## **Bates College**

# **SCARAB**

Edmund S. Muskie Oral History Collection

Muskie Archives and Special Collections Library

6-21-2001

# Bouvier, Mignonne B. "Midge" oral history interview

Nicholas Christie

Follow this and additional works at: https://scarab.bates.edu/muskie\_oh

#### **Recommended Citation**

Christie, Nicholas, "Bouvier, Mignonne B. "Midge" oral history interview" (2001). *Edmund S. Muskie Oral History Collection*. 47.

https://scarab.bates.edu/muskie\_oh/47

This Oral History is brought to you for free and open access by the Muskie Archives and Special Collections Library at SCARAB. It has been accepted for inclusion in Edmund S. Muskie Oral History Collection by an authorized administrator of SCARAB. For more information, please contact batesscarab@bates.edu.

# Interview with Mignonne B. "Midge" Bouvier by Nicholas Christie

Summary Sheet and Transcript

#### Interviewee

Bouvier, Mignonne B. "Midge"

#### Interviewer

Christie, Nicholas

#### Date

June 21, 2001

#### **Place**

Portland, Maine

# **ID Number**

MOH 290

#### **Use Restrictions**

© Bates College. This transcript is provided for individual **Research Purposes Only**; for all other uses, including publication, reproduction and quotation beyond fair use, permission must be obtained in writing from: The Edmund S. Muskie Archives and Special Collections Library, Bates College, 70 Campus Avenue, Lewiston, Maine 04240-6018.

### **Biographical Note**

Mignonne "Midge" Bouvier was born in Lewiston, Maine on June 27, 1929 to Romeo and Blanche Bouvier. She worked for the Army for some time, then as Frank Coffin's personal assistant throughout his career. She has knowledge of the Franco-American community in Lewiston.

### **Scope and Content Note**

Interview includes discussions of: Frank Coffin; Don Nicoll; Franco-American community; Lewiston, Maine; Foreign Aid Committee; Edmund S. Muskie; Bates College; and Social Clubs.

#### **Indexed Names**

Bouvier, Blanche Bouvier, Mignonne B. "Midge" Bouvier, Romeo Bush, George W. (George Walker), 1946-Coffin, Frank Morey Coffin, Ruth Morey
Jalbert, Louis
Johnson, Lyndon B. (Lyndon Baines), 1908-1973
Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963
Malenfant, Ernest
Muskie, Edmund S., 1914-1996
Muskie, Jane Gray
Nicoll, Don
Smith, Margaret Chase, 1897-1995

### **Transcript**

**Nicholas Christie:** This is an interview with Midge Bouvier at her home in Portland, Maine. The date is June 21st, 2001, and Nick Christie is the interviewer. Miss Bouvier, would you please state and spell your full name?

**Midge Bouvier:** My first name is spelled M-I-G-N-O-N-E, middle initial B, and the last name Bouvier, B-O-U-V-as in Victor-I-E-R.

**NC:** And where and when were you born?

**MB:** I was born in Lewiston on June 27th, 1929.

**NC:** And how long did you stay in Lewiston?

**MB:** I went through high school and worked for maybe two years. And then I started working for the federal government and went to Europe for two and a half years, and came back to Lewiston. And from then on I've worked for Frank Coffin, who at the time had just been elected to Congress. And we went to Washington, and were in Washington for several years. And then he was elected to the court, came back to Maine, and I've been living in Portland ever since.

**NC:** Now, those two years before you went to Europe, where were you working?

**MB:** One job that I had was in the office of one of the shoe factories in Lewiston, I can't remember the name. But it was just about two years that I worked there.

**NC:** Could you tell me your parents' names?

**MB:** My father's name is Romeo, and my mother's name is Blanche.

**NC:** And what did they do for a living?

**MB:** My father was a real estate person.

**NC:** Now, you went to Lewiston High School?

MB: I did.

**NC:** What was Lewiston High School like when you went there?

**MB:** Oh, it certainly was much smaller than it is now and, but it was very, very nice, very, very nice. I graduated in, oh gosh, 1947.

**NC:** Now, you went to Europe? And you stayed there for how long?

**MB:** It was, I think, two and a half years.

**NC:** And what were you doing there?

**MB:** Working for the U.S. Army in Heidelberg, Germany. The headquaters of the U.S. Army, and I worked there for two and a half years.

**NC:** What was your specific job?

**MB:** I was working for a colonel who was the head of the Signal Corps at that time. It was a secretarial job, actually. But while I was there, I traveled quite a bit through Europe. And Heidelberg was marvelous, I loved it.

