JLL: I think pride.

BWS: Not in a bad sense. Not in self-pride.

JLL: My father or me?

BWS: Either of you.

JLL: Fear in me could have been...in those days, you just...if your parents told you to do something, you did it. And you certainly would not want to be caught doing the wrong thing. I don't think my father would have done anything dreadfully serious, but I thought so. And that was probably his best child-rearing tactic.

I remember that he always wanted me to have long hair and I had long hair until I got out of high school. But I had very thick hair. And, when you are a teenager and you are going swimming and then you are going out on a date at night, you wouldn't want to get your hair wet. It would take me forty-five minutes under a hair dryer to get my hair dry. So, I always wanted short hair. Well, even if I would cut off three or four inches, I would hide behind a newspaper for twenty-four hours thinking he would forget about it. But he would, you know...

BWS: That was something he liked?

JLL: I think that you just behaved in a certain way. You didn't have to be told. When we lived in Washington, I was in college. They had a TV program. It was a "Youth Meet the Press." I was asked to be on it. Daddy said, "No." He would say, "You know nothing. You don't talk about it. And you don't talk to the press." And it was good...it was sound advice.

BWS: Very sound advice from all sorts of angles.

JLL: What do the kids know? Most kids don't know what the intricate workings of that father's position. So, to put them in a situation where they can be asked all kinds of questions that they wouldn't know, or if they made a guess, or if they said the wrong thing.

BWS: Especially with his position, which was very sensitive.

JLL: It was. I am sure there was a lot of tension during the Korean War because that was when we were at Offutt.

BWS: Do you remember that at all?

JLL: I remember once saying, there must have been tension in the household or something, because I do remember once, "Are we all going to live through this?" I am sure he said, "Everything is going to be fine. This is a short term deal." But I don't remember feeling all the stress and the tension that probably went on in that job. We had a very normal home life.

BWS: You were living at what has become known as...

JLL: Ground Zero. Well, I remember once that the military decided they were going to have an evacuation day. The Bellevue people could join in. They had this whole thing. They had it all planned out. They were going to have a big picnic out someplace that they were going to do

this. And you had all these plans and everything. Well, a lot of the Bellevue people didn't want to do that. They said either, "It is not going to happen to me," or, "This is a ridiculous thing." A lot of people didn't go. But, I remember we went.

BWS: You learned evacuation procedures?

JLL: So, I think you probably learned the evacuation process. I think when I was at the University of Maryland, we were taught what to do if the bomb hit in Washington. You go to the basement. I remember listening to a lecture. You were supposed to wash your clothes with Tide. Now, isn't that funny? That is about all I remember.

BWS: Tide, specifically?

JLL: I guess so. There must have been something in Tide that would have done something with the radioactivity. I don't know. If you were alive to do the wash, I think that is the last thing you would have thought about. But, you know, where you should go in the basement and how long you should stay in the basement.

BWS: Was there a bomb shelter in your house?

JLL: There is a bomb shelter in the Quarters Sixteen at Offutt now that I have seen. Sgt. Waterman could tell you that, but I don't think we built that because I don't think that was there. That wasn't there when we...the room was there, but I don't know if General Power did that.

BWS: Was your father involved in civil defense work at all?

JLL: I don't know.

BWS: That was something apart from everything else he was doing. What about his beliefs concerning the use of atomic power?

JLL: I don't know because he never...all I know is what I have read in speeches.

BWS: There were some quotes attributed to him that were somewhat awful.

JLL: I know that the one quote that came out of his book that MacKinlay Kantor wrote, in reference to Vietnam, that we will "bomb them back to the Stone Age," I can tell you - I got it from the horse's mouth, directly from him - he did not say that. McKinley Kantor took a lot of license in a lot of that stuff. But he never, I asked him point blank, he never said that. However, I think that it would...I don't know that this is me speaking or this is my father speaking, but you build your forces and your arsenal up to deter anything that is going to come to you. And, if the need arises, you use it. But you certainly don't go to the conference table having that in your back pocket and telling them, "I will never use it," because that is just like not having it. They will say, "Well, they are never going to use it, so we don't have to worry about that." But, I would think if it came down to the very last choice, he probably would have. I don't know. I don't know. But, I mean, if you get into a skirmish, a war, whatever, you go in it to win. And I think that was some of the things that upset him during the Vietnam War. It was such a limited political...the politicians were running it and not the military.

BWS: He was the Air Force chief of staff during that time, wasn't he?

JLL: See, Vietnam started in 1964 or something like that. 1963? Because I remember a boy that I had known as a friend, lived in Bellevue, and he went to the Naval Academy. When I was at the University of Maryland, I used to go down and see him at the Naval Academy. He was one of the first. He graduated and became a Navy pilot on an aircraft carrier. He was one of the first to die. That would have been in 1964. Because I remember going to the Vietnam War Memorial and looking up his name. They never recovered his body. And his wife, the day they had his funeral, had their third baby. Very sad.

BWS: It was a difficult time.

JLL: It was a difficult time. But, I think he always thought, "If you go to war, you go to win it." Because you are going to save lives. I think I had a quote somewhere, I think it is on one of the tapes I have, I wish I had it at my fingertips because I would better read it than try to remember it. But it said something that during the second World War, we dropped "x" number of bombs. Then in Vietnam, we dropped many, many, many, many, many more bombs. We won the war in Japan. We won the second World War. But we didn't win in Vietnam. So, I think if it comes down to your national security and your safety, you do anything it takes to win.

