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Gosselin, Paul oral history interview

Andrea L'Hommedieu

Interview with Paul Gosselin by Andrea L'Hommedieu

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee
Gosselin, Paul

Interviewer
L'Hommedieu, Andrea

Date
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Place
Lewiston, Maine

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Biographical Note

Paul Gosselin was born in Lewiston, Maine in 1951 to Hal and Julie Gosselin. His father worked for the Lewiston newspaper and then served as vice president of the Bates Mill from the mid-fifties to the mid-seventies. Paul is a lawyer and began practicing under John Beliveau. He is involved with various community boards and commissions, including the Lewiston Mill Redevelopment Corporation.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: Hal Gosselin's career; personal recollections of Margaret Chase Smith; Muskie in New Hampshire; Jim Longley's "kitchen cabinet" and Bob Pachios and Hal Gosselin; Denis Blais; Ernest Malenfant; Louis Jalbert; changes in Lewiston-Auburn; Lucien Gosselin; Muskie's accomplishments; and Maurice Goulet.

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Transcript

Andrea L'Hommedieu: This is an interview with Paul Gosselin conducted by Andrea L'Hommedieu on August 10, 1999 at his office at 86 Lisbon Street in Lewiston, Maine. Mr. Gosselin, could you start by giving me your full name and spelling it?

Paul Gosselin: It's Paul Gosselin, spelled G-O-S-S-E-L-I-N.

AL: And where and when were you born?

PG: I was born in Lewiston, Andrea, in 1951.

AL: And did you grow up in this community?

PG: I did.

AL: And who are your parents?

PG: My parents are Hal, H-A-L, and Julie Gosselin. My father passed away in October of last year and my mother's still living.

AL: And where were they from?

PG: They were from the Lewiston area. My father's father was a Canadian immigrant, I really

don't remember what year they came from Canada, but my father's father came to Lewiston. My dad was born here and had three brothers. So my father also grew up actually in a, an apartment building on Shawmut Street in Lewiston, and they lived there for quite a while. My father's father had a rug cleaning business, so both my generation and my father's generation are natives to Lewiston.

AL: And your mother's family?

PG: My mother was also born in Lewiston out on Pettengill Street, which was off College Street at that time. It's about, oh, maybe a quarter mile past the college. And I understand that back in those days, that was the country. So they had a couple of little cows out there, and my mother and her sister, there were two siblings, were born in Lewiston. So my mother is also home grown and has lived here all her life as well.

AL: Did your mother's family come from Canada way back?

PG: I really don't know a whole lot. My mother's, my mother's father died when my mother was very young, and I think he passed away when actually I heard he was forty, in the days when a minor illness killed you. And my mother's mother died when I was a young child. And I really don't know if they were Canadian immigrants.

AL: Do you know what part of Canada your father's family was from?

PG: No, not really. I do know that, you know, the Gosselin family tree extends broadly through Canada. There are Gosselins in Biddeford; there are Gosselins in Augusta. Most of my immediate relatives are actually here in Lewiston-Auburn, and when I was a young child I remember that dad would take us on occasion to a family visit in Canada. And I don't remember what town we were in; it was a small town. And I'm sure he still has family there, although we don't have contact with the Canadian roots any longer. So I'm not sure what part of Canada that I derive from.

AL: Now you said you were born in 1951?

PG: Yes.

AL: So you were quite young when your father was a reporter here in Lewiston, at least in the early years.

PG: Quite young. And in my career in Lewiston I commonly will run into people who worked with my father back then, and I have befriended some of them. Ed Kisonek, who's no longer with us, [Clifford] Cliff Hodgman, and those people will tell me stories about those days. But my recollection is that my father left for the war, didn't have a high school degree at the time, came back, got his GED. And I think his first real, (although he worked, I know that as a child he and his brothers worked two, three jobs and he'd tell me about local landmarks that are no longer here where he used to get up at four o'clock and slice potatoes), but I think that was his first real professional employment, if you will, and I'm assuming, and you'd know better than I,

I'm assuming that it was probably the late forties or the early fifties. I know he wasn't at the paper more than a couple of years, because then when he left the paper he was hired as a Lewiston city clerk for a short period of time. And then he became the assistant to the president at Bates Manufacturing where he made most of the political connections that I know of today. Although I do know and we can, I'm sure we'll talk further, but I do know that his initial links with Senator Muskie were formed when he was working for the paper and covering local politics. But I understand that it was at Bates Manufacturing where he really developed a working relationship with Senator Muskie.

