

CBS NEWS - 60 MINUTES WEEKNIGHT

"BUSH GUARD"

INTERVIEW WITH DAN RATHER

CORRESPONDENT: DAN RATHER

PRODUCER: MAPES

TAPE #1

15:48:30:18

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

DAN RATHER:

15:48:37:04

Well, if you're ready to start, let's start.

MARIAN KNOX:

15:48:38:10

Well, I'm-- I'm ready if you are.

DAN RATHER:

15:48:40:15

Well, first of all, tell me who you are.

MARIAN KNOX:

15:48:43:28

I'm Marian Carr Knox. I'm the mother of four wonderful boys.

DAN RATHER:

15:48:54:04

And how did you come to work with the Texas Air National Guard?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:48:59:06

My oldest son was starting college. And I

needed to get a job to help with his being in school. And I had-- gone out on job interviews and so forth. And I thought I wasn't going to get a job. And then I got calls from this person.

15:49:23:03

She said, "I think I have a job that you'll like a lot. It's out at Ellington Field (PH)." And my husband was working down out at Ellington Field at the time. And so, that's how I got out there.

DAN RATHER:

15:49:34:16

So, you were a secretary at Ellington Field for 22 years?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:49:38:09

Yes.

DAN RATHER:

15:49:40:14

And this was roughly-- what years were you there?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:49:43:07

It's 1972 to 1979.

DAN RATHER:

15:49:48:22

And you worked directly for and with Lieutenant Colonel Killian (PH) for some of that time?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:49:52:29

For some of that time, yes. I was his secretary.

DAN RATHER:

15:49:57:18

You were his secretary--

MARIAN KNOX:

15:49:59:09

However, we did not have terms (PH) in secretary. But that's what I did.

DAN RATHER:

15:50:05:20

Well, help me. Were you-- was it fair or unfair to say that you were his right hand?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:50:12:03

I like to believe that I was.

DAN RATHER:

15:50:15:04

And you worked for him about how long?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:50:19:13

With Killian, I-- I'd say it was maybe six years. Because there were others that came

before him, and then he came along. And then I got married again. And I was going to college at the time.

15:50:40:00

I started college when my youngest son-- I was one semester behind him. (LAUGHTER) And-- then when I got my degree, then that put me up into the professional grade. And that's when I transferred over to customs.

DAN RATHER:

15:50:58:02

Well, tell me about Lieutenant Colonel Killian. Tell me what kind of man he was, what kind of officer he was.

MARIAN KNOX:

15:51:03:29

He's a very wonderful man. Real true blue. A wonderful patriot, and he took his job seriously. And he was fair, very fair about things.

DAN RATHER:

15:51:17:17

And as a person, what kinda person was he? He have a sense of humor or--

MARIAN KNOX:

15:51:21:19

Oh, yeah. Yeah, we had a lotta fun.

DAN RATHER:

15:51:25:03

Did you get along with him aright?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:51:26:23

Very well.

DAN RATHER:

15:51:29:04

Well, tell me how Colonel Killian did business. What was his approach to his job in the military?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:51:37:08

He was very serious about it. And he loved flying. And he loved his position. And he took his responsibility very seriously.

DAN RATHER:

15:51:50:23

He has been described to me by other people who did not work as closely with him, as a quote, "by the book" military--

MARIAN KNOX:

15:51:58:12

Right. That-- that's-- that's-- that is him.

DAN RATHER:

15:52:00:13 That describe him?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:52:01:04 Yes.

DAN RATHER:

15:52:03:08 Now, did you know him to keep a personal
file?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:52:07:08 I typed it, many of his things, yes. I did
all of his typing. And the way it was done
is-- all of the officers did this. They had
some bias about-- dictating. It bothered
'em.

15:52:26:23 So, they would write this in longhand and
hand it to me. You know, of course, I would
put it in correct form, correct the spelling
and all of that.

DAN RATHER:

15:52:36:04 But did he keep a lot of things in his
personal files?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:52:38:19

No.

DAN RATHER:

15:52:39:07

Just a few things?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:52:39:24

No. And in this instance, it had to do with Bush.

DAN RATHER:

15:52:48:18

Well, explain to me why he would do that.

MARIAN KNOX:

15:52:51:17

Because I-- now, this is personal feelings. I feel that it was being watched very closely. And he felt that he might be in a position to where they could get on him.

DAN RATHER:

15:53:09:25

Well, did you ever type-- did he ever make out so-called CYA files?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:53:19:25

Now, that term's-- new to me, that CYA.

DAN RATHER:

15:53:26:10

You don't remember that being on--

MARIAN KNOX:

15:53:27:25

No. I-- I don't remember the-- the-- the use of that mar-- maybe that others-- apparently others did use it. But I don't remember the term.

DAN RATHER:

15:53:38:09

Well, what kinds of things did he put in these memos?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:53:43:23

Well, in this particular case, it was his dealings with Bush, the things that he-- that Bush was falling down on and what Killian was trying to-- to do. For instance, the first thing was that he didn't go get his physical.

15:54:06:22

And if you're familiar with-- flying, having a good physical-- is necessary. Because, you know, you can drop dead flying a plane.

DAN RATHER:

15:54:18:25

I wanna follow up on that, I may. Did or did not Lieutenant Bush take a physical as

ordered by Colonel Killian?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:54:30:20

That last time, no, he didn't.

DAN RATHER:

15:54:34:12

To your knowledge, was he ordered to do so?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:54:36:12

Yes.

DAN RATHER:

15:54:39:06

This is important. I think you'll agree--
that then-Lieutenant Bush was in the
military. Lieutenant Colonel Killian was
his immediate military commander, correct,
his squadron--

MARIAN KNOX:

15:54:49:22

Right.

DAN RATHER:

15:54:50:03

--commander?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:54:51:01

Yeah.

DAN RATHER:

15:54:52:17

The country's at war. It's very unusual for
a military officer, particularly a-- a

flying officer, not to obey a direct order from his superior. Or if not, tell me.

MARIAN KNOX:

15:55:08:15

It was a big no-no to not follow orders. And-- and I can't remember anyone-- refusing to-- now for instance, with the-- physical, every officer knew that at his first day, he was supposed to have that flying physical. Once in a while, it might be late.

15:55:34:13

But there would be a good excuse for it. And you would let the commander know and try to set up a date for makeup. But if they did not take that physical, they were off of flying status until they did.

DAN RATHER:

15:55:49:05

And did you ever hear Lieutenant Colonel Killian talk about this? Or did he write memos about this? What was his feeling if Lieutenant Bush did not take the physical as ordered?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:55:58:06

He was upset about it. And that was one of the reasons why he-- well, he wrote the-- a memo directing him to go take the physical.

