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Griffin, June oral history interview

Sarah Terwilliger

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Interview with June Griffin by Sarah Terwilliger

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee

Griffin, June

Interviewer

Terwilliger, Sarah

Date

February 16, 1999

Place

Lewiston, Maine

ID Number

MOH 064

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Biographical Note

June Griffin was born June Lovelace in Danbury, Massachusetts, on June 11, 1914. She came from a Quaker background and went to Bates like three of her siblings. She was in the class of 1936 with Senator Muskie and got to know him very well during her time at Bates. After her graduation, she continued to keep in touch with Muskie, often selling him her paintings, which he put up in his Washington offices because they reminded him of Maine. She married a Lewiston business owner and has lived in Lewiston since her graduation, except for frequent trips outside the country.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: Griffin's family history; the Bates Class of '36; life at Bates in the '30s; Muskie as classmate and friend; Lewiston since the '30s; a sense of community among class of '36 Batesies; her correspondence with Muskie.

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Transcript

Sarah Terwilliger: Okay, this is an interview with June Griffin on February 16th [1999] at her home in Lewiston. If you could start just by telling me your name and your birthday?

June Griffin: Well, it was June Lovelace Griffin. And I was born on June 11th, 1914, and came to Bates from Connecticut, from Danbury, Connecticut. Where, as I said, my father sent four of us there, thinking it was a good school. And that class of 1936 has been rather famous as a, called a star-studded class, because it did have a lot of famous people in it, including Ed. And I enjoyed my time at Bates. Of course it ran right into the Depression, as you probably know, and quite a few of the people had to alter their plans or stay out a little or change. It was hard. But, you know, I got to know Ed pretty well. Although I don't know, he was not anyone I ever went with, but he had, this friend of mine, Sonny Murphy, that he went with all the years.

ST: So you're from Danbury, Connecticut. And did you, were you, did you grow up in Danbury?

JG: No, I grew up in places like Chicago and Florida, Long Island and so forth, but I spent most of my high school and growing up years in Danbury.

ST: You said you had brothers and sisters who went to Bates?

JG: Well, my sister Helen went in '25. She was a very successful lady who did everything very well there and is very well remembered. She was very popular and smart, everybody remembered Helen Lovelace. And then my brother Dan, who I say was a bright guy who was a lab assistant and went on to Tufts Medical. They've both passed away. And my brother Dick, who's living on Cape Cod now, has several degrees and went on to teach English at Taft Prep School.

ST: So, what did your parents do?

JG: Well, my father was in finances of the, credit manager and so forth, of the Lee hat industry in Danbury, which is defunct now. People don't wear hats. But it was a big deal then. And I lived at 6 Park Place. I felt like part of the board game.

ST: So how did you come to go to Bates?

JG: Well, I said my father picked it out as a rather good school. And his people were Quakers, they believe in education, I'll tell you. And so my sister went up there first, and then the rest of us went at our four or five year intervals. It had what we wanted. My brother had a good pre-med, and it had a good English background for the rest of us. And I got enough English history so I got a teaching certificate, and I spent some of my years doing substitute teaching at the high school. They would have liked me full-time, but I had to travel.

ST: What was it like when you first got to Bates?

JG: Well, see, that was just before the Depression hit anything, and it was great, you know, I thought it was a beautiful school, the campus was lovely. I had an interesting roommate, and I liked it very much. And I made one friend who was a life-long friend, whom I just lost a year or so ago. She was my friend for life from Bates. But, as I say, I happened to be at the time going very intensely with a fellow from MIT. So, but I did know Ed and, as I say, he went with this Sonny Murphy all the years he was there. She was a very pretty lady who came up to see me a few years after we got out; she had a daughter that came up to look at Bates, so I don't know more about her life, but she and Ed went. It was quite a few years after he got out of college before he got married, you know. I got to know Jane pretty well, too.

ST: So, do you remember where on campus you lived, what dormitory you lived in?

JG: Yeah. I had, the first one I had a very good room because I was kind of late going there. I had, I didn't want to go to Bates like all the rest of them. I have always, and I'd had my art training, and I wanted to go to the Pratt Institute, but my father thought I'd be better off at a nice, good, strict Maine school, so I went. So being as I was late, I had a very good room that, those two dorms there, right on the corner, the two matching ones, I'm trying to think of the name of them. The two little ones that are . . .

