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Harvey, Virginia "Ginny" (Gray) and Judy

Andrea L'Hommedieu

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Interview with Virginia “Ginny” (Gray) and Judy Harvey by Andrea L’Hommedieu

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee

Harvey, Virginia "Ginny" (Gray)
Harvey, Judy

Interviewer

L’Hommedieu, Andrea

Date

April 3, 2004

Place

Waterville, Maine

ID Number

MOH 428

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Biographical Note

Virginia “Ginny” (Gray) Harvey was born in Waterville, Maine on March 24, 1921. Her parents were Mertie May (Jackson) Gray and Millage Guy Gray. Her siblings were Jane (Gray) Muskie, Lerlene (Gray) Powers, Howard Payne Gray and Jackson Charles Gray. She married James H. Harvey, Jr. and is the mother of Judy Harvey. Educated as a nurse, she worked in the infirmary at Colby College where Don Nicoll knew her when he was a student there, before ever meeting Ed and Jane Muskie.

Judy Harvey was born November 5, 1947. Her parents were James H. and Virginia “Ginny” (Gray) Harvey. Edmund S. Muskie was her uncle. Her mother’s sister was Jane (Gray) Muskie. At the time of this interview, Judy was a superintendent of schools.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: Gray family background; Muskie family background; Judy’s recollections of family relationships as a child; Judy’s first vote in 1968; and the Blaine House in

Augusta, Maine.

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Transcript

Andrea L'Hommedieu: This is an interview with Ginny and Judy Harvey at Ginny's home in Waterville, Maine on April the 3rd, the year 2004, and this is Andrea L'Hommedieu. Could you start just by giving me your full name, including your maiden name, and spelling it?

Ginny Harvey: I'm Virginia Gray Harvey. And, what else?

AL: Could you spell?

GH: Virginia is spelled V-I-R-G-I-N-I-A, and my middle name is my maiden name which is G-R-A-Y, and my last name is Harvey which is spelled H-A-R-V-E-Y.

AL: And what is your date of birth and your place of birth?

GH: My place of birth is Waterville, Maine. My date of birth is March 24, 1921.

AL: And what were your parents' names?

GH: My parents' names were, my mom's name was Mertie, M-E-R-T-I-E, May, M-A-Y, and Jackson was her maiden name, J-A-C-K-S-O-N. My dad's name was Millage, capital M-I-L-L-A-G-E, middle name was Guy, capital G-U-Y, and of course, capital G-R-A-Y.

AL: That was an unusual first name. Do you know how he happened to be named that?

GH: I don't. The only thing I can say to answer that is that I have heard it a few times since, so I guess that back in those days that it was a name that was used.

AL: And were they from the Waterville area, or had they emigrated from somewhere else?

GH: My mother was from Fairfield, Maine, and my dad left his home when he was in his teens, and I think he was between fourteen and seventeen. We, I never really knew. And he'd left home because his mother died and he didn't like his father's new wife, so he just left home and set up -

Judy Harvey: Where was home?

GH: In Moncton, New Brunswick. And, what was I going to say? He, somehow he got down this way and I think he told me he just hunted around for a while and got down to Fairfield and met my mother and they married.

AL: And what did he do for an occupation before he was ill?

GH: He worked at the Hollingsworth and Whitman, which was Scott Paper, and he worked there as a watchman on different shifts, and he was there for many years. And then after his third stroke he had to stop working.

AL: How many children are, were there in your family, was there four of you?

GH: My mother and father had five children.

AL: And what were their names?

GH: The oldest girl was, this is an odd name also, Lerlene, L-E-R-L-E-N-E, there was Lerlene and then Howard, Howard Payne Gray. Do you want this spelled also?

AL: No, Howard's fine. Who came after Howard?

GH: Jackson Charles Gray, and Jackson was named after my mother's maiden name. And then came me, Virginia G. Harvey, or Virginia Gray Harvey, and Jane Muskie, Jane Gray Muskie. And that's it.

AL: Can you recall when Lerlene was born? What was the age difference from the first to last

child?