BWS: That was a message that might not have been well received at that time.

JLL: No. And I think, of course, everyone is scared to death of the nuclear bombs, and probably justifiably so, because you would have such desolation. And hopefully, no one will ever want to go that far. But, again, with all these weapons of mass destruction we have now.

BWS: Did he look at in terms of politics at all?

JLL: No. I think, when he was in the military, I am sure it was all politics. But, I don't think he...

BWS: The politics, though.

JLL: Oh, I am sure there was politics. I think there were politics all the time.

BWS: In the military?

JLL: In the military. In Congress. And when it came time for appropriations. It was all politics. I am sure my father had people around him that handled a lot of the politics. Telling him when the best time to ask or not to ask. I don't think he really gave that much thought. I think he believed in what he was doing, in what he was asking for, and what he needed. He would go to Congress, or he would go to whomever, and he would lay it out. He would say, "This is what we need and I need it." And I guess he would say it in his own special way whether...

BWS: "You asked me to do this. This is what I need to get the job done."

JLL: That is right. Whether he was being nice, politically correct, or whatever. I don't really think...you know, he didn't play that game very well. I think he was most concerned with the job that he had to do and so he presented it the best way he could. But, I think he had...I don't think anyone sensed - of course, Congress and the make-up of this country is different now - but at that time, he had a wonderful rapport. People in Congress respected him and knew that what he was going to tell them was the truth. And that he was going to tell the truth. He wasn't going to lie. He was going to be honest. And I think they respected him. That certainly doesn't seem to

abound much anymore. In today's world, it is a lot different. But he had...I am sure there were people around him that sought out the people in Congress that were the most sympathetic to the military.

TAPE TWO, SIDE TWO

JLL: I think they respected him and they listened to what he said. And, of course, he always had the military and what he felt was the best course to take at heart. He was not one to play all of the underlying games that probably go on. He would just step up and tell them like it was.

BWS: Did he work with the presidents?

JLL: I am sure that he would...of course, he would be on the Joint Chiefs as the Air Force, so he would sit in on those. A vice chief, too, when General [Thomas] White was away or something like that. So, obviously, he knew [President John F.] Kennedy and he knew [President Lyndon B.] Johnson. I think he was down at Johnson's ranch once or twice, probably. Not socially, but probably more they went down for business. So, he met Kennedy. We were at the White House.

BWS: Who appointed him?

JLL: Kennedy appointed him and then Johnson reappointed him.

BWS: You were at the White House?

JLL: We met Kennedy once. I think it was when my father took over as Chief of Staff. Then we met Johnson. I remember Mother was friends with Lady Bird [Johnson]. I think this was before the White House when he was the majority leader of the House [of Representatives]. They both took a public speaking class together. Of course, I always admired Lady Bird. I think she was very, really probably more astute in more ways than he was. I met their daughters. I met him when he was still in Congress. And, then, of course, I met him the day that Daddy retired.

Of course, Daddy was always a very close friend of [Senator] Barry Goldwater. I think he talked a lot with him.

BWS: A well respected man.

JLL: Yes. A very well respected man. I am losing my train of thought. Where are we?

BWS: We are talking about your father and some of the people in politics. What about the whole, at that point, the Communist influence? That overshadowed the Cold War era and was such a major factor.

JLL: They never knew what was going to happen with the Russians. I really think that the people that were in power then, I think they feared SAC. And I really think that they knew that they would be in a lot of trouble if something...I think they feared my father. I mean, we always said, later, later in life after he retired or whatever, we never wanted to travel behind the Iron Curtain or into a Communist country. My father never would. He was on the board of National Geographic after he retired and they took a trip to China and he wouldn't go. Because you don't know. You don't know who is still around. They might want to take revenge. I have always kind of felt that way, too, which, I guess, is probably ill-founded. But I have always thought...I think it is that we have been propagandized. We have really been propagandized to fear that so much that I think, "Gee, if I took a picture of the wrong thing, I will never get out of there." So, I have just decided not to do that.

BWS: But you also picked that up?

JLL: I am sure I picked that up. You know, there was great concern. There was great concern that something catastrophic...I mean, when Russia was at its peak, anything could have happened. If you have a few unstable people or you are not communicating or something, anything could have happened.

BWS: Do you remember the kidnaping attempt* or other situations against your father?

[* See General Curtis Lemay biographies for details of kidnaping attempts against the General.]

JLL: I think there was one when I was...during the war. We had to go to Montgomery, Alabama and we lived there for a while. I can't remember how long. We lived with another military...some friends. And then, I think, there was one while we were at Offutt, probably when I was in high school. I think it was when I was in high school. But, you know, I was never told that. I was never told that, "You had a kidnaping threat," and whatever. How I was told is that, "Just don't go wandering around." Or they probably never really said that. But they just made sure that I wasn't put in harm's way. I don't really even remember. I don't remember looking over my shoulder or being worried about any of that. I didn't have guards or people walking around. But, I am sure that they had that. I am sure my father got death threats. I mean, he had death threats and things after he retired when he was living in Newport [Virginia]. They had some man who kept harassing. Calling him on the phone. It got to be where the FBI got involved in it. Of course, Daddy would just shrug it off and say, "I don't worry about that kind of thing." So, I don't know.