**NC:** How did you get in touch with that job?

**MB:** I can't remember, I really can't remember.

**NC:** Now, when you returned to Lewiston, you said that you very quickly began working for Frank Coffin.

**MB:** I did, I worked for maybe a year. And then someone told me, he had just been elected to Congress, someone told me he was looking for someone to go to Washington as his secretary. And I went for the interview in his law office on Main Street, I think it's 460 Main Street in Lewiston, beautiful old building. And he hired me, and I worked for him for thirty years.

**NC:** Do you remember what your initial impression of him was when you first met him?

**MB:** Oh, it's the same thing, the same impression I have right now. He's such a kind, generous person, always has been.

**NC:** Now, how political were you as of the time that you began working for Frank Coffin?

**MB:** I wasn't at that time, really. But it was very interesting being in Washington, late fifties, and we had, as I remember, one or two interns who did part time work with us. I worked mostly with Don Nicoll, and enjoyed it very much. I liked Washington very much.

**NC:** Now, thinking to the early, to the first years you worked with Frank Coffin and Don Nicoll, and the interns you just mentioned, do you remember how the office was run?

**MB:** I was the secretary. Don was the administrative assistant, and he's the one who worked on bills being presented to Congress that Judge Coffin would have to vote on. And the primary interest, of course, for any congressman, it is their home state that is, and their own district, certainly, that they're mostly interested in.

**NC:** Did you get a feeling for how Don Nicoll and Frank Coffin worked together?

**MB:** They worked very well together, always have. They're different characters, their characters are different, but they worked very well together. Don's a very quiet person, very well up-to-date, and as is the judge. He's very, neither one of them is very excited; very quiet people.

**NC:** Now, in 1954, Frank Coffin was an essential piece of the Democratic Party in putting together the platform for the party. And I was wondering if, before you went to work for him, did you have an impression either of the specific individuals like Frank Coffin or Ed Muskie-?

**MB:** No, no, I really didn't at that point, because I had been in Europe and had not been back to Maine, you know, very long.

**NC:** Were you brought up in a political family?

**MB:** Not a political family, but certainly my parents always voted, all the elections, and that has always stayed with me.

**NC:** You felt like you were just naturally a Democrat from the way you were brought up?

**MB:** Yes, from the way I was brought up. But as I grew older, certainly, then you have to make up your mind which party you're going to go with, and the Democratic Party fitted me better than the Republican certainly.

**NC:** Concerning Lewiston and the Democratic Party, do you have an impression of how Lewiston, particularly within the French, Franco-American community, perceived the party line?

**MB:** I think in those days, certainly, the Franco-Americans were mostly Democratic, and I wasn't part of any political group, you know. But I haven't lived in Lewiston for many, many years now. I don't know what the situation is now, but then it was definitely more Democratic than Republican.

**NC:** The Franco-American community being mostly Catholic, and quite a bit of the rest of Lewiston being Protestant, did you perceive that there was any political gap that went along with that tension?

**MB:** I can't remember doing that, no, no, not at all.

**NC:** Okay, generally speaking, how would you say the Franco-American community fit into Lewiston, and how it affected it and how it was affected by the city?

**MB:** I think there was a good fit. A lot of the Franco-Americans worked in the mills, and that was hard work, but I think it was a good fit, definitely.

**NC:** Now, speaking of the mills, did you get a feeling for how strong union leadership-?

**MB:** No, I had nothing to do with mills. My family didn't at all.

**NC:** Within the Franco-American community, it was mostly a Democratic Party line...

MB: Yes.

**NC:** And yet that community has been perceived to be fiscally conservative, and conservative in other ways as well. Did you see that there was a specific reason why they generally chose to side with the Democrats?

**MB:** I wasn't politically active, I really couldn't say, no.

**NC:** Did you get a feeling for how the Irish community in Lewiston was perceived?

**MB:** No, I just can't remember that.

**NC:** Now, concerning Frank Coffin, do you remember what some of the issues were that he took seriously when he was, when you first started working for him, or as time went on, that he attached himself to?

**MB:** He was on the foreign aid committee, and he enjoyed that very much. He was also concerned about the work forces in Maine, definitely, in his district. He was very conscious about that, that there be work enough for the people. But he enjoyed his work on the foreign aid committee, I remember, definitely.

**NC:** Do you remember how he related to Senator Edmund Muskie?

**MB:** They were very good friends, always were very good friends, definitely.

**NC:** Now, he used television as a strength in his political campaigning, and also, as well as his power to debate, was considered strong.

