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## Cote, Paul A. oral history interview

Mike Richard

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## **Interview with Paul A. Cote by Mike Richard**

*Summary Sheet and Transcript*

### **Interviewee**

Cote, Paul A.

### **Interviewer**

Richard, Mike

### **Date**

August 4, 1999

### **Place**

Lewiston, Maine

### **ID Number**

MOH 129

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### **Biographical Note**

Paul A. Cote was born in Lewiston, Maine on January 13, 1930. He attended St. Patrick's parochial schools and Lewiston High School, Colby College and Boston University Law School. He belonged to the Young Republicans, and became a municipal court judge under Governor John H. Reed, 1960-1965. He was Chair of the school board in 1962, nominated by Georges Rancourt, and Chair of the failed Charter Commission in 1970. He died October 12, 2003.

### **Scope and Content Note**

Interview includes discussions of: 1969-1972 presidential campaign; Republican Party in Maine; Democratic Party in Maine; Lewiston community history; political career of Rose Marie; Cote was last municipal court judge in Lewiston before it became full-time state district court; Governor's Council; ethnic tensions growing up (French vs. Irish); anecdote about Governor Jim Longley; Old Lewiston City Charter; Paul A. Cote, Jr.'s rise to district court judgeship; Louis Jalbert's move to eliminate September voting in Maine; 1968 Republican National Convention in Miami; Great Depression--Lewiston (Bates Mill Strikes); WGAN; and Adrian Cote (sister): first female boxing judge in the world.

## **Indexed Names**

Berman, Ben  
Berman, David V.  
Bush, George, 1924-  
Bush, George W. (George Walker), 1946-  
Butler, John  
Butler, Rose Marie  
Carbonneau, Richard "Dick"  
Carignan, Jim  
Clifford, Robert  
Clinton, Bill, 1946-  
Costello, Jimmy  
Cote, Adrian A.  
Cote, Jack  
Cote, Joanne  
Cote, John  
Cote, Julie  
Cote, Paul A.  
Couturier, Robert  
Delahanty, Tom  
Despins, Fernand  
Dillon, [Clarence] Douglas  
Doucette, Florence  
Dufresne, Armand  
Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969  
Ellington, Duke  
Emmi, Tony  
Fales, Roscoe H.  
Ford, Gerald R., 1913-  
Gagne, Louis Philippe  
Gingrich, Newt  
Goldwater, Barry M. (Barry Morris), 1909-1998  
Hamann, Richard G.  
Hoy, Parker  
Isaacson, Harris  
Isaacson, Phil  
Jalbert, Louis  
Johnson, Lyndon B. (Lyndon Baines), 1908-1973  
King, Angus  
Lessard, Al  
Linnell, Frank

Longley, James, Sr.  
Longley, James, Jr.  
Malenfant, Ernest  
Marden, Robert  
Marshall, John  
McBrien, Richard P.  
McCurry, Mike  
McKernan, John  
Mitchell, George J. (George John), 1933-  
Mulready, James  
Muskie, Edmund S., 1914-1996  
Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913-1994  
Orestis, John  
Perot, H. Ross  
Philoen, James E.  
Rancourt, Georges  
Reagan, Ronald  
Redding, Harold  
Reed, John H. (John Hathaway), 1921-  
Ricker, George  
Robinson, Maria  
Robinson, Peter  
Rockefeller, Nelson A. (Nelson Aldrich), 1908-1979  
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945  
Scales, Damon  
Skelton, Harold  
Wood, Frank

## **Transcript**

**Mike Richard:** The date is August 4th, 1999, we're here at the law offices of Paul A. Cote in Lewiston, Maine. And, interviewing is Mike Richard. And, Mr. Cote, could you please state your full name and spell it?

**Paul Cote:** Yes, it's Paul A. Cote, or Coté with an accent *aigu* over the 'e'.

**MR:** And when was your date of birth?

**PC:** January 13th, 1930.

**MR:** And where were you born?

**PC:** I was born in Lewiston at St. Mary's Hospital, and my mother at the time developed

arthritis, and she stayed in for sixty days and I stayed with her at the hospital. And I got spoiled rotten by the nurses.

**MR:** And so you've lived in Lewiston all your life?

**PC:** Yes, I'm the youngest of three children. I have two sisters, Adrian, who is now seventy-five years of age, and her married name is Emmi, E-M-M-I. And that's an interesting story because both Tony, her husband, and Adrian bought my grandfather's farm, which is a hundred and ten acres way out near No Name Pond on the Old Green Road. So they're living there now, and that's where my grandparents used to live. My other sister is Rose Marie. Her name is Butler, she lives on Webster Street, and she's been very active, involved in politics, and she still is in the Republican politics. Rose Marie didn't get active in politics until, oh, I would say twenty years ago. But, she was very active, and as a matter of fact she ran for the state senate, and she lost by three hundred votes in Lewiston, okay? And that's probably eighteen years ago, and then she went to work for the legislature, and then she came back. She ran again but didn't win. And she ran for the house against [George] Ricker, who is now deceased, and she didn't win that either. She has served on the school board, and she's served on the final charter board that changed Lewiston's city charter to where it now stands. She's very active in Republican politics. She's gone to national conventions as a delegate, and she's I believe now the Androscoggin County, county chairman, well, I know she's on the state committee for the Republican P

Myself, I became interested in politics because of dad. And my father was an attorney, and I've, you know, when he passed the Bar exam, which was 1935, I was five years old. So from then on my dad was an attorney, and he became very active in Republican politics. And so that I used to follow dad around, and I used to go around with him every two years during the campaigns. I used to enjoy it quite a lot.

My sisters and I both have parents that are Francos, almost a hundred percent through and through. And we've traced it back thirteen or fourteen generations, and it goes back to Canada before it goes back to France. So my mother was a Doucette, and in her family there were twenty children born and thirteen survived. And that was the Doucette family in Lewiston, and it's spelled D-O-U-C-E-T-T-E. The history shows, however, that it was really D-O-U-C-E-T, and what happened is that names got confused, oh, about six generations ago. Two brothers got into an argument, and one changed his name to D-O-U-C-E-T-T-E, and that's the branch that mother comes from. Funny thing is, though, I have a cousin that a couple of years ago when he heard that, changed his name back to D-O-U-C-E-T. He lives in Lewiston.

But my sisters and I went to St. Patrick's parochial school and the reason being that our parents wanted us to learn how to speak English. And in the process I unfortunately forgot an awful lot of French, and I don't speak it fluently today, but I do speak to clients who only speak in French, so I can understand a great deal of it.

That being the case, though, back in 1955 when I got out of BU law school, I went into practice

with father, and politics used to be very different from what it is today. It was a one-on-one situation, or else it was a speaking in front of a group. And all you had to do in those days was to get the group together so that somebody could come out and address it. And it wasn't as flamboyant as it is today, and it wasn't as dirty as it is today, but I remember that it started to get dirty in the '50s, that's the way I remember it.