GH: I don't know. The only thing, I was thinking of this the other day for someone
Lerlene When I was a little girl, little, I probably was four or five years old, Lerlene
graduated from Waterville High School, whatever that was at the time. And then she went at . . .
. Thomas College was down on Main Street, up over the Woolworth store. So Lerlene, I think
the course that she took was about a year and somehow she got the money to go to school. We
were not well off at the time though. Anyway, so she took that yearly course.

And then she went off with William F. Powers who was the man that she married, and he was
from Worcester, Massachusetts. And my mother was heartbroken and, because in those days it
was never heard of, that girls would go off with their boyfriends. That was, you know. Well my
mother was heartbroken, and every time my sister would come home, I didn't like to have her
come home because my mother would cry and she'd try to convince her to stay home, but it
never did work, so anyway. She'd come home every so often to see my mother and me because I
was the youngest at the time, and she used to hold me on her knee and sing me songs. Then she
and her boyfriend then, Bill Powers, would take me for a ride in their convertible and buy me,
and buy me an ice cream.

AL: Was Jane born yet?

GH: Jane was born -

JH: Wasn't there about ten years difference, Mom, between you and her?

GH: Six.

AL: Six is what I was going to, she was born in 1927, is that correct?

GH: I was born in '21, and she was born in '27.

AL: So she must have been just ready to be born at this time when your older sister was
coming back to visit.

GH: Yes, and I, I'd have to go to my aunt's that lived on the Garland Road in Winslow to be
taken care of while my mother was expecting Jane. So, um.

AL: You would have been, well, I'd like to ask you a little bit more about your father first, if I
could. He was probably home quite a bit after his strokes?

GH: After his strokes he was at home quite a bit, and in order to have some income my mother
started taking, having college boys, feeding college boys I should say. And so we lived Of
course the college was on the downtown campus at that time and we live close by. So she, as I
said, had the college boys, that needed some money, work for her. And then my father would do
what he could, and he got the vegetables ready. And we had like some boys ate in the
kitchen, some boys ate in another room. We had three rooms where the boys would eat, and my

father would do what he could to help. My father was a nice man. And while he was sick I'd sit on the, we had a porch, and I'd sit on the porch with him and he'd tell me stories, even though I was, I was in high school, junior high and high school when he was sick. And then I, well actually before he died, I was in nursing school.

AL: What kind of stories would he tell, would they be family stories?

GH: Yes, yeah. He'd go into detail about his mother, his own mother. And there were, I think, seventeen children in that family. Well, I think some of those, now I'm not I don't remember but I think that, you see, his father had two wives and I think he was the youngest of the first wife and that's why he didn't like being there when his father married, remarried. And he never finished high school, but he could speak well.

AL: Do you know if he ever kept in touch with any of his siblings from Canada?

GH: Yes, and I have. They lived in, is it Moncton, where you went?

JH: It was Fredericton.

GH: It's right up there. And he, he never had a chance to go up there because we didn't have a car, but my brother Howard, when he went to work for the *Sentinel*, they bought him a car so he used to take us. He'd never take us that far but we used to get to the family reunions and things like that. And that was, the family reunions always seemed to be his family. And we had ah sisters in Livermore Falls and down that way, I think we had one in, I can't think of that little town, but anyway. We'd always have a good time with Aunt Ethel and Aunt Pearl and others I could think of, if I had a while. And he never drank very much, but sometimes at least we knew he would sneak in this homemade cider they drank, and my mother used to get so mad at him. But anyway, I liked the family very much. And Aunt Ethel married a man named Nichols also, and their son played the clarinet and other instruments.

JG: The banjo.

GH: Yes, had a band, this little band at his home. He was good, very talented. But anyway, let me say more about him. Before he had his strokes he used to walk a lot. He didn't have to work shifts (*unintelligible phrase*). Then one day a week, payday at his (*unintelligible phrase*) we got to go to the Puritan candy store on Main Street in Waterville and buy us a little candy. That was a special day of the week. I've been eating sweets ever since.

JH: Yeah, that's true.

GH: And I used to, like when he'd work the night shift he'd come home, he'd walk across the Two Cent Bridge, from Waterville to Winslow and, from Winslow to Waterville I should say, from his work at 7:00 AM. The whistle would blow from the mill and so my mother would let me go meet him at the corner of School Street where we lived, so that was special to me also. And, what else did he do? Once in a great while he'd go to Boony's for a glass of beer, and my mother would know that because he'd get home a little late and she didn't like it. And so, he

didn't go too often. But he'd get groceries for my mother. He was a good man.