AL: Do you have any rec-, what are some of the recollections people give to you about his time working on the paper?

PG: Not much. I, I, a couple of years ago my father had fallen ill, and I started thinking about him not being here any longer. And I gathered up some pieces of memorabilia, and I remember, well I remember a photograph that was in maybe the twenty-five years ago, or fifty years ago, thing in the newspaper. And I remember seeing a picture of him that I think I still have at home, sitting in the newsroom, and with the names of some other people that I recognized. Cliff Hodgman, who, when I started practicing law covered the Superior Court beat for the newspaper, would tell me stories of my dad, and the stories that my father told me about, as a young reporter. For example, we, every time we'd drive, would drive down Lincoln Street and go into what is now known as the Little Canada area. You know he, I remember he would tell me about a story that he covered of a young child drowning, which stayed with him all his life. But, and he would also tell me about running out to fires and following the police logs and so on.

But I really don't have much by way of background on his political connections back then, and the people that knew him who are still around would just tell me about my father as a reporter, not so much the contacts he made but the friendships they developed with him. About a year ago or maybe less, Judy Meyer, who's the editorial writer at the *Lewiston Sun-Journal,* called me. Because, oh, it was on April Fool's Day. She was running a story about an article that appeared in the paper I guess some fifty years ago about a local child, believe it or not, who was at the time less than a year old, and the newspaper ran a story about this child being able to walk. And apparently it was all a spoof, but the thing developed a life of its own, and people in the community all wanted to see this nine-month-old child who was walking, apparently. And she told, and I'd never heard this story, but she asked me whether I had any recollection of it, and I said "No." But apparently my dad was one of the few who helped to promulgate the April Fool's joke back at the *Sun-Journal*. But as far as people telling me stories about Dad's contact with either local political leaders or state leaders, or even Senator Muskie, I really don't know a whole lot about that and can't offer much there.

AL: Now you said later he went on to Bates Manufacturing?

PG: Yes. Dad's real career and notoriety locally, if you will, was through his twenty-year stint as the assistant to the president of Bates Manufacturing. At that time Bates Manufacturing was not only the heart and soul of this community, but it was the largest employer in the state, and had textile mills in Biddeford and Augusta as well as Lewiston, employed five thousand people. And Dad was the, Dad had been hired while he was at the city clerk's office to basically run the

mill locally. The mill was always owned at that time by New York industrialists, and Dad was the top man locally. And it was an interesting time because he came from the basically poor, underprivileged, uneducated Franco-American roots. But he was also responsible and responsive to, you know, the wealthy New York groups. So Dad was kind of in betwixt and between and was responsible for negotiating labor contracts, making sure that everything went well locally.

And through that experience he got to meet many, many, many state, local and national political figures. He was very, very, very close, and I have strong recollections of his relationship with Margaret Chase Smith. I don't have many independent recollections, because I was young, of his relationship with Senator Muskie. But I know that he worked closely with Senator Muskie, who was obviously tremendously concerned with what was going on with the textile industry in Lewiston and in the state. And interestingly enough, my father was a long-standing life-long Republican, to the extent that when I would come home from college with long hair and wide pants and the whole bit, I remember we'd have great debates about the Nixon days.

But the point is that despite his strong Republican beliefs, Dad, I know, had a great deal of respect for Senator Muskie; had a good working relationship with him. I think he became close, closer to Senator Muskie than he might otherwise, because Senator Smith, who was a close friend of Dad's, also had a wonderful working relationship with Senator Muskie. That I know. So there was a spin-off effect there. And Dad regularly would travel to Washington to lobby or to speak for bills of local interest to the textile industry, and I know would often meet with Senator Muskie. So I think that's primarily where they developed a strong working relationship, through that liaison. But again, I've been told that, you know, those early years in the newspaper was when he first met Senator Muskie and got to know him.