And I know the incident that involved Senator Muskie in New Hampshire, Manchester, was a cheap shot at what, he was protecting his wife who is a French person. And in the process he started to break down and cry, and that ruined his chances for going on to become a serious candidate for the presidency. Come to find out, and I know this, that the dirty tricks group came up from Florida and had subverted that whole kind of thing, so that was beginning to happen in those days, and of course it's ruining rife today, you know.

But, yeah, I was raised in Lewiston, I was born in Lewiston, I went to Lewiston schools until I graduated from high school and went on Colby College. Graduated, I graduated Lewiston High School in 1948. In those days I used to play an awful lot of sports, and I was state champ in, our high school team had a state championship. And so did, I participated in track, and I was state champ in the broad jump and held second places in some of the runs. And so I, when, in those days St. Dominic's High School came into being and started to participate, and a lot of the French boys and girls left Lewiston High School and went to St. Dominic's High School, and that tended to destroy the effectiveness of what Lewiston High School used to be. And I participated in a lot of those clashes in athletics.

I was offered, I was very friendly with the, I can't think of his name, with the coach, the track coach from Bates College, nice person, too, real gentleman. And he taught me an awful lot of things, and he wanted me to go to Bates College, and it's just coincidental that I didn't go. It was not unusual, when I went to Colby for instance I found a lot of boys and girls from Waterville who were going to Colby. And the same thing happened, I remember a lot of the boys went to Bowdoin, and the Clifford boys, for instance, are all Bowdoin graduates. Colby in those days used to be aloof. In other words, there weren't many grads from Lewiston who went to Colby. And there was a girl from Auburn, and I was from Lewiston; we were the only two. She was a year ahead of me, but it was, it took an awful long time before other Lewiston students went to Colby. Why, I don't know, just the name of the game.

**MR:** Now what were your parents' names?

**PC:** My father's name was Adrian, A-D-R-I-A-N, A. Cote, or Coté, and the reason I say that, that's a fascinating thing. It's because when I was at Colby, I went under the name of Cote, C-O-T-E, no accent marks, and I got called into the dean's office for being absent from classes. And the reason was that they were referring to me as Cote (*pronounced as 'coat'*), Mr. Cote, okay? And I wouldn't respond, and so, and then they called me in, and then I started to put the accent, the aigu accent on the, over the 'E' so they would pronounce it correctly.

Mother was Florence Doucette, double T-E. She lived on, let's see, she lived on Park Street

right where, right near where the Nissen's Bakery is, only across the street. And she came from a very large family. There were twenty children born, and thirteen survived. And in my father's family, his, I remember his father as being, and mother, being farmers. Lived out, way out on the Old Greene Road almost to the border of the line that separates Lewiston from Greene, and that's the place that my sister and her husband bought from my grandfather when he was in his eighties.

They bought the farm from him and they still own it, which is unusual because in, if, if any of the families, keep in mind that my father was one of seven boys and a girl. The girl died, but the seven boys all scattered all over the country, and, one was in Florida, one was in New York, one was in Massachusetts, my father and two of his brothers settled in Maine. And what happened is that today all of their children, all of their children, who would be first cousins of mine, we get together with all of them occasionally, and it was at my sister's. My sister Adrian's fiftieth wedding anniversary that we had some of the cousins come up from Massachusetts. But there aren't many cousins as you would think with seven boys and one girl. It's strange, on that side of the family.

On the other side of the family there are an awful lot of people, on the Doucette side. And of course, keep in mind that that doesn't, although we say Doucettes, that's the male side of the family, it's not the female side of the family. So I think by counts that have been recently taken that I'm related to approximately five percent of Lewiston-Auburn residents, okay? One way or another.

And I don't have the ability that my father used to have, he used to remember names like, you know, A, B, C, Ds. With me I'm just the opposite, I can't remember names. It is a talent, though, I must say. Being involved in politics, to me I grew up in it that way, and I found that in those days if you were friends, it wasn't, see, father was a deputy sheriff with Jim Longley's father. Now, there's Congressman Longley, there's Gov. Longley, and Gov. Longley's father [James Longley] was the deputy sheriff with my father, and we became, the families became very close. And I remember, we used to have a place down at Old Orchard for five, I think six years. Six years? Yeah, '35 to '41 until, when the World War Two [WWII] started. And the Longley family used to come down and spend some time with us every summer, and that lasted, and it still lasts, you know, because, at, that's an interesting story.

When my father died, when dad died, I was down at the other office, we moved here I think in '73, '72, and father died when he was sixty-six years of age, and I had practiced law with him for eleven years before. And he served as the Lewiston municipal court judge, the associate judge, for two years and, I believe for two four-year terms as municipal court judge. A municipal court judge was different than the district court judges. District court judges today are full time judgeships. In, but in those days the municipal courts were only part time judges, very similar to our probate court today. Probate court all over the state is, people are, they run for office, and they get elected, and they serve four-year terms, but they're only part time judges of probate. So Bob Couturier, who is the judge of probate in Androscoggin County, practices law when he's not judge of probate; very strange.

Now I served as a municipal court judge. As a matter of fact I was the last municipal court judge in Lewiston before it became a full time state court, you know, state district court. And I got nominated to that position by Governor Reed, John Reed, back in December of '59, and I got confirmed and started to serve in January of '60, and I served until the new district court came into being. I served a full term, I think it was February of '65 when I went out of, I was the last judge in the municipal court. And although I was offered that position to continue on, in those days I had three young sons and a daughter, and they were going up through the school system, and in those days it didn't pay what it now pays, so I wasn't interested in it.

That's an interesting story, though, because, I'll show you a picture. This here was me when I had hair and didn't have so much fat. Now that gentleman, and that's Governor Reed, I'm being sworn in as a municipal court judge, and this is Frank Wood who was serving on the governor's council. In those days we had a different system than we do today, okay? And why did they have a governor's council? It was because the state is so geologically, geographically large, okay? So these gentlemen were appointed to come from different parts of the state, and when the legislature wasn't in session, they were the ones that were administering justice. He was a legislator from Sabattus [Webster], and I was a big supporter of his, so he suggested to the governor that I get this judgeship. It's who you know, right?

**MR:** Oh, I see, it's good to have connections.

**PC:** And Frank Wood, God bless his soul, good man, real good guy. And anyway, that was back in 1960. And see, I'm just showing you things now. These were the attorneys in the day when dad was an attorney in this area. That's my father over here. It says, *Newsweek*, San Francisco, '64 because he was a national delegate at the Republican convention, okay, that nominated, oh, the gentleman from Arizona, what's his name, Gold-, Goldwater.