BWS: Your mother?

JLL: I am sure my mother probably would have been scared to death. I know that at certain times when we lived at Offutt, we had guards that walked around so many quarters. They were there all the time. They were there at night and whatever. Because, I do remember once, my friend Karen and I, my father put a teepee. On the side of that quarters, when we moved in, I don't know if there was a fence at all, but there was a chain link fence. And we had a little pool in there with this...in fact, when I went back and saw the quarters, when General [Lee] Butler was there, in the middle of this little pond was this wonderful little statue. Well, there became some difficulty over this statue. I don't know whether the statue went back to Omaha to somebody that owned it. I can't remember now. But, it was a little boy and he had an umbrella. So, I don't know whether we put the chain link fence up because we had dogs. Then it got to the point where the bus, behind those quarters were the WAF [Women Air Force]. I don't know whether the men were there, too, but there were barracks back there. They would get off that shuttle bus and, of course, this dog would just go crazy as they walked by. I think they teased him, too. That is where the stockade . . . then they built that stockade. That is what they called it. They called it LeMay's stockade. It was this eight-foot wooden fence you couldn't see out of. I don't know whether that is the reason they did that, to keep the dogs in. But I think it was to keep all our assortment of animals in there, too.

BWS: You had ducks.

JLL: We had ducks. My mother thought it would be cute to put two ducks in an Easter basket. The little girl that lived next door to us, there was one for her and one for me. Well, you know, they should be outlawed that people can't buy those things because they are wonderful for two days and then, all of a sudden, these things weigh thirty pounds and what do you do with these ducks? So, we had these ducks. They lived in a cage in the basement. My mother had to make some kind of hot cereal for them every morning. Can you believe that? Ping and Pong. A male

and a female. Well, of course, the little girl next door never kept hers there. She kept it at our house. We had dogs. We had a couple of dogs. So, the dogs had a certain amount of time out there in that yard and you brought them back in and then the ducks had a certain time out there in the yard. And they loved it. They would swim around in that pool. They were yellow when they were babies and they got to be white and they got to be about twenty or thirty pounds. Big.

Well, my father, the job of the last orderly in the house, it was his job to bring them in and to put them in the cage so that they didn't stay out there after dark. The female would come to you, but the male was a little more reticent. My parents had gone to some black tie, formal function in Omaha. They came home probably about eleven-thirty or something like that and the ducks were out. That meant, here my mother and my father in their regalia had to go and corral these ducks and bring them in. Here he has got this thing under his arm and he is saying to my mother, "Tomorrow, you find them a home other than here. I don't want to see them when I come home." We found a nice home with a friend of ours who had a farm out on Bellevue Boulevard. Of course, I made them sign, not really, but I made them promise they wouldn't eat them for Thanksgiving dinner. So, they lived out a nice life there.

Our pets are another story. We had a Scottie when we first moved there. It was the only dog that we ever had that we didn't keep on a leash. I think the first month that we lived there, he got run over by the base shuttle. The driver thought he hit the curb. Somebody on the bus said, "No, you ran over General LeMay's dog." Oh, that was just terrible. Just terrible. So, we got another Scottie. Then we thought my father needed a dog that would really be his. So, we bought this black and tan dachshund named Herman that was really to be Daddy's dog. Well, he became Mother's dog. And he became very famous in the Air Force. Anyone who was anyone had been bitten by this dog. Daddy would say, at important meetings, the first five minutes would be to catch up on the antics of this dog. He was. He was terrible. He protected my mother to the extent where people would come to the home and the first thing they would do is make a lunge for Mother to give her a hug. And the dog would bite their pant legs. Mother said she spent a fortune in either having pant legs repaired or buying new slacks for people.

But people would come up and say, "I have a way with dogs." And Mother, most of the time, would keep him in the kitchen, in the dog bed, the two dogs, and not let them out when they had a party. But somebody would come in, they could follow Mother into the kitchen, and they would say, "I have a way with dogs." They would put their hand down and the dog would snap at them.

I think the reason for that is, some of the orderlies teased him in the house and he got teased by the people getting off that bus. But, he was terrible. If Mother was in bed first and Daddy came to get in bed and the dog was on the bed, he would lunge. He would lunge at Daddy. Well, of course, Daddy would just get furious. He would do that to Sgt. Waterman and I. I just hated that dog because you never knew when he was going to do anything to you.

The next door neighbor had a large dog that jumped on him one time. You know, all dachshunds have back trouble. So, this dog was paralyzed. His back legs were paralyzed for six months. There was only one vet in the country that could do the surgery. It was a time that Mother just couldn't take him. So, she said, "What can I do?" We had to give sitz baths to this dog every day. And he, of course, lost his appetite, so Mother had to feed him by hand. Finally, he did recover. When he recovered, he would eat anything and everything. When Sgt. Waterman and I would get mad at the dog. We would say, "OK, I am going to get back at this dog." Mother used to make jalapeno cheese balls for cocktail parties. Hot as anything. And we would just sit there and just drop them and the dog would just eat them, one after another, but the tears would be rolling down his...I would say, "I am getting back at this dog."