AL: Now tell me about some of the recollections you have of your father with Margaret Chase Smith.

PG: Oh those are, those are long standing and wonderful and vivid memories. As a matter of fact my dad, when he passed away, was still on the board of the Margaret Chase Smith Foundation, which operates the library. And he was involved in several of her campaigns. I remember as a child him commonly on the telephone with Senator Smith as if he was speaking to the lady on the other side of the clothesline. As a child, Dad on occasion would let me tag along. And I remember one visit to Washington where we visited Senator Smith, and also I remember seeing her in a Senate chamber with the red rose on her desk.

Dad, Senator Smith owned a home in Cundy's Harbor on the ocean and spent very, very little time there during her political heyday. As she became more elderly she spent even less time there, and she trusted Dad to basically be the caretaker. So during the sixties, the late sixties, my family would summer at Cundy's Harbor. And my father, who couldn't hammer a nail, had the sole responsibility of making sure the lawn was mowed once in a while, and so on and so forth. So Senator Smith would on occasion come up to visit. And my mom would bake lobster dinners and she'd sit with us. And I remember when my sister, no, my parents, my parents rather, had their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, and it was at my sister's home. And Margaret Smith had retired at the time but she traveled up from Washington. And I remember her writing a letter,

that I still have, because she met at that time my little baby child. And she wrote me a letter about my young child and about how much she relished being invited and having the time to spend with my family. So, it's those kind of more personal memories that I have of Senator Smith.

AL: Did you have any political impressions of her?

PG: She was, as I'm sure you've come to know, she was a fiercely independent woman who followed party lines and was a good, solid Republican. But my memories of her was that she was an independent lady who voted her conscience, and that always stayed with me. When, when we would summer at her home, she had a small library. And I remember marveling at some of the writings that she just left there casually, you know, without, without a great deal of custody. Or, I mean there would be, there were books there that had been autographed by people like Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon. So she was extremely well respected across the board. One day, one day we were in the attic of her summer home looking for, oh, goodness, some gardening shears or something. And there folded up in a corner next to some chicken wire, just sitting there unprotected casually was what I later learned was the banner that had been displayed when she was actually nominated for President. And I don't remember what year that would have been and what Republican convention that was, but, so again, a lot of memories of Senator Smith.

As a long-standing Republican, Democrat rather, and still a Democrat, I kind of wish that I had gotten to know Senator Muskie a little better than I did. But I do, again, I do know that there were some fond remembrances there and contacts on Dad's part. It's just that I didn't get the direct exposure to them, so I can't narrate those kinds of stories. I do remember, and don't let me, even though the microphone is running, don't let me ramble, but I do remember Dad was very, very influenced by the incident that brought Ed Muskie to tears during his presidential campaign. And I remember Dad . . . . goodness, what year was that, Andrea, with the *Manchester Union Leader*? Goodness gracious. I don't, that would have been. . . .

AL: Nineteen seventy-two.

PG: Yeah, okay. So I was probably in college at the time, and I remember coming home on a visit and my dad really being stricken by that incident. And I could tell that it was primarily as a result of his personal and profound respect for Ed Muskie, more so than just a political reaction. But he was really hurt by the pain that Senator Muskie suffered during that incident. So that I remember; that incident I remember, I was talking about.

AL: Are there other political figures that you remember, maybe Maine political figures or even national that your father. . . .?

PG: My father was a very close friend of Jim Longley, extremely. And there's, Jim Longley's closest advisors from the Lewiston area that really sprung his political career came to be known as his "kitchen cabinet." And there are still several people locally like Bob Pachios, who's a CPA in Auburn. And my dad was a member of that group and was intimately involved in Governor Longley's campaign, and then served as an informal advisor through the years, and

again, I remember Governor Longley stopping by the house regularly on his way to Augusta or back and forth. So Dad was pretty close to Governor Longley, and then just had acquaintances I guess, if you will, with whoever the controlling the political figures were during that, during that twenty-year time.

AL: Do you remember Stan Tupper?

PG: Yes. Not personally, but I remember Dad speaking of him, and I remember Dad knew him well. But I don't really have any independent memories other than knowing that they had a relationship.