ST: Hedge and

JG: No, I can't remember. They just put a big walk up to the front of one of them.

ST: Is it Smith Hall and?

JG: No, that's where my brother was. No, this is way around by the traffic light there, you know, up by (*unintelligible word*), well, never mind.

ST: Page Hall, is that?

JG: No, you're far off. These are these two little wooden houses on the corner.

ST: Oh, anyway.

JG: Anyhow, I stayed there. I had a very good room because I was so late registering, that I had this room. We had a very good room. And I had a fine time my first year. All my years at Bates, I went to every single dance they ever had, every one. And then somebody would see my name on the dean's list and say, "Well, you hide your light under a bushel." Because I had to do both, my father demanded it of you. You were supposed to get good marks. And as I say, you were conscious of Ed, because right from the first he had, I think he became a class president and all kinds of offices. And he had a little group of fellows he went with that were, you know, kind of busy and prominent. And we had Owen Dodson who was, went on to do a lot. And Mabee, you know, what's his name, Carleton Mabee that sat next to me in, we had compulsory chapel, you remember. And he went on to, I think, win a prize for his writing. We had all kinds of famous people in that class. And the, you know, the Depression did curtail things a little. And it was more strict for the women than it is now. But we had a lot of very good dances and things and kept busy. I've got that class picture in this thing here of all of us. Have you seen that, with Muskie in the front and I'm in the back? It's in the Muskie Archives.

ST: I'm sure I have come across it. , I don't, I can think of it.

JG: Yeah, it's kind of a, it's a big long rolled up thing that's up there and you can see us all looking very young. But, no, the classes were good. And Muskie, as I say, was very smart as you knew, and didn't have a lot of money, so he probably got scholarships. And you didn't, you did go downtown, but I think that the two, town and college, were pretty separate.

ST: When you were there, there wasn't a, the, I don't know if you remember when there was the fence, the real high fence surrounding the college. That wasn't there when you were there?

JG: No, no, there was no fence. But we didn't, they didn't have as many cars as they have now. Afterwards I started going with a local fellow, whom I later married, who had use of a car. And so that was a little, you know, not many of them had cars like everybody does now. And so, my husband graduated in '35. He passed away in '98. And so, I say, I saw, you

know, having the car we got around a lot. But we used to walk everywhere. And then we all went, managed to get home, you know, for the holidays even if it was bus or train or car or whatever, which is so much easier now.

ST: Yeah, it is.

JG: And, you know, I found that some of the professors, I didn't get what I wanted, but some of them were very good. I got a lot from [Professor Robert "Bobby"] Berkelman. I felt that my traveling through Europe, you know, I remembered everything he told me. Years later when I was writing, I used to write one article a month for the local paper when they had the magazine section. I did it for years, and he said mine were the only ones he read, which was quite a compliment because he was very strict.

ST: Well, that's good.

JG: But, and I had the temerity to do my thesis on Shakespeare which, I don't know as I'd be that brave now. I got into the writing because I was traveling so much, and the paper interviewed me and wrote up one of them, which, I didn't like the way it was written. So the next time I said, "Well, I'll write it.", so I've been doing it for a long time. And, you know, I find that the writing isn't difficult because I got a good basic education there, in English. And the teaching was kind of satisfying, you know, because they needed someone at the high school who would make them keep up with their ---, I was permanent substitute for Geneva Kirk. You know who, she's a Bates graduate you might have heard of?

ST: No.

JG: She was, oh maybe thirty-seven or eight, and she's been quite prominent. And she was head of the history department. And so I kept her honor students going, you know, while she'd be out. Because she was the, head of the Maine Teacher's Association and things.

ST: I was noticing that you were involved in quite a few clubs and everything at Bates. Can you tell me a little bit about?

JG: Only moderately. I've never been the greatest joiner of any of that, no, that isn't really my thing. And it still isn't. But I did belong to whatever the English club was, and things like that. I didn't do anywhere near as much of that as somebody like Muskie did, no. Some of it was kind of boring, you know. And as I say, some of the things were kind of petty I thought, at the time. And, you know, I think that it's much broader scope now, and the girls it attracts are different than the ones, I say my friend Kay and I, I think we were considered very busy and outgoing, you know, and she did transfer to Jackson. Life was a little livelier. But I liked Bates. I like, it's kept up its standards pretty well, I think.