But he did. He would bite everybody. People would spend the night. He did it to Arthur Godfrey. He did it to Secretary [of State John Foster] Dulles. I have the cutest letter somewhere downstairs. A thank you note from Secretary Dulles to my mother. He came out to see SAC, to get a briefing. He was there for dinner and lunch and I think he spent the night. The dog would get in the habit of getting under the bed in the guest room. Then, if the person got out of the bed and went to the bathroom and tried to come back in the room, he wouldn't let them back in. Or, he would get on the bed and if you moved, he would get upset with you. That is when Daddy would say to her, "Where is Herman? Are we ready for the night? Where is he?" Then, she couldn't find him and he would say, "You go and get him." And Mother said, "Am I supposed to go to the Secretary's door in my nightgown and say, 'My dog is under your bed?'"

He did it to Arthur Godfrey. He was terrible. But, everybody, had been bitten or had some kind of experience. He really was kind of well known. But the cute note from Secretary Dulles was, "Thank you very much for your kind hospitality. And how is the dog?" He even brought Herman up in the...I am probably talking too much about the animals, but we always had...

BWS: You had a bird?

JLL: We had a bird. We had a parakeet. Everybody, we used to threaten everybody that worked in the house, when we were gone or on a trip or anything, the most important thing was making sure the animals were OK. Because if anything happened to the animals, you would be sent to Thule [Greenland]. We had a parakeet. We had another Scottie and we had that dachshund. The first parakeet we had, we clipped its wings. If it got down on the floor, it had trouble getting back up. And I had trained it to ride in a little car. Well, we were at the Broadmoor and everybody was so concerned about making sure the bird was still alive that they kept going in and out of this room. And somebody forgot to close it. He got down on the floor and the dog killed it. Well, you know, I mean, I think they called my mother. They had to tell my mother. Well, they took the body of this bird to every pet store because they wanted to replace the bird with virtually the same color. So, they are going to these stores with this dead carcass of this bird. Well, of course, we come home. I immediately...Mother said, "Well, we have been gone a while, so don't take him out of the cage for a few days." Finally, when I did, he wouldn't ride in that car. And, of course, I looked at him and none of them look alike. I said, "I don't think this is right." Mother said, "No, no..." Finally, she said, "The other one died of a cold." One night, when I was younger, I used to sit at the top of the stairs when they would have parties. You could listen to what was going on. Mrs. Pettis, who was a little hard of hearing, was telling the story. She said, "Isn't it a shame that Helen's bird was eaten up by the dog while they were out of town."

But the bird was always in the house. He flew everywhere. At night, he went back into his cage, when it got dark. But he would get on the dining room table, the breakfast table, he would do this to anybody that was there for lunch. He did this to, I am sure he probably did it to Dulles, but he has done it to several people. He would come up, and he would walk around the plate. He wouldn't get on the plate. His favorite things were eggs and butter. He would walk around. Then, occasionally, if you took your fork, he would hop on your fork. If he liked you, he would bend way back so you could eat. If he didn't, he would bite your nose. Then you would go like this, you know. How do you catch a bird? You push him off. Then he would run down to the end of the table and he would just grab on before he fell off. And all his feathers up. And he talked all the time, too. He would say, "Bad bird. Bad bird." Daddy would always tell Mother, "Do something about your pet." A couple of times, Sgt. Waterman can tell you, too. He would get out in the kitchen when he was fixing for a party. Sgt. Waterman hated him. He would sit on his white uniform and he had a little hair on his chest and he would pick the hairs on his chest. He hated that. He probably wanted to cook the bird.

He was great. I think the day that he died, I think he had a stroke. My mother canceled everything to stay home with this bird.

[Dr. Lodge's voice briefly. Recorder off briefly.]

BWS: Would you talk a little about your father's sense of humor and the private side that people didn't see as often? He had a reputation for being stern and a strong leader, but there was another side to him.

JLL: He definitely had a personal life. He did have a sense of humor. I think it was a dry sense of humor. But, anyone who knew him well always had stories to tell of various things that had happened. I remember a cute story. This goes back a little bit to the pets. The dachshund that we had, there was a Mr. Harder who lived in Lincoln who owned, they made boilers. I don't know what you call those, but a big company there. Well, he was a close friend of Daddy's and they used to go hunting together. And then, Andy Devine, the movie star. Of course, Andy was a big friend of Mr. Harder's. They would go hunting together and that is how Daddy met Andy. Well, they all came back to the house and they were spending the weekend in the house. In those days, I have forgotten what the serial was he was on. Andy was big guy and I think Daddy asked him how he got into the business or whatever. Of course, Andy said, "If I could do anything else, do you think I would be riding a horse?" But they came home from a hunting trip. Mr. Harder was always pulling practical jokes on everybody. So, they had left their suitcases open on the guest room floor with all this hunting smell and all this business. Well, the dog, the dachshund, went in there and proceeded to do a big number in this suitcase. Mr. Harder had already gone downstairs and Andy came out of the bathroom and saw that. You know, you could buy those trick things that were rubber. That is what Andy thought this was because Mr. Harder was always doing these practical jokes. He went to pick it up and he soon found out, indeed, it was not. I think when he came down and mentioned it to Daddy and they were all laughing. And Andy said, "You laugh. You come out and see me, because I don't only have dogs, I have horses."