**MR:** Goldwater, right.

**PC:** I'll tell you, father (*aside: I'm wearing a hearing aid*), this group here, this is Fern Depain; he was my associate judge, and I replaced him as the municipal court judge. This was Al Lessard; he became mayor of Lewiston. This was Harmon Dufresne; he became the chief justice of the Maine Supreme Court, and he was a probate court judge before. And this was Frank Linnell; that's at the Linnell Choate [& Webber LLP] office. This was Leonard Williams; he was a superior court judge. This gentleman was Dave [David V.] Berman, and that's Ben [Benjamin L.] Berman, his brother. And this was Harold Skelton. And this is Hal Martin, used to be district attorney. And I know his name, but I can't think of it. That's Harris Isaacson. That's my father, and they were good buddies. And this is Harold Redding. And Harold was district attorney when Harris was assistant district attorney, when dad became a lawyer. I don't, oh dear, I know his name. Oh, God, it's Pontoon, [*sic*] [James E. Philoon] something like that, and he was a non-practicing lawyer. And this is John Marshall. And that's [L.] Damon Scales, who was Roscoe, Damon Scales, who was Roscoe [H.] Scales' father, now deceased. Matter of fact, all of these gentlemen are now deceased. He was the last one to die. Dad had this taken, he



was sitting next to one of the gentlemen who became president, . . .

**MR:** Lyndon Johnson?

**PC:** No, this is a Republican now.

**MR:** Oh, Nixon.

**PC:** No, . . .

**MR:** Ford?

**PC:** Who was our president?

**MR:** The Republicans would be Nixon, Ford, Reagan, Bush.

**PC:** Reagan.

**MR:** Reagan, okay.

**PC:** Reagan was running for the governorship of California in those days. He sat next to dad, and my father came back, he was in love with this guy. He was sending him money; he thought he was the greatest thing that ever happened. Poor dad never lived to see him become president. But he was, he would report the news on a daily basis on WLAM every day of what had transpired at the national convention. So he really, he really enjoyed that. Where do we go from here?

**MR:** I guess maybe, we'll probably come back to a lot of this stuff later. Also, I'm thinking now we could go back to talk about your time in Lewiston when you were growing up, maybe, and your experiences and schooling at St. Pat's and later at Lewiston High, some of your interests, what that was like.

**PC:** Okay, at St. Pat's School, that was a real experience for me because I remember one day we were playing baseball against St. Peter's School, and the area that we were playing is now where the Knights of Columbus is located. In those days there was a field there. And I remember that I got into a fight with the catcher, and somebody said, called me a frog, okay? And I really got angry, and I got into a fight with this guy that was a catcher. Of course to me, you know, it was a big fight. It probably was nothing. And I remember Father Keegan, who was managing the team, had a great sense of humor. He says, "You know," he says, "you got into a fight," and then he starts explaining to me what this is all about, why he was calling me a frog and everything. And he says, "Of course you're going to an Irish Catholic school." And he says, "There are only two kinds of people," he says, "the Irish and those who wish they were." I never forgot that, you know.

And then, in those days if you were progressing in your class you became an altar boy, and that's exactly the last year I was there, I became chief of all the altar boys. That meant that on Sundays I had to do four Masses, seven, nine, ten and eleven. You know, I did so many Masses in those days that now I don't do them anymore. I don't even go to Mass anymore. But that's, that was a, that's a funny story, going to St. Pat's. And it's true, there were a lot of Irish kids in the class in those days. And I found, because when the elections would come up, I would, it was easy for us to get groups together who were on the Republican side and the Democratic side. And to me, from where I was coming from I found that there were an awful lot of kids, especially the Irish, that were very evenly split. In other words there were more Republicans in the Irish than there were in the French, okay? So, and I think historically that is a fact in Lewiston. Even though the Irish came here to build the canals and everything and came from the Boston areas, I found that in my day the power, or the people that were holding political responsible jobs, were from Irish descent.

When Governor Longley broke the tradition to do exactly what Governor King has done, they're independents, okay? And let me tell you a story, and it has to do with Governor Longley, and it was after father died. About ten months went by, and Jim Longley came into my office, and he started to talk about old times, and he then told me the story of when his mother died. And Jim Longley was a very religious person. He went to church every morning, you know, Jim Longley going to, over here to St. Patrick's Cathedral. Or the small church or the big church, he was there every day. And he was telling me that after his mother died he was going to church every day, and he was down in the dumps, and he says that one day he came out and where that round is there; they used to play music out there, okay. He said he was walking by it, and a guy hollered to him. He said, "Hey Longley! Hold it, hold up." Now this is Jim Longley telling me this story. And he says the guy came up to him, and he says, "When are you going to get over the fact your mother died?" And Jim says, "What do you mean?" He said, "Well, I've seen you; you've been moping around here for months. When are you going to get over the fact that your mother is dead?" I says, "Who was that guy, Jim?" He says, "I don't know," he says, "he just looked at me, made the statement, and walked off." He says, "I don't know who the person was." And he said, "I went home and started to think about what he said. And I started to think about all of the days that have come and gone, and all I could think of is mother and how I missed her and how I loved her and what she did for the family." And he says, after a day of thinking about nothing but mother, he says, "It dawned on me that the guy was right. When am I going to get over it?" He said, "The next day, I got over it." Now he's telling me this story, I said "Why are you telling me this story, Jim?" He says, "Because you've got the same problem, and you've got to get over the fact that Adrian is now dead." God, I almost choke when I say it. And it's true. And that day, I got over it, okay?

I used to bore my wife to death with these stories about dad. And dad and I were two different peas in a pod in that once I grew up and went off to practice law, it's not easy to come back and practice with your father because you've got all different ways of practicing. But in, during those ten or eleven years that I practiced with him I really grew to be very fond of father, and I really loved the guy. And so yes, it affected me seriously. And his telling me that snapped me out of it. So, when Jim Longley was dying, I wrote a letter to him, and I, and what I was saying,

because he was dying of cancer, and I says, "Jimmy, I'll never forget what you did for me." And I told him the story, okay, never heard from him at all to say, "Gee, thanks Paul," or anything like that. He was the kind of guy that, if you were home some night and he wanted to speak to you, he'd call you up just as a casual call and ask you your opinion of this or that, which he had done several times.

And when he died, his son, Jimmy, who was his campaign chairman, I guess, when he was running for office, was practicing law. We got in touch with him and as a result he came to practice law right here. This was his first law office that he came to practice law in. He then, when my son became an attorney in, I think in '81, Jimmy then went to practice with Tom Delahanty, and then he's here and there, and then all of a sudden he's a congressman. But Jimmy, young Jimmy, told me that of the story that, he said, "I was there when father read your letter, and father said to me, 'Jimmy, if anything happens to me, go practice law with Paul.'" This is stuff that, you know, you never think it's going to quite be that way, and, but it is. And being born and raised in a community, that's what happens, you know, it's not a remarkable, no big deal. Those are things that happen. And I voted for Longley, too.

