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Stedman, Dixie (Moore) oral history interview

Andrea L'Hommedieu

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Interview with Dixie (Moore) Stedman by Andrea L'Hommedieu

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee

Stedman, Dixie (Moore)

Interviewer

L'Hommedieu, Andrea

Date

April 18, 2004

Place

Bath, Maine

ID Number

MOH 433

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Biographical Note

Dixie Ann (Moore) Stedman was born November 3, 1949 in Hartland, Maine. She grew up in a Republican family, but became a Democrat. As a teenager and college student, she worked in Perry Furbush's law office. At the time of this interview she worked at Bath Iron Works and lived in Bath, Maine.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: family background; Hartland, Maine community; and description, recollections and anecdotes of Perry Furbush.

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Transcript

Andrea L'Hommedieu: This is an interview with Dixie Stedman on April 18th, the year 2004 in Bath, Maine, and this is Andrea L'Hommedieu. Could you start by giving me your full name, including your maiden name?

Dixie Stedman: My name is Dixie Ann Moore Stedman.

AL: And where and when were you born?

DS: I was born in Hartland, Maine, November 3rd of '49.

AL: And did you grow up in that area?

DS: I did, I graduated from high school in Hartland, from Hartland Academy.

AL: And what was that area like when you were growing up?

DS: Well, it was much the same as it is today in that it is a small town, it's remained a small town, and I would guess that the population has even remained fairly constant or decreased slightly. It was always a town that was dependent upon a very few number of industries. When I was growing up there was a tannery in town, and a cannery, it's odd that they're so rhyming. And the cannery, which was owned by Baxter's, went out of business some time during the time that I was in high school, and the tannery actually ended up moving into that facility and expanding its leather processing into that area. And now it's a, essentially a one-industry town which is associated with certainly a type of heavy manufacturing and a process that involves a lot of technology these days, much more so than it did when I was living there. It was a town that was, there's a smell associated with leather processing that is reduced these days, because of environmental restrictions, but growing up in Hartland that was very much part of the community, you were aware of that.

And also when The cannery, which was in full production and was at the end of the street where I lived, and that was a case where they were primarily processing vegetables so that had to do with the harvesting season. So late summer, early September was their prime time and that

also generated quite an awareness of them, because of the smells that were associated with that as well.

AL: And what was the town like politically?

DS: I'm not sure I know. It was, I did know a bit, my grandmother was a Republican. She was actually a friend of Margaret Chase Smith, and there were a number of people in Hartland who had that same association with her, because Margaret Chase Smith's husband had worked in Hartland as a school administrator, an area administrator, something similar to that, and so they had lived there and a number of people knew Clyde Smith and then his wife as well. And during the time that I was young, Margaret Chase Smith was in Washington and my mother would, my grandmother rather, would often go to area meetings or sometimes there would be phone calls. It wasn't a close friendship, it was somewhere between an acquaintance and a friendship but certainly it was probably, certainly it was political. And I was well aware that my grandmother was a Republican, and there were several other women in town that I knew through her who I had a strong impression of. But not much else, nothing, nothing beyond that. I'm not aware of other races, in terms of political races particularly.

AL: Your parents weren't politically involved then?

DS: They were not, they were not. My father ran for the school board once and he found that quite a trial and, town politics. Of course they, my parents attended the town meetings and those were politics on a local level which were pretty involving for people who got involved with it. And certainly during that time it was a time when I would say a real majority of people attended the town meetings. I don't know what the circumstances are now. They still have them, of course, every year in Hartland, but I don't know what the attendance is like, or the interest in them.

AL: So, how old were you when you worked in Perry Furbush's office? And how did you come to work in his office?

DS: Perry wanted a, he always worked for the State of Maine as title attorney and he primarily was involved with researching titles for land takings or projects associated with road building. And I have no idea if that was a full time job, or something that was a portion of that but it was, during the time that I knew him he was always engaged in some capacity. So he would be off some part of every week doing that work and he would either be working in something like Somerset County, where he could work in Skowhegan, but that was only random because he could be in other parts of the state as well. He spent a lot of time in York County, and during those times he would stay away for the week while he was working. But what that meant was that he primarily had a law practice on weekends, or that was when he was doing his work in his house.