DAN RATHER:

15:56:13:00

But he didn't take the physical?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:56:14:19

No. He didn't.

DAN RATHER:

15:56:16:07

And what was Colonel Killian's answer--

MARIAN KNOX:

15:56:17:15

Well--

DAN RATHER:

15:56:18:01

--to--

MARIAN KNOX:

15:56:18:03

He-- what was going on then was, Bush was trying to make-- I say "trying" to make arrangements to go to Alabama to-- take care of this campaign that he was involved in. Now, I say "campaign" because that's what I heard, that he was involved in a campaign.

DAN RATHER:

15:56:37:05

'Scuse me. You heard that at the time?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:56:38:29

Yes. And-- this taking a phisil-- physical just didn't fit in with his time frame of-- of getting to Alabama. And then he tried to-- I think he discussed with Killian the possibility of getting like a three-month-- a three-month leave of absence of something like that.

15:57:06:19

And Killian said, "Well, he had to arrange that with the commander of the new-- outfit that he would be going to." And he had to have it in writing that Killian could see it. Now, apparently he didn't--

DAN RATHER:

15:57:25:14

So, he--

MARIAN KNOX:

15:57:25:13

--follow through with that.

DAN RATHER:

15:57:26:28

I'm sorry?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:57:27:22

Apparently ki-- Bush did not follow through with that. Now, I say apparently.

DAN RATHER:

15:57:34:13

I understand. And I do-- it's very important, and I know you know this. I-- I want you to tell me the truth, the whole truth as you know it, and certainly nothing but the truth-- and-- and to the best of your recollection. Was Lieutenant Colonel Killian upset about this? Or was he puzzled about it? What was his attitude toward it?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:57:59:26

He-- now, first of all, Killian was very friendly with-- with Bush. They had fun together. And I think it upset him very much that he was being defied. And that's the-- that's my feeling of it.

DAN RATHER:

15:58:17:01

Was the Lieutenant Colonel being defiant?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:58:19:08

Yes, he was. When-- when on-- when someone

refuses to do what his superior tells him to do--

DAN RATHER:

15:58:26:26

Well, I asked this before. I wanna come back to it because it's so unusual anytime in the military service--

MARIAN KNOX:

15:58:32:22

It is very unusual.

DAN RATHER:

15:58:35:21

But particularly during war time, that an officer wouldn't follow the orders of his superior officer. I don't understand it.

MARIAN KNOX:

15:58:43:17

I'm gonna say this. It seems to me that Bush felt that he was above reproof (PH). Now, that's my personal feeling.

DAN RATHER:

15:58:53:24

I understand. I wanna come back to the memos.

MARIAN KNOX:

15:58:56:28

Okay.

DAN RATHER:

15:58:58:16

You've seen the memos that-- that we broadcast, these memos that we thought--

MARIAN KNOX:

15:59:04:18

Oh, and that's one of the things that (UNINTEL) me off.

DAN RATHER:

15:59:08:18

Tell me about it.

MARIAN KNOX:

15:59:09:27

I did not type those memos.

DAN RATHER:

15:59:13:00

You didn't type these memos?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:59:14:06

No. And it's not the form that I would have-- used. And there are words in there that belong to the Army, not to the Air Guard. We never used those terms.

DAN RATHER:

15:59:34:03

So, with these memos, you know that you didn't type them?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:59:37:23

I know that I didn't type 'em. However, the

information in those is correct.

DAN RATHER:

15:59:45:22

Few, if any, things that I ask you about will be more important than this point. You say you didn't type these memos.

Definitely, you didn't type these memos?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:59:55:20

Not these particular ones.

DAN RATHER:

15:59:58:03

Did you type ones like this?

MARIAN KNOX:

15:59:59:28

Some-- yes.

DAN RATHER:

16:00:01:18

Containing the same or identical information?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:00:04:00

The same information, yes. Because-- are you familiar with-- with the relationship that-- that-- a person has with his secretary? She's your second mind.

DAN RATHER:

16:00:15:17

Right.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:00:17:16

She knows-- like the way it is with-- with me. And I'm sure it was with others, that you learned how your boss thought, how he phrased things, and you could type a letter to where when he went to sign it, he didn't know whether he wrote it or not.

DAN RATHER:

16:00:38:00

That's true of secretaries.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:00:39:14

Yeah.

DAN RATHER:

16:00:40:03

The present company excluded, of course.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:00:42:24

But that's the way you get used to working with someone. You learn how they think. And you try to go along with it.

DAN RATHER:

16:00:50:18

So, make sure that I understand. You didn't type these memos?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:00:54:21

Not those memos, no.

DAN RATHER:

16:00:56:25 Then you--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:00:56:27 I to-- typed ones that had that information
in 'em.

DAN RATHER:

16:01:02:09 Well--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:01:02:18 Similar ones. But you notice, each one is a
different format.

DAN RATHER:

16:01:06:29 That's true. Well, let me go through-- I--
not in great detail, but I wanna go through,
for example, this memorandum. It's
addressed to-- First Lieutenant George W.
Bush. "You are ordered to report to the
commander of the squadron and to conduct an
annual physical examination."

MARIAN KNOX:

16:01:32:00 That's crazy wording there.

DAN RATHER:

16:01:34:29 Understand. Crazy wording, I take it-- you

think the wording doesn't sound--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:01:40:14

That-- that's not the way he would've said it.

DAN RATHER:

16:01:42:04

Okay. But to your knowledge, did he order Lieutenant Bush to take a physical?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:01:49:02

No-- I don't remember that there was an order-- that went-- in a specific military way like your orders to move to some other place or something. It wasn't like that. It would be telling him to do it.

DAN RATHER:

16:02:10:01

(UNINTEL) and it said-- to report to administrative officer for his appointment and additional-- instructions. That's in one. I'm going through this because-- you said-- is it fair or unfair to say you're suspicious of these memos, these particular memos?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:02:27:20

Yes. Although-- the information is correct.

DAN RATHER:

16:02:31:14

Okay. Said-- says here 19th May 1972, received a phone call from Bush. Do you remember that phone call, remember a memo about it?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:02:44:08

No. I don't remember that specifically phone call.

DAN RATHER:

16:02:48:17

'Cause it goes through what was discussed with-- with-- Mr. Bush. But you don't remember that?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:02:53:10

Well, this is one of the reasons. He-- he had the memo written, was so that the gist of the conversation would be down. (PAPER)

DAN RATHER:

16:03:04:14

And-- and he did write a memo like this?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:03:06:20

Yes.

DAN RATHER:

16:03:07:20

So, he did write a memo like this. Not--
not this one, is your contention.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:03:10:19

No.