**MR:** Two way street then.

**PC:** Oh boy, he took a hell of a vote out of Lewiston-Auburn, I'll tell you. And that's what did it for him, you know? But other than that, I found that it was true, growing up and going to school, and then going to high school, I found that the core of Democrats in those days were pretty solid in Lewiston, but so were the Republicans. Now what's happened is this, that all of a sudden, along comes Mr. Muskie, okay? And now he starts running and winning, okay? Now the Democrats in Lewiston, I could see it happening. Phil Isaacson is a good for instance. Phil had been appointed corporation counsel as a Republican under Malenfant, okay? And he changed parties, and that's the time that Parker Hoy, Parker Hoy, Mr., his father owned the radio station, WLAM. Parker Hoy ran for the legislature in Lewiston during those days that I was, that I was chairman of the Young Republicans. Or before, when I was county chairman of the Young Republicans, and he ran as a legislator from Lewiston, and then he runs and wins as a Democrat rather than a Republican.

And that's what I saw happen during my time. And this was from '55, I would say, until '65, or when I was. What happened was, once I was appointed judge, I couldn't engage in politics any more. You engage in it, but you can't participate in it, and so I sort of went, from '60 to '65 I was not participating in it. But I saw the changeover in that ten-year period. Like Phil Isaacson changed parties, and he became a corporation counsel as a Democrat. And in those days, you've got to remember, you, in those days it was a different form of government. For instance the school board, and all of the boards. There were five people on each board, there was a public works board, there was a school board, there was a health and welfare board, there, did I say education?

**MR:** No, you didn't get that yet.

**PC:** Okay, and during this period of time, it always depended, that the old charter that we were functioning under said that three people have to be of the same party of the party that got elected in Lewiston by majority, and it had to do with state elections. So that if there was a Democratic governor, the majority of the five member board had to be . . .

**MR:** Democratic, right.

**PC:** Yeah, okay? And all of a sudden, and you had to be a member of a party to be appointed, so here is a city of Lewiston that's got about, in those days, eight Democrats for one Republican and one independent, in those days, okay. The minority of people were the Republicans, but they're serving either two or three depending on who was in Augusta, do you follow me?

**MR:** Right.

**PC:** Now I was on the school board. I got nominated to the school board by Georges Rancourt, who was mayor of Lewiston, and he had no choice. His only choices in those days, he had to put a Republican on the school board, because that's the available spot. Then you would see a lot of people who used to be in one party changing party just so they could serve on these boards. That became a very political thing. And it's true. It was the kind of government, unless you saw it operate, it was a, it was a real different form of government than people can imagine. Public works boards the same and all of these boards, you had to be active in politics.

And even though, if you were a Republican, then you had to be friendly to the person that got elected as mayor. And if you were Republican and you had been working for that candidate, then of course you might end up on one of these boards. Georges Rancourt, he actually was a maintenance man at one of the schools, but he happened to run and got elected as mayor, and he's the one that appointed me to the school board. And I eventually ended up being chairman of the school board in 1962 and I was also judge of the last Lewiston municipal court. So I could participate in local politics as well as in state politics because it was supposed to be nonsectarian even though that's a lot of bologna. You couldn't be appointed if you were an independent, okay, you had to be one party or the other. So it used to run, the politics used to be pretty fierce in those days. I got elected, when John Orestis, John Orestis came into practice with me back two years after dad died, so that would have been in '68. And I got him interested in running for politics, and he did, he ran as a Democrat from Lewiston, and he won, in the legislature. And then, and I think that, I think that was, I can't remember, it was '68 or '70. I can't remember, one or the other.

**MR:** Yeah, I'm not sure.

**PC:** And then he ran for mayor and got himself elected, and that's when we moved from my office, which was on the corner of Pine and Lisbon, to here. I had bought this building in '69, and we moved here, I think, in '73, July of '73. And John, after the first year we split up. He went his way; he used to be in that office over there. And I remember a lot of Democratic candidates used to come in and talk with John. I remember George Mitchell, for instance, when

he was running for governor coming in here and talking to John. The strange thing is that in all of those years, never once did I get to talk with Ed Muskie, not to meet him, you know what I'm saying? It's, that's an odd situation. But I always respected the guy. He practiced law in Waterville, and I knew a lot of people in Waterville because of the days that I was at Colby. Bob Marden was one of them, and his father was on the court. And that's a family that also is political.

Talk about politics, my son by the way, left this practice in '85 because he got a phone call from McKernan. McKernan, what he, what Paul, Jr. had done is, he got, he wanted to be a district court judge, and he applied for the job, and McKernan appointed another person. I can't, female judge, she's there now as a matter of fact. She had been on the workers' compensation board, and my, the governor then calls Paul, Jr. one day and says, "I'd like you to go on the workers' compensation board." So Paul comes in here, and he says, "Governor wants me to go on the workers compensation board. What do you think?" And I said, "Go ahead," I said, "for two reasons," I said, "it's awfully good for you to get some experience in that field, and secondly because you're going to be on your own now. And secondly, you've been trained very well by Richard," meaning Richard Hamann, in workers' compensation law. And off he went, and it was a, describing one's son doing what he did, I said to my wife, I says, "Joannie," I says, "it's like you're holding a bird in your hand and you're saying, 'fly, fly.'" And I said, "He's gone, okay?" Always, always understanding that I knew that I'd never see him back in practice again.

And then he gets the job, and I think that was in '85. And then he, the workers' comp thing changed over, and he became a hearing officer. And then he went up to become the assistant director, and when he becomes the assistant director, he serves in that position for about four months. And then the governor asked him if he would be a district court judge. And my wife and I are over in Scotland tracing down some of our heritage, because my grandmother was a McGraw, okay, and we were trying to trace down the family McGraw. And we get a fax that he faxes over to us, and I'm, it's our anniversary, okay, and he's wishing us a happy anniversary. And I forget to look down at his so-called P.S., okay? So I give it to my wife to read, and she looks at me, and she says, "He's going to be a judge." I said, "What are you talking about?" She hands it back to me, it says, "P.S., we're going to have another judge in the family." And again it was McKernan. And that's what this is here; that's me and my wife, McKernan, Paul and Pauline, okay? Now he was born and raised in Lewiston. These are his two sons, my grandsons.