MB: Yes.

**NC:** Do you remember how you saw him as a speaker?

**MB:** He's a, always was an excellent speaker. I think he was on the debating clubs at Bates.

He was an excellent speaker.

**NC:** Do you remember his transition from being politically, being in the political system to becoming a judge? Do you remember anything about that?

MB: He ran for governor. Judge Coffin ran for governor in, I think it's 1960, and lost by a very small margin. We had spent all that summer in Lewiston while he was campaigning; I ran his office there. And when he lost, we went back to Washington immediately to close the congressional office. But I can remember Senator Muskie calling him and telling him, "Hang in there, we'll see what happens." And that was definitely a time of not knowing exactly what would happen. But as it turned out it was wonderful, he was appointed to an international organization in Paris, and he spent almost two years in Paris, yes. Very well liked, did very good work, and it was a very good job for him.

**NC:** What was Paris like, how did you -?

**MB:** Well, in those days it was, it certainly is different than it is now, but we had offices in an old building which has since been destroyed. But it, and it was very international. The OECD had office space in that building, too, and we were part of the OECD, which is the Organization for Development and, I forget the whole title of it. The judge traveled quite a bit in different countries in Europe. His family was well settled in a beautiful apartment, the children were all enrolled in schools, French schools and American schools, and it was a very good change.

**NC:** Do you remember his connection to President Kennedy? And at one point he was going to be nominated to be the ambassador to Panama?

**MB:** Yes, exactly. We had heard that he was going to be nominated, and in fact, we were in Washington at that point, he started taking Spanish lessons at the Foreign Service Institute in Arlington. And, but then the president was killed, and the appointment did not go forward.

NC: Apparently Judge Coffin's relation to LBJ wasn't nearly as favorable as -

**MB:** It was not as personal. They didn't know each other, that was the whole thing.

**NC:** Now Judge Coffin, he went to Lewiston High School as well.

**MB:** Yes, yes he did, and Bates College.

**NC:** And he had quite a bit of support from the Franco-American community.

**MB:** Oh absolutely, absolutely, yeah.

**NC:** Do you remember how that relationship worked?

**MB:** It was a very good working relationship. They both, I think, respected each other, which is unusual, but it, because the Franco-Americans usually are very close knit. But they liked him

very much, very, very much.

**NC:** Do you remember Mayor Louis Jalbert?

**MB:** The name is familiar with me, but I didn't know him. He was a flamboyant person as I recall.

**NC:** Now you had the chance, by following Judge Coffin to different stages of his career, to see how workings within the government might have slightly changed as time went on. How did you see women as being treated within the political scene?

**MB:** Women being treated, you say? Certainly in the beginning, women were not at the forefront as much as, you know, certainly now. But I never found any problems being treated in Washington there were none whatsoever really.

**NC:** Now, you were born in 1929?

**MB:** Yup.

**NC:** And you lived through the Depression, then, in Lewiston.

**MB:** Yes, I was just a very young child, but yeah.

**NC:** Do you have any memories from that time?

**MB:** No, no, none whatsoever.

**NC:** Too early.

**MB:** Too early.

**NC:** Now, do you remember Lewiston and Auburn, the difference between the two when you were living there? Was there any significant -?

**MB:** Maybe Lewiston was more of a mill town than Auburn was in those days. Shoes factories and, oh, cloth, you know, where they spun blankets and textiles.

**NC:** Do you know Margaret Chase Smith?

**MB:** Yes, I certainly do. I didn't know her personally, but she was a formidable lady.

**NC:** What did you think of her, just, what are your own opinions of her personally?

**MB:** Certainly she was ahead of her time and, being a senator and a very, very formidable lady.

NC: How do you think Lewiston is perceived in the state, even now in Portland, or -?

**MB:** Well, I haven't lived there for many, many years. I think it has changed, definitely. You don't have the mills that they used to have; they keep trying to update, you know, the city itself. And it's a pleasant, pleasant city I think; definitely.

**NC:** Do you know anything about the old city charter and the new city charter that changed in 1980?

MB: No, no.

**NC:** Because you weren't living there at the time.

**MB:** No, I wasn't living there.

**NC:** Do you think Muskie was perceived to have, do you think he stayed connected to his roots as he went on to national levels in '68?