AL: When you said that some of the college boys would come and eat in exchange for work, what kind of work did they do?

GH: They'd do the dishes, and they'd get the food ready and they would carry the food from the kitchen, we had a huge kitchen, it was a house that we were renting and it had a huge kitchen. And then you'd walk into the first dining room, and so they would deliver, after my mother had the things ready, he'd deliver them to, this was before he had his bad strokes, to the first dining room. And then you'd go straight into another dining room, and then you'd walk towards the front of the house and there'd be another room which wasn't really a dining room but it was used, utilized for that. And what else would they do? As I said, they'd do the dishes and they'd, oh, they'd collect the money from the boys. I think it was five-fifty a week, and the food was excellent. My mother was a great cook.

AL: Were there any special family recipes, something special she made that got passed down to you and your kids?

GH: Well, I have one recipe that I can think of right now, and it's in one of my friends' cookbooks that just came out was in, we named it Ma's Quick Cake. And she just, my father always liked sweets, too. I guess that's where I got mine; I just thought of that.

JH: You have a sweet tooth for sure.

GH: And so my father, as I said, he always wanted something sweet after his main meal. And we always had, twice a day we had, vegetables and meat. And so (*shows recipe in book*).

AL: That's neat.

GH: And then there's a church book that I had one in also, (*unintelligible phrase*).

JH: She was a pastry cook, though, right?

GH: Oh yes, she was a pastry cook. After my father died, she got a job with, I don't know if you've ever heard of Chet Dunlap, and he was a man that lived in Waterville for many years and he was a chef. And so he opened this little restaurant across the street from Keyes Fiber, and so he knew my mother and he asked my mother to be the pastry cook. So that's the way she earned some money. And she was very well known in Waterville, Fairfield, Oakland, for her pastries.

JH: And she also cooked at like Bear Spring Camps or some of those others in Belgrade?

GH: Yes, she worked at camps in the summertime. She even went up to Rangeley on summer, and I think I was in the first year of my nursing school and I'd go up and I'd get to hang out and stay there. Yes, she went anywhere, you know, to cook for people.

AL: Do you recall, if you started nursing school, closer to the age of sixteen or eighteen?

GH: Seventeen.

AL: Seventeen.

GH: I was seventeen. I was supposed to be eighteen but, because when I got through nursing school I had to wait to take my state boards because you had to be twenty-one. So, it was just three years but it was three complete years. We went summer and the year, we'd work year round. So that's what happened.

AL: Now, you were a child becoming a teenager during the Great Depression. How did that affect you and your family and the community of Waterville? Do you have recollections of that time period?

GH: I didn't know that really when I was young. I never felt that I was without anything. I was, but I never felt it. I never realized it. Well, I'll put it this way, we were poor. But I don't really like to say we were poor because we had, my mother cooked so well and we always had plenty to eat, and we always had vegetables and meat twice a day. And we had pennies to go to the store to buy a piece of candy and that was a real treat.

JH: Were you aware there was a Depression going on, though?

GH: I think I remember hearing my mother and Howard and my father speak about the fact that sometimes we couldn't have sugar, buy sugar. We'd be without it and Howard would go out and get one of his friends to get some somewhere. Because he was in the *Sentinel* and so he knew a lot of people that . . . Maybe sugar or flour or butter. There was no such thing as margarine.

AL: Now, Jane was the youngest, six years between you and her. Was there, were you close, or was the age difference, sort of separate you by generations?

GH: We were not terribly close. We were closer when we were young, but growing up I wouldn't say that Jane and I were close. She, well, like a lot of children growing up, they like to be with other children. Otherwise, and she wasn't as close to, it didn't seem to me, anyway, that she was as close to my parents as I was. I suppose because I was the baby for six years.

AL: Well, when she grew up she was still in town, starting to work? She worked at a clothing store, if I recall.

GH: She worked at Alvina and Delia's which was, well, some people called it a hat shop, they specialized in hats. And Alvina and Delia were sisters, and they were classy and they had a little money. I say a little, but they had lots, but anyway they had money and they had nice things in the store and so people were almost afraid to go into it. It was right on Main Street in Waterville, and it was there for quite a few years.