**MR:** Couple of little sluggers.

**PC:** And they're growing up now, this one's thirteen, this one's just turned twelve, and he's very into, of course they're all Red Sox fans, funny, that's a funny story. I won't bother to bore you with it. But it's, those are my only grandchildren that are around here because I had four kids. Julie is off; she went to Hebron Academy, she went all over to different schools but she's never graduated from a college. She's a bartender down in Clearwater. That's Paul and his two little guys when they were small, and Pauline. This is John, and this is John, he went to the University of Maine for two years, then he went to NYU. And he was into synthesized music,

and that's what he, he taught at NYU for twelve years, synthesized music. At the same time he was a professional model for, reminds me, blue eyes, looks like his mother an awful lot. He now finally got married four years ago; he's forty-two. Got a little baby boy, and that's this guy here, okay.

**MR:** Oh, great.

**PC:** And his wife, by the way, is a vice president of a national company. That's the boy right there, he's just a year old. That's him here, too. Gosh, he's, they call him Jack. He's fourteen months old now. And this little one is my other son's daughter, and that's him and his wife. They weren't married then, when the picture was taken. He's the one, he went to the University of Colorado and left for two years then came back and worked like hell. Then he got his masters degree in clinical psych and he went into that. But he went, he's doing American Indian artwork and artifacts, and they live in South Bend, Indiana. Okay, right where Notre Dame is, and his wife is running the family business, which was a restaurant. It's a four star restaurant in South Bend. And so three, four kids; one's over there, one's over here, one's down South.

**MR:** You've got them all over the place.

**PC:** They're all over the place, and that's what happens in today's world. Paul was going to come into practice here, and because he got the judgeship, I'm saying the hell with it. I own this building, and I've got a for sale sign now because it's not going to happen, you know? And Richard has three children, they're all in school now, but they're, one's going to be in accounting, and they're not, nobody's coming back into law . . .

*End of Side A  
Side B*

**MR:** Yeah, it should be okay now.

**PC:** Okay, my situation is different because, I don't know if you noticed the article that was outside. Come here.

*(Taping paused.)*

**PC:** . . . forgot that you had shut it off. Yeah. No, dad always had a very fond attachment to Bates College, and when he died he left a small bequest to Bates. And what he did, it was fascinating because he had other bequests for other local charities, but for Bates College, I think he left two thousand dollars to Bates College. And it was to be given, five hundred dollars for four years, to graduates of either Lewiston High School, St. Dominic's or EL who wanted to go to Bates College, you know. It was just, and he said to me while he was living, if you ever make wills for people and they've got nothing, they don't know what they want to do with some of their money, they've got nobody to leave it to, do the same thing. So I did, and it's already happened.

I had a woman that had no rel-, she had relatives but she was, she. Her husband was dead, she had no kids, and she came in one day, and she, and I did the same thing. She left five thousand dollars to Bates College, she left five thousand bucks to the church over here, and the residue was the United Way of Lewiston-Auburn. They got about, I don't know, seventeen thousand dollars. And I did it the same way father did. And I've done it in other wills, but those people aren't dead yet, you know. So it's true that you, where your roots are, there is an attachment, and I have found, and it's true, that Bates College has always been a very positive influence in our city.

When I was growing up, I would say that probably wasn't so true. But since I've been practicing law I find that that is true. One thing I noticed, I've been going to a couple of meetings, and I notice that Bates students will participate in activities that have to do with cities like Lewiston and Auburn. I attended a meeting where they were, where students in the geology class and environmental studies, were doing, had done studies as to where should the road go across the Garcelon Field when they connect the turnpike to Russell Street? So they did a study and everything, and it was an in depth, and it was magnificent, okay. And I, and it's too bad that there weren't more people that know about those things that do happen. So, yes, I think there's a strong participation. I notice now, we've got Mr. Carignan, who can be a real, I won't say it, and he can really be very strong-willed, and he can influence an awful lot of people whether you like him or not. You know, he's that kind of a person. But still, it's participation, and that's what this system is all about.

**MR:** Okay, well I guess I'll ask you first some, some of your thoughts on how the Lewiston community has changed over the years since you've been growing up, and through the present time even, maybe in ethnic areas, the ethnic make up of the town, and also economically, politically, things like that.

**PC:** I think it's changed dramatically. Possibly my sisters and I represent the change, because our parents were both ethnically French, both could speak fluidly French, and all of their families, too. It was not unusual to participate in a discussion where it was all French. And you could understand what was being said, but my parents were typical of the parents in my day. They wanted their children to learn to speak English the correct way so that we wouldn't have these damned French accents, okay? Actually, it's now, today, it's probably in vogue to have the accent. But not while I was growing up, okay? For instance, you say Lewiston, not 'Loiston', okay? And all sorts of things that just go around. I found there to be a very significant change.

I still notice, I always compared Lewiston, as I told you before, with the southern Democrats. In other words, they're, they were very pinch-penny about how they were going to spend their money. I found that to be true in Lewiston. Not today like it used to be, and that's the breakdown. The breakdown I see today, for instance, you aren't going to find eight Democrats and one Republican and one independent. I think the break down probably would be closer to see four Democrats, one Republican, and probably three or four independents. I find the swing has been to the independent side. For instance, my wife, who is not French ethnic, and as a

matter of fact, I was raised a Catholic, my wife is a Methodist, and she never changed her religion, nor did I ask her to. And when the four children were being raised, they went to church. I used to bring them, and they were raised that way. Are they that way now? I don't know. I don't think so because one of my sons, the one that I was telling you went to NYU, just got married in a Methodist church. And the request to me was, and I was down in New Jersey, Bay Head, New Jersey. The request to me as the father of the bridegroom is do I want, did I want a Catholic priest present? And I said, no, I don't think that's necessary. By the way, he, Mike McCurry, you know Mike McCurry.

**MR:** I think I've heard the name, I don't know . . .

**PC:** Press secretary, used to be, remember? He resigned after the scandal recently. Well, Mike McCurry and my son married two sisters, okay? Now that might indicate that I'm supposed to be a Democrat and that John is too, but it, that isn't the fact, okay? It's just that that's a, that is the true fact. John and Mike married sisters. And although my son Adrian, who got married in South Bend, Indiana was married at Notre Dame's chapel by Father McBrien [Father Richard P. McBrien], who is a very outspoken liberal in the Catholic church. Whenever the pope comes over to North America, you always see Father McBrien on television. He's a, he belongs to the Notre Dame, and he's one of those, well he writes books, oh God, big books. But, I find that, and again, my wife and I, although we have four children, there's only one in the twin cities, and that's Paul, Jr. He's our eldest, and the other three are elsewhere, okay? So we don't, whereas my sisters, my two sisters, one sister has five children, the other one has three. One of the five is in New York and one of the three is in Atlanta. Other than that all of the children, the siblings, are right here in the Lewiston area. And that's an unusual circumstance, too, for me and my two sisters because we all reside in Lewiston, okay? And the question is why don't you, did you ever think of living in Auburn. And I've thought about it, but I don't want to live in Auburn, okay?