AL: Now how many children are there in your family?

PG: I have two children. I have two boys, Thomas, who's thirteen, and Nathan, who's twelve.

AL: And when you were growing up, how many children did your parents have. How many brothers and sisters do you have?

PG: I have one sister, Patricia. And she lives in Lisbon now; she has a grown family and she'd eighteen months older than I am. I don't know why it is, but it seemed that, as I look back it seemed that I had a little more direct contact with the, with Dad's political side. Pat was pretty close to Mom and we were a traditional family and my sister did the Girl Scouts and I did the other stuff, and traveled on business trips, as I say, on occasion with Dad. And I don't think my sister would have any more independent recollections of anything that would be of interest to you than I would.

AL: Are, have you been politically involved at all over the years?

PG: To some extent. I've been involved primarily on a local level. I've never held elected office locally, but I've served on just about every appointed board or commission that I can think of in Lewiston. And I've come to know and work friendly with most of the mayors over the years. I'm a close friend now to Kaileigh Tara. And, you know, going way back, my father was quite friendly with then mayor and now Judge John Beliveau at the time. And I knew John, and as a matter of fact John hired me, and I worked for John as an attorney when I first started out. So there was that carry over from Dad's career to mine, but that's really been it. It's mostly just citizen involvement, not elected office, and really don't have any interest in it.

AL: Now you said your father worked for Bates Manufacturing for twenty years?

PG: I would, I would think, Andrea, and I've never really gone back and documented the dates, but I would think that from the early fifties, or maybe the mid-fifties, until the mid-seventies. I remember that I was a senior in college, which would have been '73, when he left the employ of the mill. In that time there had been a tremendous decline in the textile industry for a whole host of reasons, so, and there was a change in ownership, and he left in the mid-seventies. But I think it was early to mid-fifties when he started working at the mill.

AL: Did he ever have any interactions with Denis Blais?

PG: Yes.

AL: How was that perceived?

PG: They sat on opposite sides of the table but developed, and I remember Denny Blais well. Dad would, you know, as he ran errands on Saturday or, you know, combined business with pleasure somewhat during the week, I remember often tagging along when we would either go to Denny Blais' house or Denny Blais would be at my dad's house. And that was really the, I think the hallmark of Dad's, the, you know, that, his relationship with Denny Blais epitomizes what Dad was able to do. Because, he was sitting on the other side of the table and in effect negotiating, you know, the livelihood of people that he related well with and lived with. And my dad didn't live in the lap of luxury, you know. We certainly lived well growing up and didn't have a lot of direct exposure to the poor and underprivileged in the, in town. But Dad had to walk that line between those people who he worked with every day who reported to him, and yet negotiating, you know, raises and union grievances.

And I remember some real heated times during those days. And, you know, maybe I was nine or ten years old at the time. I remember one day Dad running into Denny Blais at Cole Farms Restaurant when Mr. Blais was with his family and Dad was with us. And they were in the middle of a very contentious negotiation, may have even led to a strike at the time; I can't remember. But there was, these people were at least publicly sworn enemies. But I remember them kind of winking at each other and saying how's the kid, how's the family and having a cup of coffee and, knowing that the next morning they were going to go back and do battle again. So as you mention a name like that, it does spark the memory. And other, and back in those times I remember local mayors like Bill Jacques, Ernest Malenfant. . . .

AL: Oh, can you give me a description or impression of him?

PG: Of Ernest Malenfant? Not much other than, as a child I remember that he, you know, there were competing, there were comp-, strong competing feelings, if you will, about him. To some extent, you know, he was a savior to the Francos and a very strong Franco allegiance. But I remember there was a group of local Francos who felt that he represented the uneducated kind of backward group who really didn't believe much in advanced education, kind of still the old school. And I remember that friction there. I don't, I don't have any memories of my father having any tremendous respect for Ernest Malenfant, but people like Bill Jacques, who I think seemed to be a little more progressive I remember, and sat in the middle of. . . .