It was like General [Francis] Griswold. General Griswold was always playing these practical jokes. He was always sending crazy cards or he was sending a box of chocolate-covered ants or he was doing all of these things. He had a good sense of humor. He would laugh. I think most of the people that are probably writing these stories that are saying he never laughed, he was always so serious, were people who never met him personally or didn't know him. If you got him on a day that he wanted to talk, or you knew something a subject that interested him and he knew something about, then, of course, he...I can't think of some of the stories that denote that he had a good sense of humor, but I do think he did.

BWS: He was a good leader, but you had said at one time that he was on base at one time in his fatigues...

JLL: That is a cute story. They had decided on the base that you had to wear your uniform at all times. Of course, which meant everybody. General Griswold and my father used to, at night, put on their fatigues and go down to the hobby shop and work on cars. I guess this one particular night, General Griswold would pull up in front of the house, or the back of the house, and he would be on his motor scooter. Daddy would hop on the back and they would go on down to the hobby shop. One night, he came to the front door. Sgt. Waterman and I were on the front porch. This M.P. truck stops and out steps what must have been a very young, newly recruited individual. And he has got this stack of papers. Of course, the two men there, in their fatigues, were obviously out of uniform. So, he started questioning them. I think he must have started out

by asking their names and nothing registered. Then he went to several questions before he got to, "What section or department are you in?" They said, "I am in the command section." Then, he finally got around to, "What is your rank?" Nothing had registered until he got to the rank and he said, "General." Then, bells went off in this man's head and all these papers went flying up all over the place. He was so apologetic. He was so upset. "I am so sorry. I should never have done this. Blah, blah, blah." Daddy looked at him and said, "You are doing perfectly the right thing. Continue to write out this report and give me the citation." I guess the next day, Daddy called his superior and told him what he had done and that he had done the right thing.

BWS: He set an example?

JLL: I think someone told me once that they were down at the hobby shop and, of course, everybody was in fatigues. You don't know who is who. I guess a sergeant came in and they needed a push. They came in and said, "Can anybody help me push my car?" Daddy and General Griswold went out and gave the guy a push. Pushed his car and off he went. Then, I guess, later, when somebody said, "Do you know who pushed your car?" Then, of course, you think, "Gee, he shouldn't be pushing anybody's car. He should have somebody that pushes it for you." Well, that is ridiculous. He is down there. He would give anybody a hand working down there.

I do remember a cute story. When my father used to travel, my mother would always pack his suitcase. She would find out what he was going to do, and everything was packed. Well, he was Chief of Staff and they were going back to Offutt for a formal function. You had to have your mess dress. So, Mother packs all this stuff. There had been times she had forgotten the cord to the electric razor and minor things. Well, they get, and I have forgotten who was the head of SAC at that time, I guess they stayed at the house, but they got ready to get dressed for the evening. Mother had packed everything for the uniform but the boards. So, he had no boards. Mother said, "Just borrow somebody's. Nobody is going to notice." Of course, he couldn't borrow from the other four-star general there, because he was going to the party, too. So, they borrowed two-star boards. Mother is saying, "Nobody is going to notice." Well, they get down to the foot of the stairs to get into the staff car to go to the function and the driver says to my father, "Sir, do you realize that you have on the wrong boards?" Daddy looked at Mother and said, "Nobody is going to notice, huh?" But the good thing that came out of that is that Mother never had to pack his suitcase again. She said, "You pack your own suitcase. You make your own mistakes."

He had a good sense of humor. The people that he knew, that he was around, that were his friends and buddies.

BWS: Loyalty?

JLL: I think they were very loyal. But I think the people who were his close friends and knew him, they probably treated him like anybody else. Like Arthur Godfrey.

BWS: How did they meet?

JLL: I don't remember how they met. I think before he met Daddy, he had been in the Navy and I think he was a big Navy supporter. Then, I guess, when he met Daddy, all that changed. But they were very close friends. They went on a safari once to Africa.

BWS: Were they alike, do you think?

JLL: I would say that Arthur was a little bit more colorful character than my father. But I liked him. I think he was a good guy. Of course, he would never advertise anything on his programs that he didn't use himself. The peanut butter people came to him once and wanted him to advertise peanut butter. He said, "I wouldn't eat that stuff. It gets caught in your teeth." He was very up front. He always did Lipton's soup and he would always say, "I haven't found a piece of chicken in this soup, yet." He was very honest and open. Bufferin. He took Bufferin by the case. It was a neat family. He had a nice wife and he had a beautiful place out in Leesburg, in the Virginia countryside. I guess he and Daddy just struck up a good friendship. And they had a friendship all the rest of his life.

I guess Daddy knew Jimmy Stewart.

BWS: From making the film on SAC?

JLL: Yes, I guess. They weren't close friends, but they were at functions together.

BWS: Do you remember when the film was being made?

JLL: Yes, I remember it was Jimmy Stewart and it was June Allyson. I think the person that played Daddy in that film was Frank Lovejoy and he had to smoke cigars. He was deathly allergic to the smoke in cigars. He said he hated that. I saw that movie again. It was on TV not too long ago. I have forgotten what else. I have some pictures of Daddy with Gene Tierney and Tyrone Power. Then, I have also seen a picture of him with the whole cast of "It's a Good Life." It was done right after the war.