DAN RATHER:

16:03:10:28

But one like it. Well--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:03:13:13

This is like a personal journal, you write
things--

DAN RATHER:

16:03:17:15

Is that he was keeping, more or less a
personal journal?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:03:19:10

It was more or less that, yes.

DAN RATHER:

16:03:22:18

Well, among the contentions, one of the
questions raised, one-- did or did not
George W. Bush get into the National Guard
on the basis of preferential treatment?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:03:40:27

I'm gonna say that he did. I feel that he

did. Because there were a lot of other boys in there the same way. For instance-- for instance, I understand it was his-- nephew, Senator Benson (PH)?

DAN RATHER:

16:03:56:00

Lloyd Benson, the-- U.S.--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:03:57:04

Yeah.

DAN RATHER:

16:03:57:09

--Senator.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:03:58:23

Then-- were you familiar with-- Gordon Jewelry Store?

DAN RATHER:

16:04:02:22

Of course. Anyone in Houston--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:04:04:15

That son was in. Battlestein's (PH) son was in. And the biggie was Cullen (PH), Roy Cullen's grandson.

DAN RATHER:

16:04:18:27

The Cullen family being one of the most influential oil families--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:04:21:07

Yes.

DAN RATHER:

16:04:21:15

--in the--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:04:21:29

Yes. The University of Houston was financed quite a bit by him, and yeah.

DAN RATHER:

16:04:28:05

Well, accurate or inaccurate to say that this unit was filled with people who had Republican and Democratic connections who got in on the basis of preference?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:04:42:11

At that time, yes.

DAN RATHER:

16:04:45:11

Now, you observed Lieutenant Bush yourself?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:04:50:03

Mm-hm (AFFIRM).

DAN RATHER:

16:04:50:28

Tell me about him. What kind of officer was he?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:04:56:08

He was very meticulous. He was a wonderful officer. And he went by the book. But he was a lotta fun. And he expected his people-- to follow the work also.

DAN RATHER:

16:05:14:12

This is Lieutenant Colonel Killian?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:05:16:13

Yes.

DAN RATHER:

16:05:17:00

I-- I asked you about Lieutenant Bush.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:05:19:02

Oh. I'm sorry.

DAN RATHER:

16:05:20:10

(LAUGHS) No, no. Not at all. It was my fault, I think.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:05:25:04

Now, Bush seemed to be having a good time. He didn't seem to be having any problem with the other pilots. Let me say that. But his time there is seeing that the other fellas were-- I'm gonna say this, sorta resentful

for-- of his attitude.

DAN RATHER:

16:05:55:22

And what was his attitude?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:05:57:27

Well, that he really didn't have to go by the rules.

DAN RATHER:

16:06:02:21

He didn't really have to go by the rules?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:06:05:02

It seemed that way to me.

DAN RATHER:

16:06:09:21

Well, if you can, give me some examples of how he didn't go by the rules.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:06:16:26

Well, for one thing, not taking that examination.

DAN RATHER:

16:06:20:11

His physical?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:06:22:21

At-- the physical, you know. And-- although I feel that-- he-- he did alright on the flying, the instruction that he was

receiving. But then-- there's mention there about the ER that Harris (PH) had written.

DAN RATHER:

16:06:41:20

What is an ER, by the way?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:06:43:12

Efficiency report.

DAN RATHER:

16:06:45:04

Ah. An efficiency report that--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:06:47:28

That-- once a year, an efficiency report-- you have to write an-- an efficiency report for the men that are under you, that you command.

DAN RATHER:

16:06:58:02

That's required?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:06:59:04

That's required. And one sentence that has anything derogatory in it can just mess up a career.

DAN RATHER:

16:07:09:28

So, tell me about the ER, the efficiency report, written by whom?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:07:14:08

Harris.

DAN RATHER:

16:07:15:09

Harris was whom?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:07:17:24

He was his-- Bush's instructor pilot.

DAN RATHER:

16:07:21:28

Okay. There was an efficiency report written by his instructor pilot?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:07:25:23

That is the-- well, they asked-- to sugarcoat something. And he was-- said he didn't want to. And Killian was involved in that, that-- that-- that he didn't-- that Harris should answer it honestly.

DAN RATHER:

16:07:46:05

Well, that will help us explain-- one of these memos. I didn't quite understand the sugarcoat business myself. So, if you don't mind, let me turn to that and have you explain it to me.

16:07:58:14

It says here, "I'm having trouble interference-- I'm having trouble running interference in doing my job." Does that sound like Colonel Killian?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:08:08:23

Yeah.

DAN RATHER:

16:08:09:16

Says, "Harris gave me a message today from GRP." That would be where?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:08:14:27

From group. Let's say Stout's (PH) office.

DAN RATHER:

16:08:18:28

That would be in Austin?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:08:20:22

No.

DAN RATHER:

16:08:21:24

Okay.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:08:22:19

Stout was the commander of the group.

DAN RATHER:

16:08:25:13

Stout was commander of the group. And Killian was commander of the squadron?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:08:29:29

Right.

DAN RATHER:

16:08:30:18

Got it. And where it says, "Harris gave me a message today from GRP regarding Bush's O-E-T-R."

MARIAN KNOX:

16:08:37:20

Well-- see, now that's-- that's a funny thing. It should be just ER.

DAN RATHER:

16:08:42:27

Okay. But this is his efficiency report?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:08:45:10

Yeah.

DAN RATHER:

16:08:46:16

"And Stout is pushing to sugarcoat it." Does that sound like Colonel Killian? Is that the way he felt?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:08:55:05

That's absolutely the way he felt about that.

DAN RATHER:

16:08:57:29

He thought there was an effort being made to

sugarcoat the efficiency report?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:09:01:06

Well, the fact that-- that Stout-- that Harris came to him about it and pointed out what was going on-- now, Harris objected to doing this. Because he didn't feel it was honest. And Killian didn't feel it was honest to do that.

DAN RATHER:

16:09:18:07

To give him a good efficiency report?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:09:23:18

Well, if it was dishonest.

DAN RATHER:

16:09:26:05

That's what I mean. You said they-- they didn't wanna--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:09:27:16

It (UNINTEL) be the way it is.

DAN RATHER:

16:09:31:00

Well, that seems to be-- but you tell me what this memo is about. Says here, "Bush wasn't here during rating period."

MARIAN KNOX:

16:09:38:17

Right. So, how could they really write a--
a report on him?

DAN RATHER:

16:09:45:15

So, he wasn't here during that rating
period?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:09:47:27

I don't know. That's what that says. I
don't-- I did hundreds of these.

DAN RATHER:

16:09:52:20

Sure. Well, I understand that. And-- and I
want you to tell me the best of your
recollection and only your own recollection,
your own thing (PH).