He had a very large, actually very historic house and he had two rooms which comprised his office, he had a waiting room and an office where he saw clients. And he needed somebody to work weekends for him, or some portions of those times subject to whatever was going on. And

so I believe he called the high school in town, which was Hartland Academy, and I think he was given my name through that process. That seems to make the most sense, and I think that's what happened. And I believe I started working for him fairly young in that I would have been, if not a freshman, a sophomore, because I worked with him all the time I was in high school. And then when I was in college and to some extent beyond that he would call me, and I worked as, just for the four or five hours on whatever jobs that he had going, and it would always be in association with some clients and he needed work drawn up. And, of course, this is before we had copiers of any kind of quality or word processors of anything so everything was done on a typewriter with carbon paper, so things were fairly laborious. And making multiple copies of documents was only done through carbons, or repeated development of them. So I learned a great deal by doing all of these things repeatedly.

Lots of, because Perry could probably be referred to as a country lawyer in terms of the work that he did locally. There was lots of wills and probating estates, and deeds, real estate transfers, some lawsuits but not a great deal. He did some collections work, which he probably didn't mind it. It doesn't strike me as interesting work, but I don't think that he minded it too much; it was sort of a process so that meant letters and just the process to collect overdue accounts. And I think there was always a fair number of clients in that regard, because so many people had arrangements with others whereby they either bartered or they had accounts that could last for a long period of time. And you could see how they would become overdue, so there was a certain amount of collection work in the area.

AL: In working there, did you get to know him and his family at all? And what were your impressions of him?

DS: Yes, his children, his one daughter, there was only one daughter and her name I believe is Cynthia. She was grown and not living at home by the time I was there. His wife Marion was a, I believe, primary school teacher, meaning kindergarten school teacher, in the Palmyra school system, and she had taught school for many years and continued to teach for many, many years. I'm sure it's safe to say she taught well past any sort of regular retirement age. And she was probably always home, certainly on weekends she would have been home.

They had a large house - how to describe the architecture? It was built on an area called Warren Hill in Palmyra and it was historic in that the Warren family came up from Massachusetts when Maine was still Massachusetts. And the story is that, and Perry had done some work in this regard, that the person who was sent up there was the brother, the not-well-thought-of, in-trouble brother of Joseph Warren, who I think was one of the developers of anesthesia. I could be incorrect in this, but it was a medical, he was a doctor and there was a reason for his renown, and the name was Joseph Warren. So the younger brother was given this land, the family was, either purchased or was given the land up there and the younger brother was sent up to build the house. And it was called Warren Hill for that reason, then, because it did in fact, if you, if you look at the land from the big picture there was a hill arrangement and it sloped down towards town, but it's not apparent if you're close to the house.

And the house had Indian shutters in all of the rooms, in all of the formal rooms, and those are

the shutters that pull out from inside the frames of the window. They're wooden and they push into the walls and are hidden, but they pull shut to form a wooden barrier, and those were to prevent Indian arrows from penetrating the house. Perry was well versed in the history of the house and was, as I said had done a good bit of work in, as he traveled around, to investigate different leads that had to do with its history.

He told me, it's possible that I saw these, I remember, I think I saw these as opposed to it just being a memory, but he told me that there were slave quarters in the back of his house where, because this was a farm, it was a working farm. And Perry had farmed it himself before the time that I knew him, but you could see that there were large acres that surrounded this area. And it was a believable story that there would have been that kind of a situation, that they would have had the crops there that would have required a labor force. Since that time, I don't absolutely know if that was the case, if in fact slaves were kept on the property or not. And it's, there's a lot of scholarship these days that sort of discredit some of those older stories about whether or not, or the extent to which there might have been slaves in the State of Maine. I mean, were they actually here and working? I don't know. But that was the, that was the story. And . . .

AL: And how old was Perry at the time that you were in high school working for him?

DS: That's a good question.

AL: I'm trying to get an idea of what part of his life he was at.

DS: It would be helpful to know how old he was when he died, but I'm guessing that he was in his sixties. He did not live to be particularly elderly in any way, and so it's possible that he was in his mid-fifties when I knew him. I think that that makes sense, and that I might have known him over a ten to fifteen year period. And he was, Muskie was a senator at that point in time, he was no longer, he was in Washington, and that might help put some time frame to it as well.

AL: So we're in the sixties when you started working for him?

DS: Definitely. I graduated from high school in '67, so it's something like '64 through '67 was the time period that I worked for him during the high school time, and as I said always after that. I always, there were always reasons to see him infrequently, primarily to do this work. But he would also phone me at times. When I was in school he would call and talk about different things, and it was politics. He liked to talk about politics and he liked to talk to young people who had an interest in it. And as the different campaigns occurred over the years, primarily the presidential ones, they were always a great source of information, or discussion for him.