ST: Seems to. How did you come to know Senator Muskie?

JG: Well, I said, being in the class, and we were active people. I knew him, and this Sonny Murphy he went with was a friend of mine always and, though I don't think we ever went on

double dates. And then, you see, I knew him so well afterwards because he got into politics. And next door, in this large house next door lived the Delahanty family, who were very involved in politics. And when he ran for governor, all the meetings were there. And I used to, they called it the Kitchen Cabinet, you know. And I used to go over and talk, and, I said, they kidded me about being a Republican. But I was always, you know, voting for him. Because you felt he was a reputable person who didn't get swayed necessarily by the party, that he held to what he should do.

ST: You've told me a little bit about this along (*unintelligible word*), kind of a long the interview so far, but how did he fit in with the other students at the college?

JG: I think they all really respected him, looked up to him. He worked hard in every way. I think he had to earn money, he had to have his marks. And he was, you know, not one of the more madly sophisticated ones, but very reputable. And he soon, I think he became class president or whatever, you know, and showed he could be in politics later on. Which he did very well. He was always very good to me. We were what I would call friends.

ST: So you knew [him] as more than just sort of an acquaintance of the class?

JG: Yeah, I knew him very well. And then afterwards, I knew him very well up here because, I say, he and Jane would be over here and I'd go over for coffee and we'd talk. And she'd come over here because she liked to look at my paintings. And then he got very delighted with my paintings, and, I say, he bought that big one about Wallingford's Orchard which made him think of Maine. He said he had it in his bedroom and every morning it was the first thing he looked at.

ST: That's quite a compliment.

JG: Yeah, and those letters telling how he decided to show my paintings at his office in New York, I mean in Washington, which he did. So over the years I perhaps got to see more of him than I would if I hadn't lived here.

ST: Well that's, it's nice to think that people from Bates still stay in touch.

JG: Well yes, I say, I, being local, go to the Bates reunion things which I might not have necessarily if I were away. But my husband kept very active in it. He was class president, did a lot of it.

ST: What was your, one of your most memorable experiences?

JG: At Bates?

ST: At Bates.

JG: Well, I don't know. Some of them are funny. I don't know as I want them on tape I don't think. I think making that friendship with my friend Kaye, [Catharine L. Torrey], Kaye

Long her name was, and that lasted until just a couple of years ago. And we'd travel together all over the world, had a wonderful time. She was a fascinating lady. So I made a good friend at Bates.

ST: Now, after you graduated, you said you were an English major and

JG: History and English, yeah.

ST: you enjoyed traveling and so on. What, how did you come to stay in Lewiston for all this time?

JG: Because my husband's family business was here. They ran Bates Street Cigar and Confectionary, and so he had a family business and he was the only son and ran it, and so we had a house in Auburn, and then we built this one when our boys were about ready to leave, because it's just a nice size. And neither boy went to Bates, but I have a nephew who went there a while, and so we've had a lot of ties with Bates. And my brother, Richard Lovelace, does a lot with Bates. He's class agent, comes up a lot.

ST: So, did you, have you enjoyed staying in Lewiston over the years?

JG: Well, my daughter-in-law says there isn't quite enough here for me. I'm always taking off. Like, I have to go to the ballet in Boston, and the museums in New York, and travel. It's a beautiful state, I think, Maine is, and I find that access to Portland and Boston helps. And my kids were the first to be on a plane. I had them, any time there was a plane to go, and myself. So I'm happy here. And I will say that things are, you asked me how they've changed, enough to bring my Yale son back to practice law. Lewiston has changed, Lewiston-Auburn. There's more quality of life than there used to be.

ST: What was it like, can you describe Lewiston to me a little bit, how the town was while you were at Bates and just after?

JG: Well, see there was a big division between the French -Canadian and the college, really, I think. And there wasn't as much culturally. You had to go to Portland for most anything. And I knew Portland because I was sent up there as a child. I had an aunt who lived there, and so I used to come up on the train to spend summers in Maine. But I think Bates has tried to bring the local people in, with its musical programs and all that. I say, I do resent a little that I've painted all these years and they haven't ever offered me a show, which I've had everywhere else. But that's their policy. They do have a couple of my paintings that somebody has donated to them.