16:10:01:05

And I'm trying to get a feel, I'm trying to
find the facts, if you will. Was it common
knowledge or not that Lieutenant Bush had
not attended some-- drills?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:10:12:09

Well, they missed him. It-- it was sorta
gossip around there. But-- and they'd

snicker and so forth, about what he was getting away with.

DAN RATHER:

16:10:22:00

What Lieutenant Bush was getting away with?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:10:23:29

Yeah.

DAN RATHER:

16:10:24:24

They were snickering about that?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:10:26:14

Well, the other officers-- and I guess there was even a resentment.

DAN RATHER:

16:10:33:02

Well, in this-- what I would call the sugarcoat memo, says, "Bush wasn't here during rating period." And I don't have any feedback from the woman (PH) at 87 at Alabama. Quote, "I will not rate." Does that sound like--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:10:49:05

That's right. Because he wasn't in a position to write how he had behaved.

DAN RATHER:

16:10:54:25

He says, "Austin is not happy today, either."

MARIAN KNOX:

16:10:58:03

Well, there's your pressure.

DAN RATHER:

16:11:02:21

There's the what?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:11:03:10

There's your pressure from up above.

DAN RATHER:

16:11:06:24

Did Lieutenant-- Colonel Killian feel pressure from above?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:11:11:02

It seems that he did.

DAN RATHER:

16:11:13:17

And he says, "I will not rate. Austin is not happy, either." Well, (PAPER) let me get back to-- did you observe Lieutenant Bush yourself very often?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:11:25:03

Yes.

DAN RATHER:

16:11:26:15

Well, tell me what you saw or heard.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:11:28:03

Well, the way I observed him was, he would come into the-- operations office to get ready for a flight or so forth. And he was very gracious. He was always gentlemanly. And he called me by the name of his father's secretary.

16:11:49:04

And he-- he was always apologizing about that. He couldn't remember my name. But he was very-- gentlemanly. And I felt that-- that his parents must have been wonderful to have produced somebody as nice as that.

DAN RATHER:

16:12:10:25

And did he keep up with his work?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:12:14:09

Well, he did his flying. When he was there.

DAN RATHER:

16:12:21:26

He did his flying when he was there?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:12:23:18

Well, that's (LAUGHS) (UNINTEL) time he can be, 'cause--

DAN RATHER:

16:12:25:24

Yeah.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:12:27:14

You-- what I mean is when he reported in.

DAN RATHER:

16:12:31:09

Right.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:12:32:02

Now, I didn't keep track.

DAN RATHER:

16:12:33:21

Sorry.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:12:34:10

I-- I didn't keep an-- an absentee track on--
- on anybody.

DAN RATHER:

16:12:38:28

Sorry. I did not mean to interrupt you,
'cause I wanna hear you all the way through.
Getting at is that there is reference in
the-- the memos, in-- the we believed to be
from Colonel Killian, and I take your point

that you have deep doubts about these, is that fair to say?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:12:58:11

I-- I feel that there were originals, real ones. And I'm guessing, now this is just a guess, that maybe someone-- got a hold of that file, maybe after Killian's death (PH). You know, they cart (PH) stuff off. And read it, and was all interested.

16:13:23:27

However, they did-- they were aware of his behavior. And he probably told the story to one of his friends, an Army buddy. This is guess. Because there's definitely Army references in there, language, let me put.

DAN RATHER:

16:13:50:02

You said they were clearing stuff out or cleansing the stuff out.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:13:53:15

I-- I'm-- I'm talking about if the file--

DAN RATHER:

16:13:57:29

I see.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:13:59:16

--was still in his desk, and-- and he kept it under lock and key and now--

DAN RATHER:

16:14:04:06

Colonel Killian kept it under--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:14:05:00

Yeah.

DAN RATHER:

16:14:05:04

--his lock and key?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:14:05:26

Now, it may be that when Bush was gone and that was be-- after I left, I don't know, but I left in '79. And I don't know exactly when it was that-- that Bush left. I think it was before that.

16:14:25:24

There would be a time when I'm sure that-- that he would probably destroy it or put it in a-- hide it in a place. And he would keep it until he thought that he was safe. Now, that is gon-- is gonna-- you (UNINTEL) up on that one. (LAUGHTER)

DAN RATHER:

16:14:46:21

I did.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:14:50:15

He felt that there was-- the way that they treated his-- treatment of Bush, expecting all of this and that the-- someone could come up on it, bring him up or look at certain actions of his and look at it in the wrong way. And he could get in trouble. This was to cover his back.

DAN RATHER:

16:15:16:19

These memos that you know--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:15:17:18

I would say.

DAN RATHER:

16:15:17:21

--he wrote?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:15:18:09

Yes.

DAN RATHER:

16:15:18:28

Not these mem--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:15:19:24

Not these.

DAN RATHER:

16:15:20:28

But memos that he wrote--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:15:22:07

Yeah.

DAN RATHER:

16:15:22:11

--you think were clear to cover his back?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:15:24:08

Yeah.

DAN RATHER:

16:15:25:19

And he would need to cover his back because?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:15:30:29

For the upper (PH)-- maybe the person that used a little influence to get him in.

DAN RATHER:

16:15:41:10

Now, I'm reading off of the notes I have-- the memos we have, ones we have in hand, I note-- your suspicions about them, your serious suspicions about 'em.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:15:59:18

I'm not only suspicious. I am positive.

DAN RATHER:

16:16:02:26

Right. But you're positive that--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:16:05:27 That's not my work.

DAN RATHER:

16:16:07:13 That's not your work?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:16:08:09 No.

DAN RATHER:

16:16:09:13 Granted. But do they or do they not represent what you know to have happened in the National Guard and with Lieutenant Bush?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:16:18:10 They do represent it, yes.

DAN RATHER:

16:16:22:01 And-- I'm interested. How and why did you come forward? How did that happen?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:16:27:25 I read an article in the paper. And I said-- well first of all, the thing-- there was someone on TV from the White House that was talking about these memos and said that they were all lies, that those were made up by the Democrats. And that's one time I really

lost my-- (LAUGHS) lost it. Then this article comes out in the paper with the memos. And I read it. I said, "I didn't type those. I didn't type 'em at all." And then my neighbor, she's with us (PH), came over.

16:17:10:12

And we got to talking about-- we were concerned about you being in trouble. And I got to thinking about it the next day. And I thought, "Well, you're concerned about it. Do something about it." So, I called the paper. I called the Chronicle and left a message. The next thing I know, I get a call from the Chronicle representative that-- in New York or Washington. And-- but no interview, she didn't interview me. There was just another message.

DAN RATHER:

16:17:45:05

They didn't talk to you about it?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:17:46:13

No. And so, I thought well, that's it. And

then my son Dan called somebody and said
there's a secretary, Marian Carr. And so
then, a reporter from Dallas contacted me.