JH: I remember it.

GH: You do?

JH: Yeah.

GH: So, do you remember about what time that was?

JH: When it closed?

GH: No, when they were -

JH: They were there when I was growing up. They were still there I think when I was in high school or college.

GH: Really? One of them died and then the other one had kept the store open for a long time.

AL: Were you still in the Waterville area at that time, or had you married and moved?

GH: I was married, because she was living and so, and Becky must have been living, my second daughter.

JH: So you were living in Waterville, because you moved to Bangor for a while.

GH: Yes, but we didn't stay in Bangor all that long, and then we moved back to Waterville. (*Unintelligible phrase*), we lived there quite a few years before we moved to Rockland.

AL: What are your first recollections of Ed Muskie? Did you meet him when Jane was first dating him?

GH: I did meet him but it was more that I didn't like to have Jane going out with an older man.

AL: Protective of your little sister?

GH: Right. And I was in nursing school I think at the time, and I'd go home and I said, "Mom, I don't think you'd better let her go out with an older man."

JH: She was headstrong, though, Jane.

GH: Oh yes.

AL: Was she? Yeah, that part of her personality?

GH: So, she continued on, as we know. She, they married.

AL: Were you able to get over that him being older to get some impressions of him as an individual, aside from her boyfriend?

GH: I got to like him very much, because he was very intelligent and he, he liked me apparently. We'd discuss certain things, and I liked that because I could learn from him.

AL: Do you recall what those discussions were about?

GH: Politics.

JH: What else?

GH: It was hard though, because Ed was really an individual as you know, I mean, an individual that was very intelligent, as I mentioned, and therefore words would come out of his mouth that, you know, very quickly. He was one of a kind I'd say.

AL: Did you have, well, what was, do you have a sense of what your mother's impressions of, were of Ed?

GH: My mother never said. My mother wasn't a person that would say anything critical about her children's mates.

AL: Was she politically minded at all?

GH: Yes, she got to be. In fact our family, really long before Ed was in the picture, were Republicans.

AL: Did that change over time with your generation?

GH: Unh-hunh, it did, yes. We became Democrats quickly after Ed was in the family. And we really liked his family, his mother, his father who We didn't have long to get acquainted with his father because he died, but we liked his family, his sisters. He had a brother but the brother it seems lived in California.

AL: That would be Eugene [Muskie].

GH: Yes, I remember the name.

AL: You got to meet Lucy [Muskie Paradis] and Irene [Muskie Chaisson], Frances [Muskie Chouinard]?

GH: I liked all of them very much.

AL: Were these family gatherings that you would have during the years?

GH: I think at the time I'm thinking of, I'm thinking of how, I think they must have had a place down at Kennebunk at the time, but it wasn't the house that they have now. They lived right on a golf course at that time, so he'd have his family down.

JH: Before there, Mum, that camp, the camps, before they were in Kennebunk they had a camp on -

AL: China Lake?

GH: Right, they did.

JH: Actually they had two different ones. One at the end of the lake, that was later I think, and then there was one sort of on the same side where Jack had his.

GH: That's true.

JH: And we spent a lot of time there.

AL: Did anyone in your family get to the level where they were involved in Ed's political campaigns, or was it just more family support?

GH: Well, we were invited to many things that I'm sure we went, that we'd been invited to, unless we'd been in the family, you know.

AL: Did your brothers, for instance, ever actively campaign when -

GH: Yes.

AL: You all did?

JH: Yes, my father, yeah, and all the cousins, you know, we were all involved at some level.

AL: And so your husband got involved some?

GH: Quite a bit, quite a bit, in city politics plus state politics.

AL: And what was his name?

GH: My husband's name? James H. Harvey, Jr. He loved politics. I did, too.

AL: Did you discuss politics at home a lot?

GH: Some, some, we did.

AL: What were your Watching Ed become governor and then later on to the U.S. Senate, did you follow his career closely?

GH: Oh, positively, positively.

AL: Do you have any recollections of maybe conversations you had with Jane about Senator Muskie's success or aspirations?

GH: Well, I think we had a lot of conversations concerning politics.