I was born in Lewiston and politically Auburn used to be the most friendly to Republicans. But my father one time ran for judge of probate, and he was running against Armand Dufresne, who was a very strong Democrat. And my father came close, as close as my sister, when Rose Marie ran in Lewiston for the state senate, it was strictly Lewiston, all of the votes came out of Lewiston. When dad ran for judge of probate, he was running countywide. And in those days Auburn used to be Republican, probably three Republicans for every two Democrats. That's not how it is now, and the towns were heavily Democrat, ah, Republican rather. So he got, and when he ran for judge of probate, because his name was Cote, okay, he didn't get the vote like he should have gotten. And in the heavily Republican areas they just didn't vote for him. It wasn't they voted for the other guy, they just didn't vote for Adrian, and so he lost by the same thing that my sister lost by, about two hundred and thirty votes. That always angered father, and it did me too, so I says, what the hell do I owe those people over in Auburn? Why should I move to Auburn, okay? My roots are in Lewiston.

And I think I find that same tendency to be, with the Costellos for instance. See, now Costello was an Irish family, they owned the *Sun-Journal*, and they're the same way. They live in Lewiston, or at least they used to, I, the guy now moved to Old Orchard, Jimmy Costello, Sr..



And that's, I've seen families that were my age or younger or older that would sort of do the same thing, it's not unusual.

As far as the politics is concerned, my opinion of politics is different than my sisters'. I'm more on the liberal side. I hate to see have happen what has happened, and that is that all of the, but I'm proud of our two lady senators, okay? These are two girls to me that I'm fully, I support those two ladies. I think they're very outstanding, and they're the kind of Republicans I'd like to see in this country. But not, and I mean a lot of good Republicans have left. Rudman [Warren Rudman] out of New Hampshire, for instance. He doesn't, he left the U.S. Senate, and all of these Republicans that have left elsewhere. Simpson [Alan K. Simpson] for instance, I was very strongly in support of him. No longer. And they're getting replaced by more conservative people, people that I do not favor. So if the question is asked, what do you think about Bush? I'm not overwhelmed by Bush, okay? I, as a matter of fact, I was not overwhelmed by his father. When his father got defeated for president, it was surprising to note that in Maine I believe the second district went independent. Just look at the figures, and you'll find that when Clinton got elected president, the gentleman from Texas, Big Ears, whatever . . .

**MR:** Perot, Ross Perot?

**PC:** Perot took the second district, okay, he did now, okay? He beat Bush and he beat Clinton in the second district. And the second district I believe is the only district in the country that went for him, okay? And that statistic, you check it out, you'll find it's true. And that tells me an awful lot about what's happening nationally. There is a strong, why is it, for instance, that Lewiston now has four or five Democrats for every three or four independents? The swing, I find, is that parties don't have the power that they used to have, and it's a good thing. I, the so-called "belonging to a party," and you get appointments if you know the person, that's a lot of bologna. Maine is one of the first states to break that whole idea down. It was Louis Jalbert that moved that Maine not be the first in the nation to vote. Why did he do that? I mean, I, looking in hindsight I think he wouldn't have done that if he knew, because look what happens to New Hampshire and Iowa. I mean everybody, that's what gets all the major play. And in our days it used to be, Maine used to vote in September, okay? So him doing that surprisingly chipped away at the Democratic Party, I think, to give Maine the prominence that it should have, you know, being the first in the nation. "As Maine goes, so goes the nation." That's where the saying came from.

And I find that the independent vote is the strongest one, and thank God, thank God. My wife, for instance, changed parties. She used to be a Republican, she now is registered as an independent. And yet she knows how to do it if she wants to because when my sister ran for political office, my wife went out and got over six hundred absentee ballots. Try it sometimes, it's unbelievable, really, the process to secure an absentee ballot. You're running back to city hall, back to the doctor's, back here, back there, and voting people, and oh boy, I'll tell you, it's a nightmare, it's a real effort. Now Joanie will do that, why is she registering now as an independent? She's registering as an independent because when, when. We went to a national convention, and Joan was elected, this was after I was involved in politics, probably, well, I

know when it was, 1968. And one of the, one of her friends here in town, I think it was Maria Robinson, who is now deceased. But Maria Robinson's two children, Ann Robinson, she's a practicing attorney up in Augusta, and Peter Robinson, who's my godson, he's a practicing attorney down in Washington, D.C. He's an MIT graduate, very bright guy, got a perfect score on his math, you know, on the, got an eight hundred or whatever it is.

Maria nominates Joan to be an alternate, okay, to the Republican convention in 1968, and in those days, in those days it was a question of are we going to, is the nation going to back Rockefeller or Nixon, okay? And Joan was a big supporter of Rockefeller, Nelson Rockefeller. And as a matter of fact it was held in Miami, and when we went down there, the Rockefellers and the Astors used to occupy the American Hotel, they had the, you know, the, oh, what do you call it?

**MR:** The penthouse?

**PC:** Yeah, they had the penthouse, okay? And they had, the first night that we were down to Florida, the Rockefellers put on a splash for all of the boys and girls who had won, what's the national . . . ?

**MR:** National Honor Society, maybe?

**PC:** Not the National Honor Society, in the military.

**MR:** Oh, some type of, a cross . . .

**PC:** What's the most distinguished one you can earn?

**MR:** Purple Heart, you mean? Oh, no, there's another one, Silver . . .

**PC:** No, it's the . . .

**MR:** Gold Star, I don't know. (*unintelligible word*) . . .

**PC:** Not Gold Star, for heroism.

**MR:** Yeah.

**PC:** Well anyway, there were over a hundred, probably closer to two hundred, who were wearing their honor, and the whole shindig was for that, and what a shindig, you know. Duke Ellington was one of the three bands that would rotate. It was just a unbelievable time. But they invited the Maine contingency because they, the Rockefellers and the Astors had a place up in, up off of Bar Harbor. They invited the Maine delegation to participate in a brunch at the Americana in their suite, and I met, I met Douglas Dillon who was then treasury secretary [Ambassador to France] under Eisenhower, not then but had been, and people like that. The

most gracious people you'd ever want to meet in your life were the Rockefellers and the Astors. Plenty of money breeds nothing but class, you know, not, really, it's not new found money, it was real old money. It was quite an experience. And Joan went on the floor, and she was thirty-six years old in those days, and she voted for Rockefeller, okay? Didn't get it, but she thought an awful lot of him. And that's the kind of Republican that both my wife and I are in favor of. We want people who we say are centrist. We don't want extremes, okay? And that's the way I feel, my personal feelings, that the Republican Party in this country has gone to extremes. What was his name, used to be speaker of the house?