DAN RATHER:

16:18:08:29

And what did you tell that reporter?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:18:12:08

Just the story. He asked me some questions
and I told him the story, more or less the
same thing I've told you.

DAN RATHER:

16:18:21:27

And--

16:18:22:22

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

* * *END OF TRANSCRIPT* * *

CBS NEWS - 60 MINUTES WEEKEND

"BUSH GUARD"

INTERVIEW WITH MARIAN KNOX

CORRESPONDENT: DAN RATHER

PRODUCER: MAPES

TAPE #2

* * *TRANSCRIBER'S NOTE: A LITTLE BIT OF OVER-MIKING. SOMETIMES DIFFICULT
TO UNDERSTAND. BEST EFFORT.* * *

DAN RATHER:

16:20:08:19

But you were telling me that-- you neighbor
came over and--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:20:12:21

Yeah, she came over. And we were
discussing. She-- She-- She reads
everything, political and so forth. And-- I
g-- got to talkin' about-- the (UNINTEL).
And then she said, "Dan's in real trouble."
She's quite a fan of yours.

DAN RATHER:

16:20:37:23

I appreciate that.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:20:38:24

And I said, "You're a f--" And then we got

off on it.

DAN RATHER:

16:20:43:04

You said you were watching television and someone from the White House was up saying--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:20:48:28

And I don't know who was interviewing this person, but he was quite excited about these memos. And he said that they were all lies. They were put out by Democrats to discredit Bush.

DAN RATHER:

16:21:06:22

And when you would talk back to the television, you said what to them?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:21:13:14

Well, it wasn't nice language for a woman (UNINTEL).

DAN RATHER:

16:21:16:03

Well, clean it up a little, and tell me what you said. And what you thought.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:21:23:09

That they were goddamn lies. That he was telling.

DAN RATHER:

16:21:33:00

I wanna be absolutely--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:21:34:22

Then I-- Then I read the stuff in the paper.
And then I knew wh-- exactly what he was
talking about.

DAN RATHER:

16:21:44:14

And when you read in the paper, you said to
yourself what?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:21:48:15

I didn't type those.

DAN RATHER:

16:21:50:23

You didn't type those. And about the
information in them?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:21:55:23

Well, I knew the information was correct,
but then I later discussed this with Colonel
Kelly and-- not Kelly, Vie (PH) about what
was in there. And he agreed with me that it
was correct.

DAN RATHER:

16:22:11:18

Now who's he?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:22:12:23 He was one of the instructor pilots out there. He worked--

DAN RATHER:

16:22:17:08 Is he still living?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:22:18:12 Yes, he works very-- he worked very close with Jerry (PH). Li-- Liked him very much.

DAN RATHER:

16:22:23:21 (UNINTEL).

MARIAN KNOX:

16:22:24:12 Yes. Uh-huh (AFF).

DAN RATHER:

16:22:27:10 And this is-- What is it? Via?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:22:28:10 Via. V-I-A. It looks like "via."

DAN RATHER:

16:22:31:10 Uh-huh (AFF). His first name?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:22:34:20 Doug. He's a-- a business man in the Clear Lake area. He w-- While he was piloting, he happened to take some outside work and it

was with installing-- burglar alarms and so forth. You know, security systems in the new housing that was going in there. And he's gotta million dollar business now.

DAN RATHER:

16:23:04:18

Wonderful for him. But he called you? Or you called him?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:23:08:05

(COUGHING) He called me, because I couldn't find his number. And so for some reason for other-- Well, I know. He'd been talking to Colonel Hodges (PH) and so forth, and they had been discussing this stuff. And so then he called me, and he did agree. And he said, he talked to Hodges about this, and he said, "You know, Marian didn't put out work like that. That she kept all of us in line." And Hodges agreed with him.

DAN RATHER:

16:23:46:12

Did he-- What's his name, Via?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:23:48:23

Via.

DAN RATHER:

16:23:49:10 Via.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:23:50:12 You pronounce it--

DAN RATHER:

16:23:53:03 Did Mr. Via who had helped train pilots during this period, did he agree or disagree that the information was correct?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:24:00:11 He knew that it was correct. He did.

DAN RATHER:

16:24:02:19 He knew this is correct (SIC)?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:24:03:00 Yes. Although he was the one that thought out the fact that there was a discrepancy in the date for-- that was up here. That it was-- That Stout (PH) had resigned before that.

DAN RATHER:

16:24:21:03 True, but it was my-- Well, correct me if I'm wrong, and I understand that you may not know. But I've been told that although

General Stout got out of the National Guard,
that he remained a-- a heavy influence in
the Guard.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:24:37:08

So it seems.

DAN RATHER:

16:24:39:19

I wanna go back to this former training
instructor. It was or was not his position,
the information in the memos is true, but
that the memos themselves, we don't believe
that they're the actual memos? Was that the
situation or not?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:24:57:22

That's it.

DAN RATHER:

16:24:58:05

And he had been talking to Colonel Hodges?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:25:00:04

No (SIC)-- Now, wait a minute.

DAN RATHER:

16:25:03:23

Sure.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:25:06:08

What you're saying-- Who-- Who did this

discussion?

DAN RATHER:

16:25:12:01

Oh (SIC). That's what I wanna know from you. I'm-- I'm trying to follow a line of thought. That you talked to him by telephone.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:25:18:19

Yeah.

DAN RATHER:

16:25:19:24

And he was discussing--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:25:20:29

Well, he asked me if I'd seen the thing. And I said, "No, I had not seen 'em (SIC)."
He said, "I'll fax 'em to you." Which he did. But then we got to discussing what was in it and so forth, and he did agree that the information was correct.

DAN RATHER:

16:25:37:09

So, he agreed the information was correct. He had been talking, you said, to Colonel Hodges.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:25:42:27

Yes.

DAN RATHER:

16:25:42:00

Bobby Hodges whom we spoke to in preparing the report. Did he indicate that-- what Bobby Hodges thought about the information?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:25:57:04

I feel that he did. But I w-- I won't take an oath on that.

DAN RATHER:

16:26:02:08

I understand. He-- That was just your feeling that he did.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:26:04:02

Yeah.

DAN RATHER:

16:26:05:09

But I'm-- I'm wondering--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:26:05:28

Well, from the conversation, I-- I got the gist of it that-- that he and Bobby discussed this thing. And yes, what was-- that it (SIC) was true. But-- And Marian hadn't typed that.

DAN RATHER:

16:26:21:21

It's a small point, but it may be an important point that when we-- before we broadcast the report and when we talked to Colonel Hodges-- Was he ever a General by the way?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:26:32:08

Oh yeah, he-- he retired as a General (SIC).