And his habits were rather nocturnal. He would tend to end his working day, if he was working at home his working day would end early afternoon, so if I was working I probably rarely would ever do anything beyond four o'clock, and I'm sure he ate dinner and went to bed early. But that's because he was in the habit of getting up at two or three in the morning and beginning his work day, so that's when he did a lot of the legal work himself, that which he was researching or whatever. And then if he saw clients it was always in the early morning hours. And he would

essentially probably be through with his, most of his work day by eleven in the morning, and I would continue on to finish documents that needed, that he had pushed out in the course of the morning.

And he would often, at that point, listen to the radio. He was always placing bets on horses, a big part of his personality, and he had a strong interest in all the horse racing. And he was in Scarborough Downs every summer, he spent time down there. He and his wife would go and stay in a nearby motel or small portable trailers or something, I'm not sure what they called them back then, but it was kind of a social thing for him. But in addition to that he was following the, most of the races in the country. And it was possible at that time to place bets, it was illegal but you could place bets through individuals by phone, and he would do this.

And part of my time working with him was that he taught me how to handicap horses and handicap races by a certain system. And the fun of it was the horses and the racing, so he liked to place bets on races that he thought that he could see on television in the afternoon, on Saturday afternoon. He either wanted to be there or he wanted to see it. He wasn't interested in betting for betting's sake as far as I know. And he would have the newspapers and he would know which races were being run, and he had a fair amount of information which was racing magazines and papers, so there was a lot of stuff that was available in that regard. And you knew which horses were running, and then you'd have to research their backgrounds and their recent race activity and handicap them in terms of what you thought was the likely outcome of the race, and then place these bets.

So that was part of a typical Saturday for us, would be figure out the race in the morning, practically the first thing, and make the phone call, which he did, I was never involved in that, and place the bet and then we'd watch the race whenever it came on. And I'm thinking that these might have been two o'clock events. It was certainly in afternoon when these would be broadcast. And there was, certainly there were winners and losers, and it never seemed to matter particularly. It was fun to win, but I don't think that Perry was too concerned if he had lost, because there was always another race, another weekend. But he liked to see how I could do with this, he liked me to find, this is the lawyer in him, he liked me to develop opinions and support those opinions in terms of what I thought was the right bets to me.

And there was one particular one which was a lot of fun for us, because it was very much a long shot, and the horse did win that afternoon. So he placed the bet, and he wouldn't argue, he was arguing to confirm, to strengthen my opinion I think, he'd never argue against doing it, because part of the fun was just doing it, call it the educational experience or whatever. And that particular race, and it's daunting to me that I can't remember the name of the horse, but the horse won, very much a long shot. It paid something fairly substantial. At the time it might have been a little over a hundred dollars, it might have been fifty dollars, but it was considered a, really a long shot, income.

And Perry was so pleased with that, that he sent away and ordered the picture of the horse in the winner's circle. That's something you could do during that time, you could probably do it all over the country, but he wrote away for this and he got the picture and he had it framed in his

office. And sometime later, after both he and his wife had passed away, there was an auction at his house. And I went to the auction to see if by any chance that picture was still available and I couldn't find it. I ended up buying some other racing things, pictures of horses and things, but none of them were the one that I remembered.

And after I went to school, just to carry that story to the conclusion, when I went to college, I was in New York City, and there was one summer that I applied for and worked for a law firm on Park Avenue in New York City, and I got the job through an employment agency. I answered an ad for summer jobs and they needed references and, of course, I used Perry as a reference. And the person who made the call checking references got him in the early afternoon. And he told her, I gather that there was very little conversation about the qualifications or anything in terms of what I had done, but he told her the complete story of that particular horse race and that particular bet, start to finish. So, there was a lot of laughter after that. I guess the person making the phone call had gotten quite a, found it very interesting, but that was what rose to the top of Perry's mind, or certainly the story he wanted to tell would take precedence over anything that anybody else wanted to tell. He was an excellent story teller, and he had many, many stories.

I wish that I could remember the names of many of the people, because they involved people in the Democratic Party. And they involved the days of Perry's involvement with them as Muskie was running for governor, as they were putting together the plans for his doing that, and the fact that it was such a long shot, and many of the people involved in that. And I remember the stories and I remember none of the names, because I was just too young for the names to mean anything to me. I did not retain them, and that's unfortunate. But he was quite a, my impression was that he was very involved, one-on-one, with many people in the Democratic Party. And it was a fairly small group of people that were making these plans and trying to put a campaign together, and then throughout the time that Muskie was governor and obviously on as he moved down to Washington.