**MB:** Oh yes, definitely, definitely. He was very well liked in Maine, very, very well liked.

**NC:** And you feel like people felt his presence?

**MB:** Yes, and they felt his presence, too, because he was such a big man, a tall, very imposing person.

**NC:** He did a lot of work for cleaning up the rivers.

**MB:** He did, he certainly did.

**NC:** Do you know anything about Ernest Malenfant?

**MB:** The name, I've heard that name but, no, I don't, don't know anything about him.

**NC:** Now, you said earlier, before the interview you mentioned your French, and that it's come in handy. How did you learn French?

**MB:** Parochial schools taught both French and English, thoroughly, both languages. And it's a very good training. Of course, they don't do that anymore.

**NC:** Now this is when you were in Lewiston?

**MB:** Yes, yeah, I went through the parochial school through first year of high school I believe.

**NC:** Did you continue to be taught French when you went into Lewiston High?

MB: No, no. No, but I always kept my French. As I say, it always stayed with me, and I had

had good training, both grammar and speaking.

**NC:** I've read that in 1940 Lewiston decided to ban French speaking in the public schools. Do you remember anything about that?

**MB:** To ban it, no. You mean in the public schools, not the parochial schools.

NC: Right.

**MB:** Oh, that could be. I don't know, I don't remember that.

**NC:** But you never felt there was any tension about speaking French in Lewiston.

**MB:** No, no, definitely.

**NC:** Did you find that Coffin, Frank Coffin, ever encountered ethnic tensions when he was -?

**MB:** I was never aware of any of that at all. But I think that's part of his, his being himself. He's a very gentle person, very kind, gentle person. He had a, before he went into politics and everything he had a wonderful reputation as a lawyer. His mother, his grandmother, his, were very well known people in their own rights, actually. And he was brought up as a, you know, a very good person.

**NC:** So what it is like to live in Portland today?

**MB:** Oh, I've lived here for so many years now. I like Portland very much.

**NC:** What do you like about it?

**MB:** It's a fairly big city, but yet very manageable, and I like it very much.

**NC:** You retired how long ago?

**MB:** Oh, I've been retired since the mid-eighties.

**NC:** Since the mid-eighties.

MB: Yup.

**NC:** Is that when you moved here?

**MB:** No, no, I moved here before.

**NC:** Before, okay. What were you doing towards the end of your career?

MB: I was working for the judge and his, U.S. court of appeals right here in Portland. And at

one point the government changed its retirement laws, and I had too many years to put in. I had put in so many years I didn't want to have any change in the regulations, and I retired. But I have kept in touch with the judge all these years, and all the many law clerks I worked with.

NC: Really?

**MB:** Many, many law clerks.

**NC:** So you have quite a correspondence.

**MB:** We have a reunion every two or three years where the clerks come back to Portland for reunions, and it's very interesting.

**NC:** What goes on?

**MB:** They always have a big clambake either at somebody's house, or Two Lights or someplace, and it's very interesting. They come back from all over the country actually, you know, they're scattered all over the place.

**NC:** These were people that you met mostly in Washington?

**MB:** No, these are people I met here in Portland. They're law clerks from Portland. They came to Portland to be law clerk either for a year or two years, and some, like Barbara Rickelhof, she is a career law clerk who actually runs his chambers now.

NC: Still?

MB: Yup, yup.

**NC:** Do you know what's going on with him now?

**MB:** Oh yes, with the judge? Oh yes, we keep in touch all the time. I talked to Mrs. Coffin yesterday. We keep in touch, definitely.

**NC:** He's still enjoying himself?

**MB:** Yes, he really is, yeah, yeah.

**NC:** So you, do you have family in Lewiston?

**MB:** I have one brother who lives in Auburn, and I have one brother who lives here in Cape Elizabeth, and that's all.

**NC:** Okay. So you're in Portland. Do you have a feeling for, Portland's pretty Democratic, or pretty, the Democratic Party is more prevalent here, I would think.

**MB:** I'm not sure about that. I'm not involved in politics at all, but I vote all the time, but, I'm not sure that it is, I don't think Portland is a Democratic city.

**NC:** Okay. Well, at one point Judge Coffin, there was the possibility of him being appointed to the Supreme Court.

**MB:** There had been talk about that. I'm not sure where it came from, of if there was any background to it. But there had been talk about that, definitely.

**NC:** Do you remember his personal take on that, did he -?

**MB:** No, no, he, even if he had had more background on it, he wouldn't, that is nothing that he would discuss with his office staff, I'm sure.