ST: Well that's nice.

JG: But I think Maine has a different aspect now. When I travel and say I'm from Maine, I get envy. When I first moved here, they thought I was going up to the back woods. And I took the New York paper for a while.

ST: So, in terms of Lewiston being a mill town, have you seen it, how has it changed since, you know, sort of a booming mill town, so now where that's pretty much gone?

JG: I think it has changed. It's a bit more sophisticated. It will still always not be a Portland, but it's changed and they worked very hard at a lot of it, I think. And I've contributed my share of volunteer work over the years, hours at the hospital and all that, you know, because that's what you do. And, so hadoes my daughter-in-law in Auburn, we've all done volunteer work. But I think of, the campus is perfectly beautiful. I'm glad they have kept their standards up and haven't, you know, relaxed too much. They've done a few things I don't like.

ST: Like what?

JG: I didn't like it when they, and, boy, I'm not prejudiced, but that thing of having the intimidation of the people about the lesbians that they had a sit-in and everybody protested. That offended a great many people. It's not the way to do it. And I find some of that, they give in to the students immediately as though they're terrified of them, which, it's like spoiling your child. You should be in control. And a lot of very broad- minded people were offended by that. I say, I travel all over the world. I couldn't care less what their religion is, or their color or anything. But I find it offensive when my college is intimidated, so I don't like bullying. That's terrorism. This trip I'm taking in a week, I'm going to all the terrorist spots of the Mediterranean. I'm going to Cyprus and Sicily and Italy and to, going to Egypt and then to, I think, I've been to Morocco and Tunisia, so those don't stop. And I hope it all stays peaceful.

ST: I hope so, too.

JG: People just don't seem to be able to get along with each other. But Bates is a good school. And I say, I could see why my two sons wanted to go elsewhere, it's so close.

ST: How have you seen, over the years, the politics of Lewiston change from the time when Muskie was first getting involved with sort of state politics to more recent times?

JG: Well, I think it's good about Angus King; I like his approach. But Lewiston politics hasn't changed an awful lot. It's not great. I don't know how our new mayor is doing, but, my husband was in it for a while and then kind of got out of it. He was on the Public Works Board for a while. But, it's not great, but I think they, the, statewide I think they do pretty well. And I'm very proud of our senators, particularly Olympia Snowe, who's a friend of mine. And, you know, that's, when you travel, now, people know Mitchell and Snowe and Collins and Cohen, and it gives Maine a different look.

ST: What were the politics like, I don't know if you remember the name Frank Coffin?

JG: I do very well.

ST: Can you tell me a little bit about what politics were like when he was active?

JG: Well he's very conservative. He was a friend next door, too. And he liked to paint, so we always were friends painting. Yeah, I know Frank Coffin quite well. I consider him quite conservative.

ST: What was he like as a person?

JG: More Bates than me, and more than Muskie. I think I, think that, you know, a little less out, which I call it. See, that's the thing, is that Bates got a little introverted back then, and now it's expanded.

ST: Kind of in terms of the range of sort of socio-economic status in Lewiston, do you think there's a wider range of that, or is it . . . ?

JG: Well, there's definitely one that's, as to French-Canadian and not, and there's rich and poor here. And I think that that's still there, probably always will be. The thing about Bates that improved is the professors they've attracted are much better than when I was there.

ST: How so?

JG: Oh boy, they're incredibly better. There's wonderful smart women professors, and they're all very competent. Some of them, when I was there, stayed on forever and never retired, and they got very old. I can remember getting an A [+] plus in astronomy, but I learned nothing. He didn't teach us anything, and I was furious. I felt cheated. Well, it's just, in general you can be proud of Bates. If you say you went there, people have respect for it.

ST: Getting back to Muskie a little bit, what would you say was the general feeling towards him in the Lewiston area over his years of . . . ?

JG: I think they were proud of him always. And when he was governor, he had a big party for our class, invited us all up there, the class of '36. We had a terrific party. And, you know, he stayed a home person sort of, you know. He was proud of Maine and Maine was proud of him. And as I say, I, when he died I wrote to Jane and got a nice thank you from her. And, because, you know, I felt that he did awfully well for himself and the state and college.

ST: Can you think of any dissenters from the Muskie following that you knew?