Perry stayed in Maine, I mean he stayed involved. And Don Nicoll had a word for him, which I'm not going to remember, but he was using it to describe a number of people that were involved in that time. And Don, of course, would have been younger than Perry; he was quite young at the time he was doing that work. I don't know if he called them "country farmers," it's not that, but it's something similar. What he meant was people who like to be involved at a certain level. They didn't want to be in the limelight themselves but they wanted, they were very interested in the politics of the day, and it gave them a chance to be involved. That Muskie was, or the whole atmosphere around him was such that there were many people who plugged into these, into his political campaigns and his tenure in office in those different capacities. Everybody's contribution was welcome, something along that line, that there were people that got an opportunity to perform and to be involved in politics that might not have otherwise at the time.

AL: I understand from Don Nicoll that Perry Furbush worked with Ed Muskie at the Office of Price Stabilization just prior, also called OPS, just prior to Muskie's running for governor. Do you remember Perry ever talking about stories about the OPS?

DS: No, I don't. And again, I think I'm afraid that's something that I would not have known,

it's not something that would have struck me in terms of remembering them. Because I was, because I was in high school I was between the ages of, well, say fifteen to eighteen and it's not the sort of thing that I would, it wasn't the sort of thing that I was going to remember.

I do remember some stories about, I have no idea of their validity, because Perry also boasted a bit and he had a good audience in me, because I couldn't dispute anything. And so I don't know about some of the things, but they always had the ring that they could have been possible. And one of the stories involved the decision that was made when Muskie ran for governor the first time. And, of course, it was a long shot to put a Democrat in the governorship in Maine and the internal politics were such, this was not a public caucus but rather the internals of who this Democrat was going to be, and it was a party effort. It was not necessarily focused on Muskie, although he might have been the more well known, more popular than others. And Perry said that he was a contender for this, that as the decisions were being made as to who was the most likely person to be able to carry this through and achieve a victory, he said that he was a contender, and that he was happy to step aside for Muskie to be the one to go forward. Again, don't know, but that was the story.

AL: Are there other stories surrounding that time period that you recall, even if maybe you don't recall all the names, do you recall sort of the centers of the stories?

DS: Unfortunately I do not. I think there may have been some, but part of the benefit of Perry, or the value of him, was that he didn't dwell a great deal on the past years. Because I think when we were, if I knew him in the very late sixties, mid to late sixties, we were talking about things that probably, do you know the year that Muskie became governor?

AL: He became governor in '54.

DS: Okay, so it was ten years or so, easily ten years earlier. And Perry was, that's not so long ago now as an adult I think, but at the time he was very focused on the current politics, and as we moved into the -

AL: Humphrey-Muskie in '68?

DS: That came later, okay, no, certainly I remember Humphrey-Muskie. For some reason, that was during my early years at college and Perry and I actually wrote back and forth. It's possible that I have letters. I haven't looked, but I have, I am in the process right now of dealing with my mother's house and all of the contents of it, so it's possible that something could surface from there. But Perry wrote me letters, and again, they were very politically oriented in terms of his opinions, and I responded in kind because that's a point where I was, had a great deal of those.

What I remember particularly was, I do remember some conversations about McCarthy and about how basically the whole country was running for president at the time, because it was an election, or at least leading up to the primaries, it was one where there were lots of candidates coming into that. There was a time when Perry passed along one of these letters. He told me that he had passed along one of my letters to Muskie, just in terms of an opinion. And it's the

sort of thing that he, again, I don't know if it was true but it's conceivable that he would have done that, because just in the way that he was inclined to boasting about certain things he certainly wasn't shy about pushing his opinions or his connection with Muskie. He was very quick to use that.

And certainly Muskie was around at times. Well, I know he spoke at Perry's funeral, he was there, he was there, and there were a few other times that I was aware of phone calls and he was in the area.

And, you had asked me about other stories. Perry was very, very interested in the Watergate scandal and the Nixon administration in general. He was not a fan of Nixon, the very early time when Nixon was a younger politician; he seemed to have a great knowledge of the prior history of that, when Nixon was a congressman. And the stories, the first time I ever heard about Nixon's Checker speech was through Perry. And he was telling me about it to illustrate something and he called it the 'good cloth coat', which was part of Nixon's comments about his wife's good cloth coat, as opposed to something expensive as he was talking about how common they were. And so Perry found the speech, found a copy of the speech, in a *Life* magazine article I think, and provided that to me. And he was great with something like that if he wanted to delve beneath it just a little bit. He didn't push his interest if he saw you weren't going to go there, but if you had an interest in something he could generally come up with quite a bit of background to fill that in.