DAN RATHER:

16:26:34:10

Sorry, I was confused. We-- Before we did the broadcast, we called General Hodges, and we wanted him to do an on camera interview and-- when he received the documents. And he didn't wanna do that. But he was read portions of the memos, and he told us that, yes, that sounds familiar to me. He pointed out that he, General Hodges, like President Bush was a-- a Republican, felt good about him. But basically his answer was "Yes, I'm familiar with the information that you are reading to me."

16:27:13:00

Then later, he said, well, that we had not represented him properly. I wanna be fair to General Hodges, 'cuz I respect his service. He said, "Well, I-- I don't think the memos are real." My point is he--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:27:29:15

Well, now, (UNINTEL) said the-- the memos were real, what-- what he was referring to was these memos, but not the information.

DAN RATHER:

16:27:41:19

The way the memos came out, he doesn't think they're real, but the information. That's my point.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:27:47:03

Yes. That--

DAN RATHER:

16:27:45:28

Is there an-- any-- Is there any doubt in your mind that--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:27:49:02

There's no doubt in my mind that information is correct.

DAN RATHER:

16:27:54:08

Uh-huh (AFF). Okay, I-- I find it interesting that General Hodges (UNINTEL)--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:27:58:22

That he waffled (SIC) on this.

DAN RATHER:

16:28:01:19

Well, to be fair to him, I'm not sure that he waffled. I think if I'm fair that he-- he told us he was familiar with the information. He said that sounds like Killian (PH) (UNINTEL). And he also said, by the way, that Colonel Killian was a straight shooter, although I've cleaned up that description just a little. But said he was a by-the-book military person.

16:28:23:02

I don't wanna get bogged down on this, but I find it interesting that after we did our report thereabouts (SIC), General Hodges calls this other man who was a trainer of pilots (UNINTEL) and then they called you. What was the purpose of calling you?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:28:39:14

Well, Via called me just to get my a-- reaction I think.

DAN RATHER:

16:28:46:16

But you clearly remember his saying that he thought the information was correct, but that the memos themselves didn't strike--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:28:53:27

Oh, I know. I-- I know that he said that. Be-- Because we did discuss that at length.

DAN RATHER:

16:29:00:28

Right. I wanna go back to how Colonel Killian felt about Lieutenant Bush not taking the physical.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:29:11:02

Well, he was upset that he didn't take the physical, but he knew what was-- prob-- why, because Bush had explained that he wanted to take the physical in Alabama.

DAN RATHER:

16:29:30:09

Two things I wanna clear up. To your knowledge, and if you have no knowledge of

it, tell me; that this efficiency report that every officer's supposed to have, we've been unable to find and so far as I know nobody else has been able to find an efficiency report written for this last period when Lieutenant Bush was at Ellington (SIC). Why would that be?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:29:55:10

Well, it came out and Killian said he would not weigh (SIC) him, because he hadn't been present (SIC). How can you rank (SIC) somebody-- Oh, and you could put some bad things down about him (SIC).

DAN RATHER:

16:30:15:01

Is or is not-- that was meant (SIC) by-- wasn't able to sugar-coat it.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:30:23:24

Well, I think what they meant by the effort to sugar-co-- sugar-coat would be somebody writes something in there.

DAN RATHER:

16:30:30:11

Right. (UNINTEL). Now-- I-- If you read

the information, and you said the information's correct, I take your point and I take it seriously that you didn't type these memos and you have very serious questions about their authenticity. In fact, you don't think they're authentic. Is that fair to say?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:30:56:11

No, those are not authentic.

DAN RATHER:

16:30:57:13

Okay, not authentic. But the information (UNINTEL)--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:31:00:21

But the information is correct.

DAN RATHER:

16:31:02:06

Understood. Now, and that's important. Both those points are important. But-- That it sounds like, it reads like, and you have said that then Lieutenant Bush was not obeying an order. I wanna make clear do you think he failed to obey that order?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:31:26:23

Well, there's no record of his having the--
taking the physical examination.

DAN RATHER:

16:31:33:01

Now, Colonel Killian's son with whom I have
no argument and I respect the Killian family
tremendously for the sacrifice that they
made when their husband and father was
serving in our military, Colonel Killian's
son says that this isn't true.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:31:53:01

He has no way of knowing whether it's true
or not.

DAN RATHER:

16:31:59:24

Now, I wanna pause for a second, because
first of all, I appreciate you're coming and
I appreciate your being truthful, even when
the truth's--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:32:08:02

Hurts, huh?

DAN RATHER:

16:32:10:25

(UNINTEL)-- No, is-- is-- hurts and is not--

you know, it's not in keeping with what I believe. But I want to back off for a moment. Just take a breath. And think a little and have you tell me what you believe the story here is.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:32:31:28

Well, I think it's plain and simple. Bush didn't think that he had to go by the rules that others did. And he had this campaign to take care of, and that's what he was gonna do. And that's what he did do.

DAN RATHER:

16:32:50:12

Near the end of his time in Houston, we don't know much of anything; in fact, we know nothing about the Alabama time. But in the time he was in Houston, we know that he trained for and did fly the F-102 (UNINTEL). But the record indicates that near the end he was not flying that aircraft.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:33:11:23

Well, we had a change in aircraft. And I don't know whether he was involved in that

or not, but there was a change in aircraft. And they required like the 102's, there would be one person in it. And this new aircraft, there were two. The pilot and a weapons system officer. In fact, my son was the first one to sign up as the weapon sister o-- system officer there (SIC).

DAN RATHER:

16:33:43:25

The reason I ask about this, and I don't wanna get bogged down on it, and if you have no knowledge of it--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:33:48:19

Okay.

DAN RATHER:

16:33:48:00

--by all means, just say, that the Associated Press looking through some recently r-- released records, not these (UNINTEL) records, indicated that a-- at the end he was-- Lieutenant Bush was not flying 102's, he was flying only training aircraft. Do you remember that? (UNINTEL)--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:34:07:13

Well, the training aircraft would be the T-33's or the flight simulator.

DAN RATHER:

16:34:13:10

Flight simulator's on the ground though.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:34:16:25

Yeah. Uh-huh (AFF). But you fly 'em. I mean they don't take off, but you do fly 'em.

DAN RATHER:

16:34:21:27

But do you have any knowledge about that? Do you have any recollection of that?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:34:24:29

No.

DAN RATHER:

16:34:25:08

You've been very patient with me, and I appreciate it. I'm gonna come back-- I asked you what you thought the story was here. And in your judgment you were there. You were at the right-hand of Colonel Killian. You were his right-hand in many ways.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:34:41:03

Right.

DAN RATHER:

16:34:40:13

In considering all of this information, I get the sense that some you know people are confused. They don't quite know whether your judgment should be-- be talking about here (SIC).