JH: But what about her attitude, Mum, towards the whole thing in the beginning, do you remember anything about that?

GH: Let me see, I think they were living on Silvermount and it was just a tiny home. I don't think at first Jane liked it at all, because he had to travel so much and was gone from home and she had to take care of Stephen. I think Stephen must have been born at the time. Oh yes, Stephen and Sissy, Ellen.

AL: Was Sissy a nickname for Ellen?

GH: Yep. That's what we called her. I haven't seen her

AL: So did you see maybe a change in Jane's attitude over the years, did she -?

GH: Many changes. Many changes, you know. When you're in the political light I might say, or political scene, I think it's very difficult, must be terribly difficult. I don't know as I could do it, but it was very difficult for her too, and it was just one thing after the other. And it was all the time, from the beginning to the end, because even when Ed was still living and was more or less you might say, out of politics, things would come up that he would have to go away and, you know, it would bother her quite a lot.

AL: The demands on his time?

GH: Unh-hunh.

JH: And hers.

GH: Sometimes she'd go with him, but.

AL: I know from other interviews that I've done that even from as early as the governor years, Ed Muskie felt pressured about the white space on his calendar, there never being enough of it. So I can see how that might have played the same with Jane as well. Was she able to, when actually they moved to Washington, was she able to come back to Maine and see you and other family members often with the kids, and?

GH: No.

AL: No.

GH: No, that was -

JH: I think there was actually some distance created once they moved to Washington, don't you, Mum? Not for me because I lived in Washington so I was very connected to them, but not particularly -

GH: The family, the rest of the family and myself. But there'd be some get-togethers that we would be, to which we were invited and sometimes we could go, but not too often because of our children.

*End of Side A
Side B*

AL: We are now on Side B, and you were just about to say something?

JH: We had lots of family reunions. And the Muskies, they were either at the Muskie's house in Kennebunk usually or, you know, sometimes at camp, Howard's camp or whatever. And they would often be around, but more so I think at the Muskie's in Kennebunk. Oh, and also, when Howard had his camp in Kennebunk, that was a time when they were both there. And Lee had a place, so three of her siblings had places in Kennebunk at one time. So there was a lot of family activity during those years and that was probably when I -

AL: What years were they? Seventies, eighties?

JH: I would say sixties and seventies. I think I was in high school, when Howard had his place there at least. I mean, Lee had a place there my whole life.

GH: Yeah, they had a home there really, a summer home.

JH: And then the Muskies had two, you know, had places along the way, too, two different places.

AL: When you say Lee are you referring to Ginny's older sister?

JH: Yes, Lerlene.

AL: So she came back to Maine in the summers?

JH: In the summers, yeah, and they pretty much lived up here in the summer.

AL: Now, Lerlene was, must have been almost twenty years older than Jane, does that sound right? So that was really a -

JH: How much older was she than you, Mum? I think we had this conversation recently and we couldn't remember. I would say that's true, though, I think it had to be.

AL: Because it sounds to me as if Lerlene may already have been out of the house when Jane was born.

JH: Yes, oh yeah, I think that was true, wasn't it?

GH: Yes.

AL: Yeah, so we're talking probably eighteen years at least. And did, so did they, both having places in Kennebunk in the summer, did they, do you think they tended to know each better in later years? Were they, did they get together often?

GH: Not often, but they'd get together, you know.

JH: Jane got very caught up in her life, and I think that was responsible for a lot of, I mean we had a lot of gatherings that were sort of formal gatherings, either around political events or family reunions, things like that, but for Jane to, I never remember Jane coming and just sort of spending time with one of her siblings or, you know, just one on one. She was very wrapped up in her friends and the life that they'd created. Wouldn't you say, Mum?

GH: Yes. We sort of lose touch with Well, I sort of lost touch with her mostly because we weren't close by each other, but also because, as Judy said, her life changed a great deal and she changed with it. And to me it was sad, but, you know, it's bound to happen, it's bound to, some people do that but there are some that don't, that

AL: That can hold on to their roots.

GH: Right, yeah. And even now, you know, it's, I call Jane but Martha doesn't Martha is closer to me than Jane is, much more. Because Martha, when I do talk with Martha, she always tells me how much she loves me. And one summer I stayed down there quite a while, most of the summer, at Kennebunk and Martha and I. Martha was working but we were sort of getting closer.