And he was very astute, or at least I, based on my ability to understand the politics of the time, I found him to be very astute about what was going on. And when the break-in first occurred, initially, and this was before it was anything more than a small blurb in the newspapers and really just a small item of interest in the magazines, and long before the *Washington Post* starting promoting it, investigating it, and Perry's comment at the time was, "This is a really bad thing," meaning this is a bad thing that Nixon has done. Not that it was perhaps morally bad, but that it was a legally, politically bad thing, it was a wrong move; it was going to be a big problem. And at the time I remember thinking, why is this any different than any other political thing that happens? It just didn't strike me as an issue on the scheme of things, as I understood them. But Perry had the ability to perceive this as something that was going to be much bigger than it was at the time, initially, and as something that Nixon was really, say, dirty on this subject in a way that he wasn't going to be able to get out of. I always remember that, that it was like a, I don't remember anybody else or really anything else at the time that came close to naming it as the scandal that it subsequently became. He was smart, no doubt about that.

AL: Did you see him actively working on campaigns, or were you really away at that point?

DS: Yeah, I'm not, I don't know about that. I think that there probably were letters, but I really was working the, other than, as I said, spending some time with the racing papers and figuring that out on a daily basis. I was working in terms of his private practice with one exception. He kept a time sheet for the State every week for his activities, just a, however it was that he was accounting for his time that he worked and he carefully filled those out each week. And somehow I did something with those, I'm not sure what, maybe I was adding it up or something.

And it's something that he carried with him and filled out during the course of the week.

And one comment that I remember from him is that, regarding the accuracy of this, and I never saw anything that I questioned as anything as being completely legitimate in terms of expenses or time. And he said that the longer you were involved in this business you know that there's always going to be some bureaucrat that's going to come along and question something like this. And he said, "There's nothing better than good records to support what you're doing, your claims." I have, certainly have used that insight a number of times in my life professionally and otherwise, just the basis, and never getting sloppy about something that can, could prove to be an unpleasant issue in the future if you didn't have the records that you need to support it.

AL: Did you talk at all about how he really saw Ed Muskie in the scheme of things?

DS: He admired him greatly, there's no doubt about that. I don't, I think that Muskie might have been a little younger than him but I'm not certain of that, and he definitely admired him. And he, I think it's safe to say that there was never a story told that put Muskie in a bad light. I don't remember even ambivalence in terms of how I, because I think I would have perceived that even if I didn't remember the things, I think I would have had the impression of how he felt about things, and he definitely considered him a capable, very well intentioned and very smart person. And he was, Perry was very pleased to be involved with him, to be associated with him. He was, I think he was proud of his own involvement in politics as well. There were a lot of high jinx and things, but there was nothing that suggested scandal in any way.

I'd have to know more about Augusta during those times, but there was a hotel in Augusta on the rotary I think, where most of the, many of the people who were involved in Augusta were staying there during the week, because traveling was such that people didn't go back and forth on a regular basis. And there was lots of politics around the bar, politics around the dinner, the dining room, whatever, and the conventions and things. Certainly Perry was involved. I don't know if he ever attended any of the national conventions. Interesting, but I don't know.

AL: Do you recall him ever talking about Frank Coffin?

DS: It's a familiar name but I can't put a story together, no.

AL: And Don had asked me to ask you about the Central Maine Republicans. Was that a, are you aware of that group and Perry's involvement with it?

DS: No, I'm not, I'm not. I wonder if my grandmother would have been involved in that.

AL: Well, they were Republicans for Muskie.

DS: Republicans for Muskie, she would not have been, no. *(laughter)*

AL: Did you also go on to have an interest in Muskie's career and follow it and be a supporter?

DS: I did, yes, I did. And definitely, I might have anyway, because even though my family was Republican I seemed to, I was always Democratic, even from the point that I first registered to vote, and a good bit because of the times. I mean, this was the, I turned eighteen in, well, roughly '68, so that was the time when the Vietnam War and all of that so that certainly it pushed a lot of people in that direction I think. But, I lost my train of thought.

AL: I was talking about your political involvement and any support or active campaigning for the senator over the years?

DS: Okay. I, well I certainly always supported, always voted for him, no question there. I have never been actively involved in politics other than being a small contributor to the national party and tend to go to the local caucuses, and have always voted, but that's, that's it.

AL: Is there anything that I haven't asked you that you think is important to add today?