JG: No, I think that, everyone in college I think pretty much respected him. He never really made enemies or anything. He didn't really do that, either. I say that's, Albright looked up to him as, calls him her "mentor". And I think that he, he did a job in the Senate and so forth without losing his principles, really. When he got out he said to me, it was going to be the first time he was going to make any money, when he finally got out into practicing law or consulting. Because he, you know, all that time he really didn't have any and finally

afterwards he did make some money. And then he had a good life for those years. But I don't think he was very controversial.

ST: Do you think that Lewiston on a whole has become more liberal or more conservative over the past years?

JG: Probably more liberal.

ST: What would make you say that?

JG: Well, it's hard. If you read the letters to the editor, we have a mix of everything. Some irate ones I don't agree with. See, it's my father's Quaker heritage of fairness that I struggle with. This latest thing about Clinton, you know, which of course annoyed me. I think that, there's so many people so blindly, this is what Muskie really didn't do, they've got to be blindly a Democrat or blindly a Republican, and I resent that.

ST: How do you think that, or, I guess, do you think that if Muskie was running today he would have run as an independent more like Angus King, or do you think he would have stayed a Democrat?

JG: Well, he was quite loyal to the Democratic Party. He'd probably stay a Democrat. But he didn't absolutely let it sway him, which is what I object to.

ST: What do you think were his paramount, I'm at a loss for the word

JG: You mean his, what he left, or?

ST: Yeahs, his, what he left as his biggest mark, what he's remembered for?

JG: Well, I think he sort of put Bates on the map for a lot of people. And that being Secretary of State, and I think he was always considered honorable. I don't think that it's like what we have today with all the scandal around Clinton, which is going to stick to him forever. And that wasn't true with Muskie.

ST: Do you think Muskie would have been a supporter of Bill Clinton, from what you knew of him?

JG: He probably would have as far as the Democratic Party went, but I'm sure he wouldn't, he and Jane would have been pretty annoyed at the way things went. They didn't live that kind of life.

ST: What was he like as a family man?

JG: Had his four or five children, she brought up and took care of. I think he was happy to have a family and family life. And, you know, and they had a good time at the governor's

mansion all those years. I went up whenever they had a party. And he didn't, he was proud of his class of '36. He kind of kept in touch with all of us.

ST: Well, I know for him to go to Bates was a pretty big deal.

JG: Absolutely. , I say, he just barely could afford it, you know, and he worked hard. And, I say, he was very generous to me. He had my paintings down there in his office and some, you know, people came in and bought them. He was loyal, I would say. I'm sure from what you've heard, you've seen that loyalty.

ST: Yes, he was a very loyal person. Did he keep in touch with many of his other friends from Bates, do you know?

JG: Well there was that little group of men that I think you'd see if you saw that big picture, they're all sort of sitting together. And I think he stayed in touch with them, a. And very much so when he got into politics up here. He, he did our, you know, with the next door people.

ST: Can you think of any other ways to describe what it was like being at Bates during the Depression and leading up to the Depression?

JG: Yes. It was very difficult. See, I think I did an interview for somebody about the Depression, and it didn't hit my family until I'd been at Bates about a year. See, it filtered down. And what it meant with my family was that we all stayed in school, but we retrenched on everything, because my father had one in medical school, me in college, another one coming along. But there were some people who had to leave, go to state schools they could afford, got the tuition. And it, you could feel it at Bates. People had to work hard to earn some money. But that got us through a few years there.

ST: How large was your class at Bates?

JG: Oh, seems to me it was eight or nine hundred or something like that.

ST: Did you feel as though it was pretty close-knit, or . . . ?

JG: I had a feel-, I wouldn't say that I was the average Batesie, you know. I really wasn't. I mean, I think that, it's different now. I think that all the girls are more alike than they were then. Some of them were girls that came from, in from the country and hadn't been anyplace. And I'd already traveled everyplace, you know. And continued even while I was at Bates.

ST: So how did you become sort of a, you were telling me a little bit about how you started writing for the newspapers, but . . .

JG: Well, that's, I say, because I had had a trip to Portugal and they wrote it up. I was with some friends and, I just didn't like the way it was written. It wasn't, didn't suit me. And the

next trip I took they wanted to interview me. , I said, “Well I’ll write it.”, Aand so they liked it and I kept doing about one a month. And then when that magazine section of the *Journal* closed, I’d write for the Portland paper and for the one in Ken-, the *Kennebec Journal* or the Bangor paper. Or, my husband and I spent a lot of time in Florida over the years, and I write for a paper there.