BWS: With Jimmy Stewart?

JLL: Not the one you see at Christmas time. I can't think of the name of it. I do remember it had Theresa Wright. It was a movie done in the forties. It had the actual person who had lost his...

TAPE THREE, SIDE ONE

BWS: So he crossed paths with a lot of people.

JLL: He did. Roy Rogers. Roy Rogers was at our house several times. We came out, I think I must have been in junior high or maybe twelve or something, and this was when he was at his height. I thought it was just wonderful. I loved that, and I loved the horse. We came out to visit some friends in Beverly Hills and we went on a tour of the studio. They were making "The Son of Paleface" or something like that. It had Roy Rogers and Bob Hope and Jane Russell in it. We got to see them making this one scene with Bob Hope and Jane Russell. By the time things finished, Roy Rogers had gone home for the day. I was just crushed. I had to meet this man and see his horse. I think the studio people called him to come back so he could meet us. Looking back now, I think that was a terrible thing to do after he had gone home for the day. But he was so nice.

BWS: You had a fun life. A combination of the traditional mid-Western growing up in non-traditional spots.

JLL: We did. And all these people that came to the house, they were all normal people. My father had a close friendship with Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. He had met him hunting. So, they became friends and were friends for the rest of my father's life. He came to Offutt. I remember the first time he came. I was young. Of course, when I found out this prince is coming, I thought a prince is going to come, he is going to have an ermine robe and he is going to come on a white horse. Well, of course, he has got a gray suit and he drives in a car. When Mother and Daddy would go out for an evening, she would always fix my father a sandwich before they would go out because usually they would eat late. So, she would always fix him something. She said to Prince Bernhard, "I am going to fix Curt a sandwich before we go. Can I fix you something?" He said, "A hamburger would be wonderful. Let me come out in the kitchen and help you." I thought he was going to eat, what do princes eat, pheasant under glass? I just had these wild ideas of what this prince was going to be like. Well, he was nothing but completely down-to-earth. Then we went and visited them when Julianna was still queen. At Palace Soestdijk in The Hague. We spent the night there. My parents and the younger children went on their yacht. The two older ones, which is Beatrix, who is now the queen, and Irene, the three of us went to a horse show in the rain. Very down-to-earth family. She ran the country and he ran the house. So, at dinner, when we are all sitting around dinner, he is the head of the household.

So, you look at these people. They are ordinary people. It just seems, we put them out of proportion. It is silly. I remember when we first moved to Lincoln. The *Lincoln Journal* wanted to write an article. I said, "Fine." So they asked me, "Tell us about some of the interested friends your father had." Well, I told them these stories and then they never tell the story. They just said, "She attributes to..." and lists these people. I had told them a very cute story and we were at the Air Force Academy and my father was chief of staff. And I don't know what the reason for being there was. But, my father, Arthur Godfrey, and Prince Bernhard were all coming for breakfast. I really didn't cook very well in those days. But I made pancakes and I made homemade sweet rolls. I had the whole nine yards. Of course, Prince Bernhard comes in and he wants a beer and cheese. Arthur comes in and says, "I can't eat this. I am on a diet." I was just crushed. I had worked for days fixing this wonderful thing. I didn't know Prince Bernhard well enough to say anything, but I knew Arthur. I said, "You are not on any kind of diet today. You are going to eat all of this stuff that I have slaved to put together." He was really a nice guy. He came to my wedding and he said, "I wouldn't do that for most people." They were all just good friends and, I

think, by having these close relationships and being able to go off what little time he could, fishing or hunting or whatever, was probably the release from all the tension. And he could be himself and enjoy the extra activities that he had.

BWS: Were there any actions that you thought were critical to his running of SAC?

JLL: Bringing the crews and getting the proper aircraft and having the crews trained. Being in top shape in all aspects of it probably was the main concern that they had. I can't think of any one thing.

BWS: Did you ever attend an Ak-Sar-Ben Ball with them?

JLL: No. I graduated from high school, I was a senior in high school, and I never participated. Later on, they had a daughter of the SAC Commander as the Queen. I can't remember now who that was. I think that was a nice gesture.

BWS: It shows the importance of the ties.

JLL: I think it was Art Storz who had a party. I have a picture. It was a costume party or something. My parents went as...my father was a Union military officer and my mother had her wonderful Confederate ball gown. Union ball gown. They were always having fun parties. I think their going away party, it was kind of an African theme. I have two of those Steiff, a huge lion and a tiger, that were the centerpieces on their table. I remember Mother saying, "Oh, I have got to have those to take home to Janie." I have still have them. I have them in my grandson's bedroom.

I think probably of all the stations they had ever had, they enjoyed Nebraska the most. And they made very close ties with the people in town there. I think it was a great place to be. A great place to grow up. Things were different in those days. I have been back to the base, it was four or five years ago, but it looks wonderful. It was a good station.

BWS: How did your father see himself? How do you think your father saw his role?

JLL: I think he just saw himself as a man who was asked to do a job and did the job the best he could. I think he was smart enough to know how to surround himself with qualified people. People whom he had trust in, who would be loyal and get the job done when asked. I don't think he felt himself any more special than anyone else. I think he was basically a very modest individual. I am sure that when the job was done, and they were doing such a great job, I am sure he was very proud of all that. But I don't think he would have ever taken full credit for any of those accomplishments because I think he was well aware that it was a team effort.