And again, Bates Manufacturing was *the* employer, I mean everybody's, you know, from, from the welfare rolls to local politics, I mean everything hinged upon the success of the textile industry. So local city councilors and mayors took great interest in what was going on in the success and the status of negotiations. And of course, a labor strike that would people, put people out of work would have a tremendous impact on all segments of the community. So those were, those were hot times, I recall. And I remember, I remember my dad on Saturday mornings taking me down to his office to pick up his mail, and then he would take me to

breakfast on Lisbon Street. And in those days there were three or four drug stores on the street that served breakfast. And I remember often times Dad sitting there with people who really saw him as the sworn enemy, because they, he was, at least on the surface, resisting their efforts to get raises, but then another group of people in the community who respected Dad for what he did. So I remember everybody knew him, and there was either a sense of strong personal affinity or dislike. I mean, Dad drew those kind of reactions in those days, only because of the job he held, and not because of who he was, the position.

AL: Do you remember or have any impressions of Louis Jalbert, Louis Jalbert?

PG: Oh, goodness. I, it, it's amazing that we've sat here for ten minutes or so and talked, and that name hasn't come up. That, my father had a very, also as, probably a closer relationship at the time than even with Governor Longley later and Senator Smith. He had a very, very close working relationship with Louis Jalbert. And it was a relationship that I remember could be characterized as one of turmoil.

AL: In what way?

PG: When, when my father, when my father saw eye to eye with Louis Jalbert, there was a very good, warm relationship, and Louis would call every night. My mother, when we talk about names like Louis Jalbert and Jim Longley, my mother can recount stories, a whole host of them, because some of them were right in her living room or her kitchen table. But the flip side was, I recall some occasions when, depending upon what side of the political fence they were at, that Jalbert would, Mr. Jalbert was really upset with Dad. And I remember that would affect Dad, and that would affect our family life for a while, and that tension would be there. He was, he was a very, very- as you know better than I, he was a very, very strong political person. And you did well if you got along with him, and you did best when you got along with him. And on those occasions that you disagreed with Louis Jalbert, he let you know that he wasn't happy. And on many occasions Dad did not agree with Louis Jalbert.

My father was also independent. Politically, I think he probably voted the party ticket when he went into the voting booth, but he always did what he thought was best for the citizens of the community and the citizens of the state. And sometimes that bode well with the Louis Jalberts of the world, and other times it didn't. And, and, and I do remember as I talk out loud here, I do remember that during those days of politic-, of labor strife, and again we have to remember back in those days, you know, we're dealing with textile mills that, not when my dad was there, but had a history of employing children and working fourteen- sixteen- eighteen-hour days. And the labor movement had made tremendous strides to improve the quality of life for Francos and others locally here in the community, so that those issues, you know, that was a constant debate. And Louis Jalbert, God bless him, always, always, always supported the workingman. And in those times when Dad just couldn't yield to what Louis and Denny Blais felt was best for the working man, there were some, there were some tough times; there was some strife. But I do know that to their mutual deaths, Louis and Hal had strong, strong respect for each other.

AL: How have you seen the Lewiston community change over the years that you've lived here?

PG: The biggest change that I see in the Lewiston community- and it's interesting that you ask me that question, because a couple of months ago I was interviewed, Andrea, by, and I'm embarrassed that I can't recall the name, but one of the individuals who the city has recently solicited to develop a master plan for the downtown. And they'd come in and they'd spoken with me about what I saw as some of the pros and the cons of the community. And one of the things that I'm stricken with is over the course of the last few years, unfortunately, Andrea, as a new citizen to Lewiston maybe you haven't been exposed to a great deal of this, but we have constantly shot ourselves in the foot here. We've constantly held ourselves back. I don't know; there's a strong parochialism. I don't know if it's Franco-American or just unique to the northeast region, but we've always believed that we're not entitled to more. And in my sense, Lewiston has always been shortchanged at the state and national level as a result of that sentiment. And I think we've seen tremendous changes in the last couple of years in that respect.

AL: What do you see as examples of. . . .?