DS: Well, I would say that as I look back over my association with Perry in the time that I knew him, he was absolutely a character. He was not somebody that would fade out of memory. He was a maverick in many ways, just the way that he, his career. I know that he had started out as a farmer, he had that land, he and his wife. I don't know when they married, but they certainly married, and he was farming at the point that he decided to go to law school, so he didn't start out as a lawyer as a young man. And he went to, he drove down to, he went to Suffolk Law School and he drove down every week and attended classes and drove back on weekends and farmed on the weekends, fields, whatever. He had people working, I believe a few people working during the week, but he was out working himself on the weekends. And I think that he struggled quite a bit to put himself through law school, and he definitely put himself through. And to then go on to practice law and to do the things that he did, I think it's kind of an interesting story. And I don't know all of the details, but the transition that he went, that he made from being a farmer and whatever future he thought he had or didn't have in that regard, into a career in law, I think is very impressive.

And he tried to get me to be interested in it as well. This is a case where the timing was wrong, because I certainly, I don't have many regrets but this is one, is that I wasn't interested in law at the time that Perry wanted me to be interested in it. Because many times he said, "You can go through school and you can come back here and you can take over my law practice." And I remember thinking at the time, well what's the big deal about this? And this is the time when I just wanted to be away from a small town in Maine, and I was going to New York City, and that's all I could think about. And the time when the benefit of that, it just was a few years later, or the intensity of my experience with Perry had it happened some, a little bit later, things might have come together.

Because Perry would have been very helpful to me, and that's what he told me. He said, "I will help you in terms of who you need to know, where you would want to go to school." He wasn't offering financial support, although that might have been available if I had needed it, but he was being very straightforward and appropriate in saying, "I will help you if you want to do this." He said, "This is not a bad life, this could be a good thing." And he was, in many ways he was a

genuinely concerned person.

There was one time when I was in New York City in school and he was coming down to go to a race at Aqueduct, which is the large race track down there, and he asked if I would like to go. And so we met up and we went to a race at Aqueduct. It was a wonderful experience, and in terms of the quality of this, this is one of the big ones, there were horses that were running there that are of the Triple Crown quality during that time, and I saw some horses racing that day that are one of the ones that are still spoken about when you refer to some of the best known, and it was a great thing. So, just a part of that time of growing up for me, because even in college you can still call it that.

After that, after I came back to Maine after college and got married very quickly, and lived in Hartland for maybe a year before moving to Bath. And during that time I probably still worked for Perry a little bit. But the, as I said, the intensity of the experience was gone. It's possible that I wasn't as available, because I had a full time job doing something else, and that great time when I was just so impressionable I guess, and when Perry was so interesting, might have gone. But he never changed in terms of his personality; he never really conformed or became particularly conventional.

He had a large Lincoln Continental, in the way that they were large at that time, they were huge, long boxy cars, and I think he always had one version of that or another. And he was very happy for you to drive it. When you were working on a Saturday he would, I think one of the things I would do would be go into town to pick up the mail in the morning. And it's possible that he picked me up to take me to work, because it was four miles away, it's not something where I would have walked and I didn't drive at the time. So I think that he might have picked me up in the morning. As I said, he was an early morning person, and he probably came into town for coffee or a newspaper and he probably would be picking me up around seven or eight o'clock. And we would work for a while, get some documents done, and then I would drive to, no, I did drive, I associate this with driving, and I would drive to the post office to pick up the mail and to mail whatever we had done during that time. So that was kind of part of the routine for Saturday.

And we also, part of the way that Perry worked, and I have to believe it was common working in that environment which was a small, small town, he would travel around to people. If people needed legal work done, he would go to them if they were not able to come to him. He was the equivalent of a doctor making house calls. And typically, if he was doing a will for somebody, and this was very common, older people would decide they needed a will, they'd be close to, or in very poor health and then they would just suddenly do this. And he would have the details and he would create the document and I would type the will up. I was very good at wills.

And we would, and then we would get in the car and drive to wherever the client was and execute the will there. They'd sign if of course, and then Perry and I would witness it, which was perfectly legitimate. You can't witness it if you're a, have an interest in the property, so any of the person's relatives or whoever is not a valid witness. But Perry, as the lawyer is a good witness, I was a witness, and as a result my name is on a lot of wills throughout that central

Maine area where we were working at the time. It was incredibly interesting, and it is a regret that I didn't pursue a career in law because it would have been, it would have been because of him, so.

AL: Great, thank you very much.

DS: You're welcome.

End of Interview