BWS: How did he see his role at SAC?

JLL: I think he must have liked being there and he must have liked the job. I know he never liked Washington [D.C.] He didn't like going to Washington. He didn't like Washington. And, I think, probably the reason for that was the politics. He really didn't like the politics and having to go to as many rounds of receptions and all that that he had to do. Because he never liked going back to Washington. When he retired, he was on the National Geographic board for years. He would fly in. I kept telling him, "You ought to take a couple of days." He would fly nonstop from LAX [Los Angeles Airport] to Dulles. A driver would pick him up. He would get there about four o'clock in the afternoon. The next morning, at nine o'clock, he would go to the board meeting at

National Geographic. He would be briefed at the Pentagon first and then he would go to the board meeting. And he would always have to cut it short because he would leave on a four-thirty flight out of Dulles. And when he got a little bit older, that is putting a lot of pressure on you. The three-hour time difference. But he wanted to get in and out of that town as fast as he could.

BWS: After his service as Air Force chief of staff, he had gotten into politics a little bit.

JLL: When he retired, after a couple of years...I am sure he was offered all kinds of really good positions with various companies that would have had some connection with government contracts or whatever. But he always felt that that was a conflict of interest and he never wanted to do that. But, he came out to California and he worked for a company called Network Electronics. He was with them a few years and then he retired. He really didn't want to be on a lot of boards. I don't know why. I think he just didn't want to do that. He stayed on the National Geographic and that was about the only one.

BWS: But then he did go into politics.

JLL: I guess a lot of people started...I think at one time he was approached to run for the Senate. Right after the war. To run for the Senate from Ohio.

BWS: Right after World War II?

JLL: I think it was. And he said, "I am no politician." I think, at this time, when he was asked to run with [George] Wallace, they were after him and after him and after him. He kept saying, "No, no, no." He talked to everybody. His friends. He talked to Barry Goldwater. He talked to everybody. There was no one who told him he should do it. Everybody said, "No. This is not a good thing. You should not do it." And, I think the reason he did it, I don't think he thought they were going to win because we had gone down, it wasn't too long before the election, and we had all gone down to Montgomery, Alabama. I think it was the last time I saw him before the election. He said, "We are not going to win. Don't worry about it. We are not going to win." And he said, the reason he did it, he felt that Nixon was not answering the issues like he felt should be answered. And I think they also felt that if Wallace was in the mix, that it would have kept [Hubert H.] Humphrey out. I really think the only reason he went into it was he felt that the country deserved answers to some of the questions. But, of course, again, he was not prepared to be thrown into the lion's den like you are with [national politics].

I remember once, and I will name names, the *Lincoln Journal* was owned by the Seacrests. We were coming back from someplace and we were in the Chicago airport. He came up to me, and I think not too long before that, my father had given a political speech in Omaha and the Omaha paper had written up something. Well, the Lincoln paper had written this thing which was on the front page, stating things that he had discussed and things that he had said, that he had never said. I mean, I had even attended the speech. So, Seacrest came up to me in the airport and he said, because we had seen him socially, "Answer for me, how do you feel the press is treating your father?" I said, "Well, probably, say fifty-fifty. Just about anything. But, do you really want to know?" He said, "Yes, I do." Well, I told him. I told him about that speech. I said, "I was there. I know what was being said. The Omaha paper reported it fairly well. But the Lincoln paper, the guy who wrote the article wasn't there. He had said stuff that he had said that was completely erroneous." Well, he got a little uptight and he got out his tape recorder and he was saying stuff in there. I said, "You know, you have got an editorial page in your paper and you can say anything your heart desires on that page. But on any other page in that newspaper, you have a responsibility to the people that are reading it to try to your best ability to put fact in there." Well,

I think it probably never sunk in, which is perfectly fine. But he asked and I answered. And that is right. I dislike all of that. It does a disservice. It is making us all non-believers and not to trust anyone anymore. We don't know what...I just know from the experiences we have had that have been misquoted or taken out of context, so it makes you think that everybody else is doing the same thing.

But it was an experience running with him. I spend a week with them on the campaign trail. I think we went to Indianapolis and all those in between. I thought it would be fun to take my son. He was a year and a half. It either meant leaving him home with a babysitter or taking the babysitter and going along. I asked the babysitter, this lovely elderly lady I had all the time until Charles didn't need her anymore, I gave her the choice if she wanted to stay in Lincoln or she wanted to come along. She said, "I will go along." I can understand how these people who are involved in politics and how you can't do anything. You can't go anywhere by yourself. You can't leave that hotel room and go down to the lobby to get a magazine. Those days were a lot safer than they are now. You have got far more security problems now than thirty years ago. But, I remember. We couldn't go down.

And the day that he announced, we were in Pittsburgh. We flew into Pittsburgh. We got there at four o'clock that afternoon and we couldn't leave that hotel room till the next morning. I usually carry reading material with me. I didn't have anything. My father had a Field and Stream magazine. We couldn't get anything. I just thought, everywhere you went, you had... I remember going back to Lincoln. Wallace's people, they wanted security people to be on hand throughout the campaign. I guess people tromping around my house and in my yard. I told them, "Nobody in Lincoln is going to bother me. They are probably not going to care one way or another. I don't want to worry about these people." We never had any trouble. I think things would have been different, probably, now. But we didn't have any trouble.