**MR:** Not Newt Gingrich?

**PC:** Yeah, Newt, okay, I met Newt Gingrich as a matter of fact at a Republican convention up in Bangor. Was it in Bangor, or was it Augusta? Can't remember. Very impressive guy, very easy to talk to and very easy to listen to because he was the keynote speaker at the con-, at our convention in the state. But if he got his dander up and you didn't agree with him, you know, he'd climb all over you. And a lot of things he stood for, and I commend him for getting it through, the so-called Contract with America kind of thing, didn't get it all through, but I'll tell you, he did a heck of a job. It was his manner of, he didn't have a good manner. If you associated anything with Newt Gingrich, it was down, you know, because he was too imperious and that kind of thing. It's too bad. He resigned. And who do you have, the leadership now.

I don't like the leadership in Washington. I think they're a bunch of zeroes, and they're minus zeroes. They say one thing but you know damn well they don't mean it. And it's all politics, and when I, when you listen to these people, they all talk the same language. They don't quite, they don't talk as if they mean it. The only one that I hear that talks as if he means it is Kalish. He sort of talks that language that you can believe in. But I find that this tax cut so-called, sure, tax cuts are great, but it's not going to pass. But it gives them ammunition to talk about it, you know, as if the nation's going to fall and go out of existence if they don't pass it. Crazy stuff, it's too bad, too bad.

I find that Lewiston is on the verge of becoming a very important city in Maine. I saw it go through the downfall of Bates Manufacturing Company, and it's now on the upside. I see the rejuvenation of the facilities of Bates Manufacturing Company has to do with the future of the city. If it rises, the city will rise, and if it doesn't take off, the city shall not either. In my time I've seen Lewiston, instead of becoming part of the industrial bulk of the state, it's become more of a bedroom community. It's not unusual today for people to work in Portland but live in Lewiston or Auburn. It used to be that they'd move to New Gloucester or to Durham or places like that. But now with the communications and the traveling, you just get on the Maine turnpike in the morning and see them flock going north or south. They're going to Augusta, they're going to Waterville, they're going to Bangor even, some of them. So I find that for Lewiston to regain its tradition of what it used to have, it's got to really take Bates Manufacturing over and revolutionize those mills to accept the responsibility of having leadership. Can it do it? I think it can. I, probably the best thing that I've seen happen in the city is the type of government that we have where, it's true, less people can participate, meaning

the council is the nub of the new administration. They're the ones that elect the manager. By the way, I failed to say it, but I was chairman of the charter commission that failed, okay? I think that was about in 19- . . .

**MR:** That's '70, '71, '70?

**PC:** Seventy, it could be '71, and the reason it did is that, I was chairman of the charter commission, which was an elected job. The strange part was that in that day, Bob Clifford was mayor, and I got more votes than he did. Only time I ever ran for office in Lewiston was that election. Got more votes than the mayor got, which is strange, too, because why didn't I run more? I didn't because I had families growing up and I wanted to educate that family.

And I found, very strangely, one day my wife said to me, and that was when I was state chairman of the Young Republicans, she says, "You know," she says, "I think I'm going to ask that you and I separate." And I said, "Why?" She said, "Because you're never home." See, our baby girl wasn't even born then. She said, "You've got three young boys here, they never see you except on weekends, and even then you're too tired to do anything for them." And I says, "Well, why do you want to separate?" She says, "Well, you go your way and I'll go mine." I said, "I'm going to miss the kids." She says, "No, you aren't." I said, "Why not?" She said, "Because you're taking the kids." I says, "Oh really?" That's very unusual for a woman to say. You know what I'm saying? She says, "I'm wanting a divorce because you're not spending enough time with the kids, but you're taking the kids."

Well, from then on, I started to pull my horns in and, you know, I was then appointed judge, and I pulled back from politics like I, and I started to pay attention to the family, you know, that I was not paying attention to, our three sons. And it was an interesting comment that Joanie made, anyway. But it's true, politics is, can take everybody; it's the greatest spectator sport in the world is politics. But where is it going? What is it really going to accomplish, you know? If you don't make something positive out of it, what are, what's going to happen? And I've seen a lot of people come and go and get in the wastelands, end up in the wastelands, because they should have done, they should have tied into something and moved in a positive direction.

So I see Lewiston as forming a positive way, and I think an awful lot of it depends on what's going to happen to Bates Manufacturing Company, I mean the buildings. What's going to happen down there? I went down the other day and saw ten buildings being destroyed down on Canal Street. Jeez, that's one of the best things that I've seen happen for a long time. And Mulrady, by the way, James Mulrady, being elected, and he's an outsider coming into Lewiston, I find to be a very effective and responsible manager. And that's not what I, what I'm used to seeing. There was too much in-bornism. People that came from here began to run and have too much responsibility, and they weren't outsiders coming in. And I like him as a leader, and as long as he stays in Lewiston, Lewiston's going to be fine.

**MR:** Okay, let's go back and pick up a couple more things about your family background. Did your mother, was your mother working when you were growing up, or was she working at

home?

**PC:** No, she was a housewife. Mother did not have, very similar to dad, mother did not have much education. She came from a very large family, and she was, I think she was the third oldest. And she went out and worked at a very early age, I think at fourteen, she was working in the shoe mills. And I believe father met her when she was nineteen, and they married when they were twenty or twenty-one. Mother I think was twenty, and father was twenty-one or twenty-two. I think they married in 1923 here in Lewiston. And she used to go out, like her sisters did and her brothers, and they'd come home, and the money was used to support the family.

**MR:** What was your family situation like economically? Because you grew up through the Depression in your youngest years, do you have any recollections of what that was like?

**PC:** I don't, I do remember some of my friends saying that their parents, their father just got a job, and it paid sixteen dollars a week. And, the gentleman I'm thinking of, his name is Carbonneau, Richard [Dick] Carbonneau. He's now down in Florida. He retired as a colonel in the Air Force. They used to live on Leeds Street, and I used, because I used to live on Pine Street growing up, and, upper Pine between Webster and Sabattus, and in those days that was almost the end of the world, you know? Not like it is today. But I knew a lot of the kids. For instance, my friends were Louis-Philippe Gagne's children, strong Democrat, and he ran *le Messenger*, which was a French newspaper, very respected guy. And he, he is in the family that Richard, see, my partner is Richard Hamann, and his father's, his aunt is in that Gagne family. Not that Richard comes from Lewiston. I believe he comes from Livermore Falls. But there's an awful lot of inbreeding, families to families.

It's unusual for a fam-, but you talk about family, my sister, one of my sisters is married to an Italian from New York. One of my sisters is married to an Irishman from Lewiston, he was an Irish Democrat but today he's a Republican. Why? Because my sister is Republican, and that's where his thinking always was, but he just never bothered to register as a Republican. But he is a Republican today, and that's John Butler. Now they have a son, his name is Pat Butler, and he runs Butler Brothers up on Sabattus Street. Pretty big company. I don't know how many they employ, but Pat used to be county chairman, he used to belong to the state committee, the Republican state committee and all of that. So my sister Rose Marie's family has been quite active, all of them and, not all of the kids but she has the, her oldest daughter is in stock market stuff down in New York City. But Pat, who is the oldest male, and his sisters and his brother, are, have always been active in politics. And in Republican politics in Lewiston. And that's, when I had mentioned the Irish people being split more evenly between Republicans and Democrats, that was very true when I was growing up.