**NC:** So he was very reserved in his enthusiasm for politics.

**MB:** Yes, yes he was, definitely, yup.

**NC:** Did you ever hear him talk about his experience at Bates?

**MB:** Oh, he has wonderful memories of Bates College, and he's been very good to Bates College in many ways, you know. But that is, he lived in Lewiston when he was going to Bates College, but he lived on campus, which was very unusual. But I think his mother or his grandmother insisted upon that. And they lived practically, you know, two streets away, but he lived on campus.

**NC:** I wonder why that was?

**MB:** His grandmother went to Bates, and his mother did, too. And they felt that, you know, he, it would be better for him to be on the campus.

**NC:** Get away from home.

**MB:** Yeah, get away from home, too.

**NC:** Essentially, yeah.

**MB:** Yeah, the two ladies were, had a great influence on him. But -

**NC:** In a political way, or?

**MB:** They, in both ways, in the personal and the political, definitely, yeah. But he's been very good for Bates, and vice-versa really.

NC: Right. Does Coffin's "Wranglers" ring a bell with you?

MB: No, no.

NC: No?

**MB:** I don't know what that is.

**NC:** Someone told me about it, it was a, some sort of team of lawyers that he had in the early fifties I think, or the mid-fifties, that helped him come up with ideas. I don't know much about it. I'm not sure how accurate this (*unintelligible word*).

**MB:** Before he got into politics, or-?

**NC:** Just when he was getting into politics. But I really don't know anything myself. Now, do you remember anything about the social clubs in Lewiston?

**MB:** I do remember they were very popular, some social clubs where people would meet, the men would meet once a week and have lunch or something. I don't know if that still goes on.

**NC:** I don't think so, I think most of the social clubs, since the mills closed, have fallen apart.

**MB:** Yeah, yeah. I think the judge belonged to a lawyers' group, that they would meet every week and have lunch together, you know. That was before my time.

**NC:** I wonder if that in any way was sort of an informal version of a union.

**MB:** Oh, I don't think so. I think it was more a social thing, definitely.

NC: Okay.

**MB:** Have you talked to any of the lawyers in Lewiston who still remember him?

**NC:** I haven't personally, but it was hard for me to know what has been interviewed or not. But the project's been going on for some time now. But I'm sure Don Nicoll has kept track of who is where.

**MB:** Oh absolutely, absolutely.

**NC:** Is there much of a French, Franco-American community here in Portland?

**MB:** No, not that I know of.

NC: Right.

**MB:** And I don't think there is in Lewiston any more, certainly not the way that, we don't have the parochial schools that you used to have. People don't have the opportunity to learn French the way we did, so.

**NC:** I wonder why that changed?

**MB:** Well, you didn't have the nuns or the priests or the brothers to teach any more, certainly.

NC: Right.

**MB:** I went to school at St. Peter's and Paul, this huge school on Bates Street, from you know, kindergarten up to the eighth grade. And they had a whole community of nuns who taught us, French nuns actually. Their first order was from France, actually, so we had both French and English constantly.

**NC:** So, going to that school, the French influence was more than just a language, it must have been -

**MB:** It was more than just a language, absolutely, yup.

**NC:** What was that like, do you remember being introduced to -?

**MB:** Well, the nuns were very strict, very, very strict, and you had to do your homework and not fool around, definitely. And we wore uniforms, black uniforms, white collars. It was a good education, very good education but strict, very strict.

NC: I'm sorry, you may have mentioned this earlier, but where did you live in Lewiston?

**MB:** We lived on Shawmut Street and Bradley Street, which are still there, I know, but looks completely different now.

**NC:** Can you relate it to, like, either downtown or?

**MB:** It's up Main, not Main Street, Sabattus Street. Going up Sabattus Street, both Bradley and Shawmut would be on the right hand side about half way. If you continue, than you'd hit St. Mary's hospital.

**NC:** Oh, okay. So you were quite near downtown.

**MB:** Not terribly, no, not terribly. There was the still Bedard's Pharmacy as you're going up Sabattus Street, I guess it was Sabattus, yup.

**NC:** Do you remember what downtown Lisbon Street, towards the bridge, what that area was like in terms of commerce?

**MB:** It certainly wasn't very developed as it is now. The mills were there, definitely, the bgi buildings, you know, but it wasn't developed stores and, as it is now.