MARIAN KNOX:

16:34:55:20

Well, I don't think that it's-- I think that we're making too much of a-- a to-do about these things, because they're garbage. But the things that they state in there are true.

DAN RATHER:

16:35:14:02

Is there anything else you're willing to say about this while I'm going over my list of things and just double-checking here? Anything you wanna say about this?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:35:23:12

Well, you haven't asked me what my politics are.

DAN RATHER:

16:35:29:03 Well, what are your politics?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:35:32:04 I'm a registered Democrat.

DAN RATHER:

16:35:35:29 Have you voted for President Bush?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:35:36:15 No.

DAN RATHER:

16:35:38:21 Either President Bush?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:35:39:28 No.

DAN RATHER:

16:35:40:03 Why?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:35:44:03 Well, I didn't know (SIC)-- I-- I so-- I have voted Republican. But I select the man that I think is fit for the job. That's the person I vote for.

DAN RATHER:

16:35:56:09 By the way, we will certainly note that you're a registered Democrat. And that

people can make their judgments about that. If President Bush-- President Bush has not talked about his National Guard service very much in the campaign, almost not at all.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:36:14:29

And I think that he should. Maybe it didn't turn out the way he wanted. But he should say, "I did serve. I enjoyed it or I didn't."

DAN RATHER:

16:36:29:18

Well, what questions do you think he should answer, if any?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:36:35:16

I don't know.

DAN RATHER:

16:36:35:20

No, that's-- that's a fair answer. If you don't know and it's a truthful answer, I appreciate that. Do you think this is important? You've lived a long time. You've had a lot of experiences--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:36:49:06

I think the-- the-- the man that we choose

to be President is very important. And we should all think about it. And vote. Now I was brought up-- My mother was very active in politics, and it was a mortal sin if you didn't vote. (LAUGHTER) (UNINTEL)-- I raised my kids that way too and want them to-- to be sure that they voted. So they do vote. But-- I-- I just don't feel that he's qualified to be President.

DAN RATHER:

16:37:26:12

Well, of course, everyone's entitled to their own view.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:37:27:23

Yeah.

DAN RATHER:

16:37:28:28

What I meant by the question was that we have Iraq, we have the economy, here we are talking about military service a long while ago. Do you think that's important?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:37:42:16

Really no. I don't feel that it's important. I don't think it should have any

bearing on whether he's President or not, although it can indicate whether a person is a leader.

DAN RATHER:

16:38:04:28

You know, I-- I appreciate your coming, and I appreciate your candor and your being truthful with me, even when you might say to me, "Well, some of these truths hurt." But a lot of people are reluctant to come forward. We've had great difficulty getting people coming forward. Why are people reluctant to come forward and-- and level and say, "Listen, I was there, and this is what happened with Lieutenant Bush?"

MARIAN KNOX:

16:38:29:04

I'll tell ya how I was raised, and I raised my boys this way, stand up and be counted. If you have an opinion, voice it. Don't hide.

DAN RATHER:

16:38:49:06

Is there anything else you wanna say about this? Anything that you are aching to say

or feel is important to say?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:38:54:05

No. I've-- If Bush is elected again, of course, he's our President, and I will support him.

DAN RATHER:

16:39:06:10

We all will.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:39:09:08

But I feel he's made mistakes, and I don't want more mistakes made.

DAN RATHER:

16:39:15:25

Well, I thank you again for coming. We're gonna cut to cameras for a minute. I'm gonna take a glass of water and think a little bit. And we're either finished or at-- near the finish.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:39:23:14

Okay.

DAN RATHER:

16:39:24:17

When was the last time you were in New York?

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

MARIAN KNOX:

16:39:28:23

Oh, about ten years ago.

DAN RATHER:

16:39:29:25

Uh-huh (AFF). Did you see any shows while you were here then?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:39:33:11

Yes.

DAN RATHER:

16:39:33:16

Do you remember what you saw?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:39:36:09

No, I fell asleep.

DAN RATHER:

16:39:39:11

(LAUGHTER) That sometimes happens. Do you ever go to the theatre while you're in Houston?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:39:42:06

You know, I haven't been to the theatre in years. I really--

DAN RATHER:

16:39:46:28

Well, you should go.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:39:49:18

I read.

DAN RATHER:

16:39:50:03

What are you reading now?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:39:54:13

A Kite-- The Kite Runner.

DAN RATHER:

16:39:56:09

Is it good?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:39:59:08

Very good. It's about the customs of people in Afghanistan.

DAN RATHER:

16:40:04:29

Oh, I read a review of that book. I haven't read the book, but I read a review of--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:40:07:25

It's-- It's very interesting.

DAN RATHER:

16:40:08:13

Excuse me one second. Do we need--

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

DAN RATHER:

16:40:26:21

There are no secrets here. She was just reminding me there were two-- two things--

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

DAN RATHER:

16:40:33:08

--that-- that in the conversation you had with Miss Scott, Lucy Scott-- She works with us. Just-- I just wanna ask you two more questions.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:40:44:05

Go ahead.

DAN RATHER:

16:40:45:16

There are no secrets and no-- It's just there are two areas that I didn't ask you about that I probably should have. This-- What this is is notes. When--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:40:57:13

I-- I know. She wrote those notes sitting beside me on the plane, so--

DAN RATHER:

16:41:00:08

So you're familiar.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:41:02:11

Yeah.

DAN RATHER:

16:41:01:18

Well, I don't want you to be surprised by anything. That's the whole point.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:41:03:23

Yeah. She explained that's why she was asking me those questions.

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

DAN RATHER:

16:43:10:15

I'm puzzled why he wouldn't take the physical. I-- I-- I continue to be puzzled.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:43:14:17

Because it-- he didn't feel that it was important probably. That he would probably be leaving the Guard. Now this is suppositions. (UNINTEL) it-- it would be explanation for some of it. He didn't intend to go on in flying i-- i-- is what it really looks like.

DAN RATHER:

16:43:35:12

And so if he attended any meetings in Alabama, you would think there'd be a record of that or somebody would have seen him or something.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:43:40:18

I know. But we didn't get any record back

or Killian didn't.

DAN RATHER:

16:43:47:03

Well, that's what-- what one reference in there is saying. We-- You know, I-- I-- I hadn't no--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:43:51:04

Well, that's why you would-- they wouldn't rate (SIC) him.

DAN RATHER:

16:43:56:09

Uh-huh (AFF). Okay, thanks. You were there. What happened when he went to Alabama? Why would he want to go to Alabama? What-- What was all that about?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:44:11:26

My understanding was that he was going to assist in a campaign, a political (UNINTEL) campaign. At one point, I thought it was his father, and I couldn't figure that one out. But I learned since that it was somebody else. That it was not his father.