ST: What have some of your travel experiences been?

JG: Oh boy. People ask me and I can tell you where I haven’t been easier than where I’ve been.

ST: Okay.

JG: I haven’t been to India. I think I’ve waited too long on that. And I haven’t been to Australia and New Zealand. But I went, had a wonderful trip down to Peru, that’s where I bought this.

ST: It’s beautiful.

JG: I buy some jewelry every place I go, and I have a sketch book which, I’ve made sketches and people want me to put it together into a book if I get around to it. I was in Lebanon before they had the terrible war. I was home about three weeks and they were shooting out of the hotel I’d been in, the Duma Intercontinental. And I, while I was there I went up to Damascus. And when I got to the border they took my American passport and kept it a long time, and when I got in to Damascus there were tanks all over the street. I realized something was going to happen, and I just about got home. But I love England. I go there every year, very happily. I go alone or with somebody, or meet a friend there, or do whatever I feel like. I’ve been twice with my younger son, we’ve driven around. We went last October and drove all around England, and went under the English Channel to Brussels on the fast new train.

ST: What’s that like?

JG: Oh, it’s fun. I’ve been twice on that, went to Paris and then to Brussels. It goes so fast you almost don’t realize it. A hundred and eighty-six miles an hour. But when you come up in to France and you see the cars on the highway as though they’re standing still, you see, you realize how fast you’re going. And it’s very elegant, it’s fun. I do like travel.

ST: It does sound nice. You were saying that you weren’t the average Batesie. What would you say was the?

JG: Well, I say, I think that I’d already been and done a lot of things before I got to Bates. And a lot of people were, you know, I say, some of them had lived a quiet country life and hadn’t been every place, because travel wasn’t that easy then. And so I think I had different ideas maybe. But I did like Bates, and I say, it was a little unnecessarily severe about some silly things, you know.

ST: Like what?

JG: Well, I say, this business of signing in and out all the time, and where were you going to be, and such a strict division between the male and female part. And you couldn't smoke, but I never smoked anyhow so that didn't matter.

ST: So did you have to sign in and out to leave campus?

JG: Out of the dorm. When you went out for the evening you signed, when you came in you signed. It was all kind of a nuisance.

ST: So was it student run? Were there proctors?

JG: Well, you had somebody in the dorm that watched you.

ST: Another student?

JG: Yeah. They'd have somebody watching, you know. And it was, you couldn't have guests, male guests very long in the little room. You know, after a certain hour they had to leave. And there were a lot of little rules. But they did have some nice dances, tea dances, that were fun. But it was, a lot of that they did away with. And the food wasn't very good, either. It was heavy and hearty. , I could hard-, I never went to breakfast all the years I was there. And the lunches were just all right, but see, now the food is superb. I go down there and they have something, and they cater to vegetarians and everything.

ST: They do have quite an array.

JG: Which is what's demanded, see. And I would have liked that, but I didn't get it. But it was good. I enjoyed, I got what I wanted out of Bates, let's say that.

ST: So, when you were living there, was there sort of a section of the campus that was the male housing and a section that was?

JG: Absolutely, yes. And there wasn't so much to do. And I think, I say, some people found Bates was hard; some of them didn't stay. Some for financial reasons. And some of them flunked out, you know.

ST: Did that happen very often, where people failed out?

JG: A few. But I think it's harder now than it was then. In fact, I say a few of the courses weren't quite up to my standards, which I would have liked.

ST: Did you feel that the students coming in to Bates were equally prepared for the academic rigors or not particularly?

JG: I think they were prepared all right, but I don't think they demanded so much of them. And, it was, you know, easier to get in and I'm sure easier to stay there. But the professors that stayed on until they died, you know, they should have been replaced.

ST: Did they have a tenure system then?

JG: Well, it must have been because they were there always. But I say, I got what I wanted out of Bates that prepared me.

ST: Well, is there anything else, any other insights to Ed Muskie during Bates or afterwards that you have?