PG: The Bates Mill, the Bates Mill. I'm a, I'm a, the Bates Mill is something that I have a great interest in, because I was asked a few years ago to serve on the Lewiston Mill Redevelopment Corporation, which manages the mill. And I was the, until recently, I was the only citizen representative. And I have a great interest in it, because when they started meeting three years ago, we then met and still meet monthly in what was, forty years ago, my father's office. So I'll sit there and be involved in a debate over issues involving the redevelopment of the mill. And then my mind will wander, and I'll remember as a nine-year-old child sitting there with Dad in the middle of a business meeting, and all I care about is an ice cream cone or a ride home.

So, but, but, through some really rough times the last couple of years and some intense debate leading to last year's referendum, an issue that really, to some extent, galvanized the community, but also polarized the two sides. You know, the community stepped forward and said to its city fathers, we want you to move forward with this project. We recognize that there is some risk; we recognize that it's likely to lead in an increase in taxes. But the majority of the community, and certainly not an overwhelming majority, but a majority of the community said, "We want to move forward." And that was, I think that was unprecedented in our history.

And as a board member, I found myself frustrated for the first couple of years, in that the city council that controlled the purse strings was really reluctant to give us the capital that we needed to develop the mill, to bring in tenants. But it was that referendum last fall, I think, that signaled a change in tenor and told the city fathers, you know, "We really want to move forward. We don't want to see those mills sit vacant and decay; we want to take advantage of our history." A lot of concern about a convention center, rightfully so, but a sentiment that Lewiston doesn't need to sit back and take a back seat to Portland or Augusta, we can do this; let's do it. So that, that to me is a shining example of the change we've seen. There probably aren't a whole host of examples that significant. But, you know, there are a lot of things happening, as you know as a citizen now, that are wonderful things, but that are fairly new, new things, new to our community; a new spirit.

AL: What, during what time period did we see the great decline in downtown Lewiston? Like

you said you remember going down here for breakfast and there were three or four drug stores where you could go and have breakfast.

PG: It's interesting because. . . .

AL: Did it coincide with the mills?

PG: Yeah, it, it, I've never really been asked that question and I've never really thought about it that pointedly, Andrea, but I think you're right. You know, with the declining employment at the mill, which was the heart of the in-town, you know, we, and a related dilapidation in our housing stock. . . . I was also, a couple of years ago I chaired a task force that looked at affordable housing in Lewiston, and our housing stock was then, and is now, a major problem, as I'm sure you know. And there clearly, clearly, clearly was a decline in our housing stock, a decline in our in-town, you know, as the mill waned in its heyday. And it's not only that, the, you know, the advent of the malls and losing the retail center, but as the mill declined in the sixties and seventies, so did the in-town.

And it's interesting because, and I don't know the answer to this, but a lot of people firmly believe that it's the revitalization of the Bates Mill that will help, and that it will be the key and the catalyst to bringing the in-town back. So, you know, to the extent that you can directly relate the two, you know, maybe there's some hope there. But I do remember as a child, you know, the in-town, particularly Lisbon Street, just being an arm to the mill, the gateway to the mill. And everyone would leave the mill with their small paychecks on Friday or whenever, and then come to Lisbon Street to get their haircut, to buy their Christmas gifts, to take their families out to dinner, to the extent that they could afford to do that. So there was that, that real strong nexus.

AL: Have you ever worked for Lucien Gosselin?

PG: Yes, yes I have, and he. . . .

AL: Tell me a little bit about him?

PG: He's a friend. He. . . .

AL: He was a friend of your father's as well.

PG: Right, he was a friend of my father's as well. And when I returned to Lewiston, when I graduated law school, he was of course the city administrator. And I became active on a volunteer basis almost right out of school. I was asked to serve on the planning board. So as I've served on various boards over the years, Lucien Gosselin at that time was always at the helm of the city. So we got to know each other well. And we have a running joke, because every time he and I are at a meeting together and people ask if we're relatives, I tell them that he's, he's really my uncle. But of course, he isn't. And there really is no direct relationship there, but I've known Lucien over the years, and both my dad and I have tremendous respect for Lucien.

AL: Were you involved at all in creating the new charter in 1980?

PG: I wasn't involved on that charter commission. I seem to recall, I don't, maybe you remember, Andrea, who the mayor was at that time.

AL: Paul Dionne or John Beliveau, I think.

