

Charles Marston
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A Bottle of Coke

Charles Marston remembers a close encounter with President Harry S. Truman.
Interview recorded August 28, 2014

Senator Carl Hatch—not too sure on his first name but I think I’m right on that—of New Mexico, bought me Coke every morning. And I would stand in the middle of the snack bar, right off the first floor, and we would have our Coke every morning. He would buy of course. Short story I can tell you on that. President Truman was the Vice President in those days I recall. And Sergeant Byers was a Capitol cop at the entrance to the Senate Wing on the first floor. This one morning Sergeant Byers came roaring in, running into the little snack bar, and said, “Charlie, Truman is here.” Oh, my goodness, I’m through. And breathing very profusely, very upset, I just knew I’d lose my job. I didn’t lose my job. Well, about two weeks later, Truman came in. And I was sitting on the little ice-cream-parlor type chair out in front of the elevator. Very demonstrative, he looked at his watch and says, “Charlie, I must be running late. I see you’ve already had your Coke.” The Coke bottle was under the chair, the old glass bottle.