Not so true today because what happened is that guys like Muskie coming along then started to drag, they started to have their own following. And you saw what happened to the Democratic Party in Lewiston, it started to, although in Lewiston it strengthened, but the Republicans went, people that were holding Republican positions were really probably voting Democrat, and they changed parties. There was a big changeover from, in '55 to '65. I lived during that time, and I

could see why is it that Parker Hoy is running for a Republican legislature in Lewiston, but he gets elected as a Democrat? Okay? Why does Phil Isaacson, he's a Republican serving as a corporation counsel for the city of Lewiston, then he changes to become a Democrat? And that happened like gangbusters, a lot of that happened.

So I, in my family, it personifies because there are twelve children in my sisters' and my family. Three of mine have gone out of state, okay, but I can see how their politics is now. And I, the only person that I see as a strong conservative is my son Paul, who is a judge. And yet if you were speaking to attorneys in this area, they say he's a very good judge, he's thoughtful, and he rules sometimes very much in favor of plaintiffs, meaning he's not locked into insurance companies and stuff like that. He's more for people who believe in rights, in their human rights and things of that nature. He also went to Colby by the way. He and I both went to Colby and BU. But no, John went to the University of Maine and then NYU, and Adrian went strictly, no, he was up at the University of Maine for one year and then transferred to the University of Colorado in Boulder. What else did you want to ask me about growing up?

**MR:** But you don't remember growing up that your family was particularly hard hit by the Depression? I mean, I'm sure everyone was (*unintelligible phrase*).

**PC:** Yes and no, because I remember father used to have stories he would tell us about, and he participated, in those days he had a radio program, and, I don't know, WGAN, not WGAN. It was the only radio station in the state of Maine, and you'd listen to him for fifteen minutes once a week, and he was playing the detective . . .

(*telephone interruption*)

**PC:** . . . so he made money doing that, and he also was hired as private inves-, he was a private investigator working away from the sheriff's department, so he had double jobs. And he made money that way, and I, he used to tell me about it, and, when he and I were alone, we'd talk about it. And he was never without money as an individual. But, you've got to remember, his parents were farmers, and they, his father used to work in the shoe shops before he became a farmer. And you, I would hear a lot of stories from my uncles, his brothers, and from father and from gramps, who used to talk about the bleak situation and how if one person had a job and was making fourteen or sixteen bucks a week, they had a good job, and they were keeping everything going.

And I remember, there was a family, can't remember the name, Irish family, she lived on Webster Street and she used to bake bread. And that was some of the best bread, and they used to sell it from the house, you know, because of the, to make money to keep going. And that kind of thing was rampant, there was a lot of that going on, people were scratching for money. And I remember those '30s, the mid '30s and even after that, it was lean times.

But father always had money because it was in 1935 when he became a lawyer that he rented a place down in Old Orchard, and we stayed there every summer for ten weeks or eleven weeks,

the school months, and it was the old Beaumont Hotel property. Matter of fact, we saw it a couple weeks ago, I couldn't believe it. And in those days a lot of the Lewiston people lived right around where we lived. The Berman family, that was not the attorney Berman, and the (name) family, Roy (name) who is now an auditor for the state, he's chief auditor as a matter of fact. Now they were Republicans, and the Bermans were Republicans, they were liquor people, liquor salesmen, the Bermans. And then the Scott family. Now, Scott family, he's the minister of the Baptist church was Scott, okay. And so it was all the same people that were born in Lewiston and raised in Lewiston, it was like a contingency that moved down to Old Orchard and we all rented places. And they were full camps that we rented.

And I remember dad had a plane, okay? My sister, for instance, my eldest, she soloed when she was sixteen, and it was, she soloed from Roland Mayo's airport, which is now where the kids play baseball, but there's all homes built around there now, it's near Taylor Pond. And father had a plane and when Adrian soloed she was the youngest aviatrix in New England, okay? And then when she finished her training at St. Mary's Hospital as a registered nurse, there were a lot of nurses in our family- my wife is an RN by the way, she trained over here at CMMC. And my daughter-in-law, who's married to the judge, she's an RN working at St. Mary's in administration. When Adrian graduated from St. Mary's, she became a boxing judge. She was the first female boxing judge in the world, okay. They did big write ups about my sister in those days.

But when you talk about being poor, I, the only ones that I would see were the Heathermans, the Carbonneaus, guys that I went to school with at St. Pat's would talk about people, it was a hardship situation, I'll tell you, there's no question about it. But I didn't see it from my perspective, you know. We lived in an apartment and father and mother never bought a house, you know, they just never did that. And we were, I, you know, up on Pine Street we knew everybody around that area. And we are still friendly with some of the people that we went to school with in the younger days. And there's no question that Roosevelt had a big impact on our society, no question about it.

And then I remember when the war took off, Bath Ironworks, a lot of people from Lewiston-Auburn used to work in Bath Iron Works, at Bath Iron Works. My uncle, my cousins, and they retired from there, so it was all Army, military connection. But I don't remember the days that you're talking about where I, the sad days of going through Depression. I never saw that. I remember dad talking about strikes that Bates Mill people would have, and they were, you know, using clubs and all of that to break up unions. But I never participated or really understood what that was all about.

**MR:** Okay, actually, do you have time to talk a little more about your father's involvement as a Republican and how he got to be a Republican, and how that political strain entered your family?

**PC:** Yes, he, father got to be a Republican. All of his family were Democrats, but when he was offered the job, he became a Republican, and in his family he got all his brothers to change, and grampy and grammy and all of their relatives. Strange thing about it is that even though the

name Cote in Lewiston, if you looked in the phone book you might find twelve Paul Cotes. I'm not related to any of them except my son. All of the children of my so-called cousins are not in Lewiston. If they are, they're on mother's side, not on father's side, and those are the Doucettes. We've got a hell of a lot of them. And most of the Doucettes are Democrats, but they would, if you asked them to, they would vote for you. And they, in the family, family's blood is thicker than water, you know, that kind of thing. And we've always been very friendly to both sides of the family. My father wasn't, though. My father didn't like the Doucettes. He just sort of had a dislike for them. But that isn't true about the kids, my sisters and I. We liked the Doucettes, and we still do, okay? It's just, that's a funny story. But I never saw, I remember politics, if dad was for it we were for it, that kind of thing, you know?

**MR:** Okay, actually I've got to stop this tape.

*End of Side B*  
*End of Interview*