JH: I think their kids remained closer to us than Jane did actually. I would consider us a close family, but Jane was sort of somewhat removed from that. But the cousins, you know, we all stayed in touch and (*unintelligible phrase*).

GH: The cousins have a good time.

AL: Well, I want to bring you more into the conversation and sort of -

JH: Do you want me to swap places, or is the mike okay?

AL: Your voice carries fairly well; I think we're all right. Start from some of your earliest memories, recollections of the family and your impressions.

JH: Some of my earliest memories are actually when they lived on Silvermount in Waterville and they had a Cape, and I think that's where Ed broke his back. Was it in that house?

AL: Yes, yes.

JH: But I can remember being scared to death of him. We all were, all the cousins, you know, we were all little at the time and he was so big and so loud, and he had no patience with kids at that point in time, right Mum? And he'd yell, oh my gosh. We'd all scatter, I can remember that. But also Jack and Doris lived across the street, so my mother's brother Jack and his wife Dorothy, and they had two kids. So there was, you know, when we went there we kind of went back and forth between houses, so we could always escape the loud voice by running across the street. And I remember holidays there and just having lots of fun. I mean, there were lots of us that were of similar age.

AL: And how many children did Jane and Ed have at that time?

JH: That was before he became governor so it was just Steve and Ellen. Melinda was born when he was governor, was she?

AL: That sounds right.

JH: Yes, because I can remember there was something, that something happened with the anesthesia with Melinda, remember she talked late? And that was the Augusta Hospital, I remember them always blaming the Augusta Hospital for Melinda's slow speech. So it was just Steve and Ellen, and then Jack had two kids, and my sister and I, my younger sister wasn't born at the time. And there were a lot of kids in the neighborhood as well, so. And then I can remember, I remember a fair amount about the Blaine House years actually. I can remember that every time one of the Muskie kids had a birthday party the State Troopers would come to Waterville and gather us all up in the state cars and bring us to the Blaine House and then deliver us back. I mean, can you imagine doing that in this day and age?

AL: No.

JH: My gosh, we had the run of the place. Steve and Ellen were pretty undisciplined kids, pretty wild and, you know, they just ran that place. Sliding down the bannister, walking on the pool table. We all really, and Christmases, we had lots of Christmases there, well Christmas every year except, the ones that they were there we had Christmas there. And we would go stay overnight. I remember particularly this one time when I think we were going at the family for dinner and when we drove up to the Blaine House every window had a State Police officer with a gun in it, you know, and his life had been threatened. And I can remember going in there and being really scared, and everybody was talking about it. Somebody had made a phone call, I think. Do you remember that, Mum?

GH: (*Unintelligible phrase*).

JH: And I can remember going and looking in the rooms and seeing the State Police officers back-to, just, you know, in every window around. That was scary. What else, eating in the dining room and, you know . . . Those years really, I think it exposed us all, you know, Waterville, Maine kids to something that really affected all of our lives. I mean, it gave us much

more of a world view I think. It changed my life, there's no question about it.

AL: In what ways?

JH: Well, I just think I was, I became so much more aware of the possibilities that I had in life than I would have otherwise. I mean, we were always, my father was always taking me, I can remember him taking me to political speeches, and we were all involved. I can remember being woken up in the middle of the night and having him come and say, oh, "Uncle Ed won again," that kind of thing. So we were all really, even when we were too young to be directly involved we all had sort of this feeling that it was a family event, you know, the campaigns and all of that.

AL: Did you have a sense that people knew who you were, that you were the niece of this important man?

JH: Certainly local people, yeah, yeah. It was, yeah, everybody knew it. Even if, well we moved to Rockland when I was in sixth grade actually and, you know, word travels fast when you're kind of associated with somebody who's famous and Even if you didn't tell them somehow the word got out, so yeah, definitely. And it was always, it was fun, we had a blast being around it all.

AL: And were you very informal with him, did you call him Uncle Ed or?