PG: One or the others. And they were both law partners of mine, so I do remember having that kind of involvement in working with a law partner who was then the mayor. But I didn't have any direct involvement with the charter. I do remember what a big deal it was, and what a hallmark change it signaled for everybody.

AL: As an observer and not directly involved with Muskie, what were your overall impressions (*unintelligible word*). . . .?

PG: Tremendous respect. You know, we, I don't think today our young people, or people of my generation, you know, fully understand the tremendous, tremendous things that Senator Muskie did for the state and for the country, on all fronts. Then again, you know so much better than I through your research. But I can't remember, other than, other than Senator Smith who, again, we're blessed in this community to be able to succeed to her legacy, you know, we are just so blessed and so rewarded daily by the things that Senator Muskie accomplished for this state.

AL: What do you think his most outstanding or most lasting contribution will be or was?

PG: Oh, goodness, Andrea. His concerns, his concerns with the environment, even though they were not, you know, well publicized at the time and weren't at the top of the agenda, his, his, his concerns with the working man, his concerns with the poor and the under-privileged. I mean I, and I'm sure my reaction there is probably the same as many people. But just, just, you know, Maine being such a poor state and Lewiston epitomizing that, you know, as well, as much as any other community, just, Senator Muskie's genuine concern for the uneducated and the under-privileged that really stamped who we were as a state and a community. And I don't think you can begin to say enough about that. I don't think we can begin to say enough about that. I remember as a young lawyer a few years ago just taking note on the work that Senator Muskie did for the legal needs of the poor that he achieved notoriety for. But it was just such a normal thing for him; it was just part of his fabric. It was a big issue locally to, and with your husband being a practicing attorney I'm sure you're, you're sensitive to the legal needs of the under-privileged. But it was just, it wasn't a big deal to Ed Muskie; it was just another natural thing for him to do. It's who he was.

AL: Does the name Maurice Goulet. . . .?

PG: Yes, I know him well and I know his son well.

AL: I heard a little about his visions for planning parts of Lewiston, and this was years ago. I don't know if he's still active?

PG: Well, I haven't spoken with him in quite some time. I do know that a few years ago when the mill project was in its infancy, I remember reading either a couple letters to the city editor or reading of his appearance at a local meeting. But yeah, I do know that years ago, and he's, he's of my dad's age, and, you know, they were both active in the community and may even have been involved in, oh goodness, something tells me that either the Elks Club or Rotary or something was a common link. I know that my mother and Mr. Goulet's mother, Mr. and Mrs. Goulet, know each other well. I said Mrs. Goulet's mother because now I'm friendly with Mark, the next generation.

But I do know that, you know, he's had, he's representative of the minority of Franco-Americans who had a vision for the community for many, many years. And I don't, and I guess I want to clarify my earlier comments, I don't mean to disparage any prior generation. But there just seems to have been generally a complacency with the community and a satisfaction with what was going on and a tendency to criticize those local leaders like Lucien Gosselin and Hal Gosselin who spent so much time for the community, and just to sit at home in your easy chair and to criticize. But we're seeing so much citizen involvement now across the board, that it's really a wonderful thing. But no, I think Maurice Goulet is probably representative of that group that had vision and looked forward. And I know he's delighted. I was on a, a mill tour that was being held in conjunction with the referendum last year. And I remember he and his wife were there, quietly walking through the mill and, you know, you could just see a twinkle in his eye.

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

PG: Oh, I'm sure that five minutes after you're gone I'll remember all these things, because your interviewing technique and the names that you've mentioned have helped to, you know, open some memories for me, some childhood memories. But I just remember that, with respect to my father's involvement, the, you know, the local textile industry drove the local economy. And, you know, there were many issues, labor and other issues that drew the attention and concern of local and state and national politicians. And I remember that Ed Muskie was right on top of that, and had a pulse and a sense for what was best for the community. And, you know, I like to think that he and my father, you know, contributed to the support and the sustenance of many, many, many under privileged, hard-working Franco-American families. But nothing else that we haven't talked about that comes to mind.

AL: Well great, and thank you very much for your time.

PG: You're very welcome.

End of Interview