BWS: What questions did he feel weren't being answered?

JLL: I don't know. I think most likely it would have been with the military. I think people asked him about nuclear weapons and he probably was too forthright. It scared the public. The day he announced and they were all sitting up there on that podium. There were a few questions and, of course, when he answered the questions, Jim and I thought, "Oh, this is like..." It is like when you are too honest or if you have too much information. I think this probably...anytime you are going to say if the need arises, we are going to use nuclear weapons. I think anyone is going to...

And he really wasn't prepared to run. I don't know that any military person really is because I think the military really does live somewhat of a sheltered existence. You live on a base. You are sheltered from most of the things that are off in the community. It is a different life. All of a sudden, when you are used to being careful of the statements you make and all of a sudden you are out in that...it really is like walking into the lion's den. You don't know what you should be saying.

BWS: And Wallace was a little bit of a controversial person.

JLL: I don't think that Daddy thought that he was a racist or he was that controversial. He was very successful in Alabama. They must have liked him well enough.

BWS: Third party candidates — it is an interesting role to play.

JLL: I think it was a big mistake for him to do that. He said to someone, I can't remember who it was, "I was a hero one day and a bum the next." Which was sad. It was very sad. In fact, I think Sgt. Waterman said to him when Daddy said he was going to run, "General, I don't know how you can go into politics. You know, you just don't lie." I always look back at Goldwater. I think he lost the election because he was so truthful. He told it the way it was and maybe the people just aren't ready to know the way it is. That was a hard time. And, of course, then you didn't have all this negative advertising like you have got now. So, it could have been a lot worse than it was. Maybe again, some of the running with him could have hurt his opportunities after he got out. But, he just did what he felt.

BWS: Did your mother play a role in making that decision?

JLL: Oh, I am sure. I am sure. I guess they were after him for about a year. Quite a long time. And he kept saying, "No," and kept saying, "No." Mother would always say, "We will let you know." Jim and I had gone to New York City. I don't know whether we were gone on business, or part business and part pleasure. Well, Mother called us late one night and said, "You have got to come tomorrow to Pittsburgh." I thought, "I don't want to go to Pittsburgh." Well, we went to Pittsburgh. Mother said, "The Secret Service or someone will meet you." They sent the tickets and we got on the plane. We were sitting up there in the front of the plane. There was somebody in the front there, a couple of seats ahead, who kept looking at us. I kept thinking, "Are those the people who are supposed to watch after us?" Well, we got off at the airport and there is nobody there. I am looking around. There is nobody there. Finally, we check in the hotel. Nobody is even at the hotel. I had to ask where my parents' rooms were. But nobody ever...not that I needed or wanted anybody. Besides that, with that week that I spent, we weren't that involved.

BWS: You mentioned early on the "Peace is our profession" statement. Would you consider that your father's legacy?

JLL: I would think that would be part of his legacy. Being the head of SAC helped keep peace for many years during the Cold War. But I would like to think that also his legacy was his caring and his concern for the people and the families that worked with him. Now, of course, my parents, soon after they retired, they started the foundation [the Air Force Village Foundation]. We take care of widows and widowers of retired Air Force enlisted and officers. A man from Virginia originally sent my father a check for \$75,000. He said, "I have admired you all these years. I have admired your courage and your career. I am sending this check and know that you will put it in a place that is most needed." My father kept it and kept it and tried to figure out what they were going to do. I think during my father's career, I think when he was the chief of staff, he found out that a very high-ranking general officer in the Air Force had died and had just left nothing for his widow. His widow was living on something like fifty dollars a month. That is when they decided they needed a place for widows to live. That is when they were instrumental in starting Air Force Village in San Antonio [Texas]. Then he worked on doing Air Force Village West out here in Riverside [California]. They originally started the foundation to help widows and widowers that were living at Air Force Village West. Then we went national and we are now helping widows in twenty-six states. Our thrust is to help these people stay in their homes, close to their families, and in their community. Our motto is, "We help those who helped us." We help our own. We are doing very well. We are building up a nice fund. We are able to now, we just took in the enlisted. We are the only foundation within the military that is really taking care of the people that don't want to go into a nursing home, they don't want to go into a retirement home. They want to stay in their own houses.

So, I really think that the most important legacy is his caring for the people that worked with him. And doing the best he can to make their conditions the best he could. He really thought more about the people than he did himself. And my mother worked right alongside him to do that, too. She deserves a lot of the credit.

If you talk to other people, they can give you something from the friend-to-friend. And, of course, Sgt. Waterman can give you all kinds of funny things that happened. He really saw him, too, in a different light. Funny things. Sgt. Waterman can certainly tell you he had a sense of humor. I know we always knew...my father was not a morning person. So, anything of importance that you wanted a "Yes" answer, you never really approached him before eleven or twelve. So, we always knew that if there was something we wanted, we didn't ask him first thing in the morning because he tended to have a bit of grouchy, leave-me-alone attitude and I guess I kind of have that, too. I am kind of slow to come around in the morning, too.

END OF INTERVIEW