JH: Yeah, as I got older and got less afraid of him. And he, well, yeah, when he, gosh, how old was I? I think I became much more comfortable with him in my early teens. I think we all did, because as he got older he mellowed as well. And then, when I was a newlywed and we lived in Washington, D.C., they would have us over to the house a lot. And he had, I noticed a huge difference in him at that time. Eventually I had a daughter and he was just, I mean, I noticed the difference between the way he dealt with us when we were young and the way he dealt with my child, you know, he was very loving. In fact, I have lots of pictures of him holding her and talking to her, and Easters that we spent at their house. Yeah, so he was always Uncle Ed and we really grew to love him as an uncle and just as a charismatic figure.

AL: Looking back over those years, what, is there anything about him that really stands out in your mind as making him exceptional?

JH: I don't know about any one thing, but I just grew to have this sense of his principle, you know, his commitment to public life and the principles by which he made decisions. And I gained a huge amount of respect for him for the decisions that he made, the things that he stood by, his environmental stands on different issues. And, you know, I just, I think he was, he was really one of a kind. I mean, we need politicians like that in this day and age and they don't really exist, but he just stood for what he believed and I really felt very, very strongly and very appreciative and very respectful of that with him.

AL: And I forgot to ask you your birth date.

JH: November 5th, 1947.

AL: So you, I mean you were in, were you in Washington, D.C. during the presidential primaries?

JH: No, actually I was in college. Another interesting thing, I'm forgetting, Mum, whether, was the voting age eighteen or twenty-one when I was -?

AL: It might have still been twenty-one.

JH: I think it was twenty-one, because when he was on the ballot as vice president, Election Day was on November 5th, my birthday. And I turned twenty-one that day so the first vote that I ever made was for my uncle, you know, and that made the newspapers. I remember that, that was a big deal. And I was in college then and did a little bit of campaigning here and there during that time.

AL: And then in '72 when he ran for the, in the primaries for president, did you, you said you were politically aware, did you see, I mean it was heartbreaking.

JH: Oh, heartbreaking, absolutely. I was, 1972, I was married, my daughter was born in '72 so we were living, yeah, we were living in Washington at the time I think, or '73. We lived in Washington for a couple of years, then left for a year and then went back. So it might have been in the year that we were back here that he, that the campaign actually, or that whole, you know, thing happened in New Hampshire and all. And it was heartbreaking, I mean we just, I can remember us just watching it all unfold and being so sad.

AL: What was the family's take on the hoax to the newspaper in New Hampshire, you know, that we found out later was a Nixon dirty trick, planting the letter that said that Jane had said something about Canadians. What was the family's take on his speech, his emotional speech in New Hampshire?

JH: Do you remember, Mum?

GH: I just remember how bad we had felt. I just

JH: I was surprised, I remember being very surprised that he would get that emotional in public. He was not that kind of a guy, he was very composed. And I can remember thinking how deep his feelings must have been for him to go that far.

GH: Well, I think it was just one of those things that strikes you quickly.

AL: And there's still controversy today, you know, about whether he cried. And in today's world it wouldn't have mattered. But, you know, there's still two sides that maintB

JH: Whether he cried or not, it was emotional.

AL: Yes.

JH: Yeah, that was heartbreaking. Then I remember, I can remember being in the car on First Rangeway, pulling into the driveway at our house on First Rangeway the day we heard over the radio that he'd been appointed secretary of state, and that was very exciting, very exciting.

AL: Are there things that I haven't asked that you think are important to add about Ed and Jane or the family?

GH: Well you know, I think, I think they lived a life that most people in their situation, well it would be the same, you know. Because I think when you're in the spotlight and trying to please everybody all the time is very, very difficult. And I think it was very, very difficult for them. They had children, you know, a very busy life and they had to try to make things work and it was, like I said, was very difficult. And as Judy said we lost each other during all of this. Maybe that happens to all people that are in a situation like that. I don't know, but.

JH: I feel, though, that I maintained a certain closeness to Jane probably because of those years in Washington, but I felt, I felt I always had a connection with her for some reason. And she was always happy to see me, and I admired her so for her good taste, you know, she had beautiful taste, her houses were always exquisitely decorated. She was a classy lady, she was in many ways.

AL: Great. Anything else?

GH: She, I think Jane was extravagant. I mean, she'd probably agree with me, that's for sure. But she enjoyed it, you know. But I never had a chance to be. *(laughter)*

AL: Thank you very much, both of you.

End of Interview