DAN RATHER:

16:44:32:07

It was a friend of his father (UNINTEL)--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:44:35:01

Well-- that may be (SIC).

DAN RATHER:

16:44:36:18

But my point is it was a-- what ha-- what happened with him at the Guard? I mean it's pretty clear that in the first couple of years at least he was there. That he did learn to fly. And he was--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:44:50:04

Well, maybe he felt that they couldn't get him, Vietnam. Now this is supposition. But there must have been some big thing, because he could have been awarded to active duty.

DAN RATHER:

16:45:08:02

You mean because he hadn't (UNINTEL) his physical and--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:45:11:06

Well-- due to the fact that h-- that he went off of flying and he wasn't performing in the Guard. If he was subject to service, yes, they could have called him in.

DAN RATHER:

16:45:23:14

That didn't happen. He wound up getting an Honorable Discharge.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:45:27:18

Yeah.

DAN RATHER:

16:45:28:25

I wanna go back to that time when it's clear that for a while he-- he did his training, he flew his plane. But what happened?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:45:38:00

And (UNINTEL)-- He and h-- Kelly had a very good time together.

DAN RATHER:

16:45:44:29

But what happened? Did it--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:45:46:00

I don't know.

DAN RATHER:

16:45:47:11

Did he stop coming to (UNINTEL)?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:45:48:08

Well, that w-- that's what the first thing was. He stopped coming, because he was in Alabama.

DAN RATHER:

16:45:57:13

But he--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:45:57:08

And-- And he wasn't up to compu-- commuting.
Let's say that.

DAN RATHER:

16:46:03:29

Well (UNINTEL) not just in the memos, but
there are other indications that he lost
interest in the Guard and didn't come to
drills.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:46:15:18

Now that part of it, I'm not familiar with.

DAN RATHER:

16:46:17:27

Okay, fair enough. You're not familiar with
it, you're not familiar with it.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:46:19:16

No.

DAN RATHER:

16:46:22:23

You said that he was-- he had good manners.
He was nicely behaved, complimented his
parents for raising a son with those kinds
of manners. Did he misbehave? Did he have

a reputation of misbehaving?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:46:39:11

Uh, well, he and Killian had a little escapade. I don't know whether you heard about it. They had been night-fight-- Now I don't want this published. But everyone knew about it. Everyone knew about it. It was a big laugh.

16:46:55:25

He and Killian were flying at night, and they came down and they went to the Officer's Club. And they went in, and they were asked to leave, because they were in their flight suit. And that's not allowed in the club. So they left. But then they came back in, stark naked.

DAN RATHER:

16:47:20:04

Did they stay?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:47:21:08

No, they didn't stay. (LAUGHTER) They were thrown out! And they-- they were-- They couldn't go into the club for quite a while

after that.

DAN RATHER:

16:47:31:21

Yeah. Well, first of all, you said, well, you didn't want this published, and I wanna be completely fair with you that you know we were-- we were rolling on that part. And you-- you said on the one hand, you didn't want it published, and then you said, well, everybody knew.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:47:48:29

Well--

DAN RATHER:

16:47:50:08

Where should we leave that?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:47:56:00

Well, he can't deny it.

DAN RATHER:

16:47:59:20

In some ways, he might not even want to deny it.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:48:02:02

But that-- that was during the time when-- when he was-- let's say that he was an alcoholic for a while.

DAN RATHER:

16:48:10:12

You think he was?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:48:14:23

He admits it. When did he-- You know when he got religion? It was because of-- He went through that period-- He had been drinking and so forth, and he gave it up and joined a church.

DAN RATHER:

16:48:31:10

That was later. But I-- I wanna pause for a second, 'cuz you said something that I didn't know. I mean it is well known, and he's acknowledged that he had drinking problems when he was young.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:48:40:12

Yeah, w--

DAN RATHER:

16:48:43:16

What he-- What he calls his Wild Years. However, I did not know that he had a reputation for drinking and that you described a-- fair to say, a problem with alcohol or not? While he was in the Guard.

That's my point.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:48:59:21

Now I don't know that he ever ca-- Well, there's an example of going to the Officer's Club. And now I'm not saying he got drunk. But at that particular, he-- he was kicked out. But he was up to pulling things. Of course, you'd have to talk to some of the sergeants about that.

DAN RATHER:

16:49:23:16

(UNINTEL). Well, and-- and I don't wanna joke about this, because--

MARIAN KNOX:

16:49:25:19

It-- It's serious.

DAN RATHER:

16:49:26:00

--First of all alcoholism is a-- is a serious disease.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:49:31:12

I know. My son Pat is an alcoholic.

DAN RATHER:

16:49:33:29

Also it-- it's one of those things that when I try to be careful with my reputation, I

wanna be careful with other people's reputation. But since you raised it, my question is did he have a reputation during this period while he was in the Guard of being a drinker?

MARIAN KNOX:

16:49:53:22

Yeah, not that I knew of, other than the-- that little escapade.

DAN RATHER:

16:49:58:09

I understand. Now, I'm just going over-- I don't need to go over this. I think we're there. Mary?

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

DAN RATHER:

16:50:09:20

I'm gonna tell you once more I appreciate you coming and doing this. We have two other things to do, and then we're finished.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:50:14:09

Well, I hope you can get this thing straightened out the way you want it.

DAN RATHER:

16:50:18:19

Well, the main thing's to get it

straightened out. Whether it's straightened out the way I want it (UNINTEL) matter. But-- I think you'd agree it's important to get-- get things straight.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:50:27:17

Yes.

DAN RATHER:

16:50:29:00

And there is a-- a history of President Bush's military service which is not consistent, it's at odds with the information in these memos. And you know one of the things reporters do is ask questions and keep on asking questions and try to get to the-- to the truth.

16:50:49:05

Yes, I understand what you're saying. I don't wanna put words in your mouth. I can say very clearly that you think what's in the memos is true.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:50:56:08

Yes.

DAN RATHER:

16:50:59:27

But that these memos were not memos that you typed, and you don't, in fact, think they came directly out of his files.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:51:09:22

The information, yes. It-- It-- It seems that somebody did see those memos, and then tried to reproduce and-- and maybe change them enough so that he wouldn't get in trouble over it.

DAN RATHER:

16:51:25:28

I understand.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:51:27:07

Could deny it.

DAN RATHER:

16:51:29:12

I understand.

MARIAN KNOX:

16:51:28:25

Tha-- That's all supposition.

DAN RATHER:

16:51:32:22

I understand. You have all the two-shots you need, Dennis?

(OFF-MIKE CONVERSATION)

* * *END OF AUDIO* * *

* * *END OF TRANSCRIPT* * *