NC: I mean, there's really, now that the mills have closed on Main Street, at least, I've only

been in Lewiston for two years, but it seems as if whatever local stores do come in, in downtown, very quickly disappear. And I've heard people attribute that fact to the closing of the mills. And there's just not work in Lewiston, and -

**MB:** Is there much problem with working, finding jobs?

**NC:** Yeah, definitely. And Bates Mill just closed.

**MB:** Oh really.

**NC:** So now there's really none of the, none of the mills that existed for the last generation exist now. And I was wondering if you could, if you remember how, it sounds like you haven't been to Lewiston recently, but -

**MB:** I just was up there. My last aunt died just before I left for Europe, and I went up for the funeral. And, but that, you know, I didn't have a chance to -

**NC:** Explore the city?

**MB:** Look around, no, no.

**NC:** Another thing is right now they're really trying to at least make it appear as if Lewiston and Auburn are really united.

**MB:** As one community.

**NC:** As a community economically and in some sense politically, the two mayors. And I was wondering if you have any ideas about what it used to be like. Were they considered as one and the same, or?

**MB:** Well, there's really no downtown for Auburn, you know, it just blends in, the two places together. Certainly they can have their own mayors, but work-wise they need to get together.

**NC:** It's a confusing situation there.

MB: Yeah.

**NC:** So what does Frank Coffin do now?

**MB:** He still sits on his court, he's a senior judge on his court, has his chambers in town at the courthouse. And he sits maybe every other month in Boston, his court is in Boston, the U.S. Circuit Court, First Circuit. And, but he works really just part time now, but he still has two law clerks and a secretary.

**NC:** Is he still involved in the party?

**MB:** He can't, being a federal judge, he can't do that.

**NC:** And his father, it says here, was a six-term mayor of Lewiston.

**MB:** No, not his father. Who, where did you get that information?

**NC:** Off a bio-sheet I had in the folder, it says father Herbert was a six term Lewiston mayor, and his mother Ruth was a Democratic state committeewoman.

**MB:** She was, yes, his mother, yeah, definitely.

**NC:** Did you ever get a feeling for what she was -?

**MB:** Oh, she was a smart lady, very smart lady.

**NC:** And obviously quite active.

**MB:** Very active, in her younger days, yeah. And she lived in Lewiston, until finally she was old enough, she came to Portland to live with them here.

**NC:** So, do you have a feeling for where, just your own personal opinion about politics, both in Maine and the nation, just how things are going, and how you -?

**MB:** Well, coming back from Europe, Mr. Bush is not very well liked by the Europeans. Every American newspaper you read over there is, even the *New York Times* today I was reading, it's just amazing.

**NC:** He's not a popular guy.

**MB:** Not a popular guy at all. His European trip last week was in, you know, he didn't go to Paris, he didn't go to London, he was just flitting about in Sweden and, oh dear.

**NC:** Not making quite a name for himself.

MB: No. no.

**NC:** Well, I guess I just want to ask, is there anything else that you'd want to, that you really feel like you'd like to talk about?

**MB:** The only thing I'd certainly want to emphasize is that working for Judge Coffin was the greatest thing really for me, personally and professionally. Because I worked in all three branches of the government, and he's such a wonderful person to work for. He's just that type of person.

NC: Sounds like he was a very warm -

MB: He's a very warm person, definitely. Very smart, very, very bright and smart, yup.

**NC:** I've heard from a lot of people that he's also extremely charismatic on the personal level.

**MB:** Yes, in a very quiet way. He's not, he's a very small man, not a loud, you know, speaker, but just a very good person in many ways. It was a good contrast between he and Senator Muskie I think, and they got along beautifully, they really did.

**NC:** What do you mean by the contrast?

**MB:** Well, Muskie was a much more outgoing person, and very different in size from Judge Coffin, you know. Muskie's a very tall, thin man, and spoke loudly and convincingly and, but they worked together very nicely, very, very nicely.

**NC:** Did you ever get a chance to meet Jane Muskie or any of Muskie's kids?

**MB:** I was going to ask you, no, I don't think I ever did. Does she still live in Maine, or did she live -?

**NC:** Yup, she still lives, I don't know, I assume she lives in Maine. I know that Don Nicoll still has contact with her at least.

**MB:** Yeah, but she was much younger than he was.

**NC:** I think so, I don't know quite how much younger. But I know that there's still some connection, at least between both the school and Don Nicoll with her. Because I know that there have been matters come up where she, where a member of the family should be contacted, she's generally the one to go to.

**MB:** Yeah, they came from Rumford, I believe. And his children, I don't know anything about the children. I've never, they had several children, I know.

**NC:** Yeah, oh, yeah. Well that's great. Is there anything else that you want to talk about, or -?

**MB:** I don't think so. Will that do it?

**NC:** Okay, oh definitely. We appreciate it very much.

End of Interview

moh291.int