JG: Well, I think it was after I got to know him the best. And I say, I found him a very honest politician, which is, you'd say, an oxymoron. Well, when I look at it today I just say, he was different. And he had a lovely wife. , Jane was lovely, and they were very happy together. And I say, I enjoyed their friendship, which I was lucky to have. And he was very good to me. And I say, loyal, and, you know, just what he was pretty much. I think a respected politician, by both parties. So I'm glad Bates is honoring him.

ST: Do you have any other insights into Lewiston and how it's grown and changed over the last . . . ?

JG: I think there are better residences than there were. There are sections now that are built up, that are lovely. When I first came here, there wasn't much of a choice of where to live. All this on the hill where I live now has all been built up. And there's, you know, better housing.

ST: What do you think the prospects are for sort of the downtown area that's been hit by the mills?

JG: I don't know, I worry about that. It's like that all over. Where I grew up in Connecticut, the main street's just like that. I don't know whether they can rescue it or not. The malls are so ubiquitous.

ST: Yes.

JG: I don't know what's going to happen. They try and then it kind of, they sort of give up. It takes a lot of money.

ST: Were you here when Bates, or not Bates, Lewiston was sort of the booming mill town that people remember it as?

JG: Not really, no. See, by the time I got here the Depression hit and, I did know some people who, you know, were executives at the mill, went to see one of them. I thought the noise was deafening. I don't know how they worked there. But, no, that began to sort of taper off. And whether they'll ever get back to some other industry, I don't know. But they

keep trying. But it's like that all over the country. The main streets look like that. But I think they're right to try to push something, you know. We can't just sit back and let it go.

ST: You mentioned the Delahanty family. Did you know, you knew them well?

JG: Very well.

ST: What were they like?

JG: Well, see, the father, Tom Delahanty was a judge and a lawyer and so forth, and his wife Jeanne was my best friend, we'd say. We lived next door, brought up our kids together. And they even had Mrs. Roosevelt there when they were so deep into politics. I went over and met her. And he passed away and she's moved away. But they were so friendly with Muskie that that kept up the connection. And I say, being as I knew him, I always went over, too. And Jane would be there having coffee and we'd all, and then I say, she'd come over here to look at my paintings. And Ed picked out what he liked. And, you know, it was a good friendship.

ST: Sounds like he didn't abandon anyone.

JG: I think that it worked out. But, I say, I felt that at the last he wasn't very well. We knew when his, he had some problems. But, well, there aren't so many of the class left.

ST: Well, unless you have anything else to add that you think would be insightful into Muskie or Bates, we, I think?

JG: I may think of something after you've gone. But this is what I remember now, and as I say, if you wanted to look at that letter where he thanks me for congratulating him on getting the vice president's thing, that was kind of nice of him to take the time.

ST: Maybe, if it's not too long we'll just read it on here.

JG: Oh, it's just a line or two. I think, whether that's the first one, you can tell. I don't keep much. I happen to have those.

ST: Well, here's the first letter that he wrote to you on April 6, 1964 and it says, "*Dear June, the paintings arrived in good order. I'm most pleased with the seagull framing, it looks very good. I like all the paintings. Have hung them in my office and trust that it will prove to be advantageous to you. I will let you know from time to time just what kind of reaction I am getting. With kind personal regards, I am, Sincerely, Edmund S. Muskie.*"

JG: That's nice, isn't it?

ST: That is very nice for him to take the personal time to.

JG: Well, we were what I'd call good friends. With a certain respect for what I did, you know, he liked what I did. Olympia Snowe tells me that, she likes women who do something. Then the, the one, the other one about his, you'll probably like better.

ST: Let's see here. I don't want to damage them. This one says, "*Dear June, Thank you for your congratulations on my nomination as the democratic candidate for vice president. The next few months will be both busy and hectic. As you know, we face a difficult campaign which will test the capacity of our democratic system to meet and solve problems which have placed such a heavy strain on our society. Your support is heartwarming and most welcome. Again, thank you for your thoughtfulness. Sincerely, Edmund S. Muskie.*"

JG: Isn't that a nice letter?

ST: That is very nice.

JG: That's Ed. That's definitive Ed.

ST: What was it like in the area when he ran for, when he was involved with the presidential campaign?

JG: Well, I say, I think some of the politics wasn't very kind. Remember, he got into trouble in New Hampshire, and I think that it was kind of mean. But, you know, the people who were proud of him supported him, but it was rather cutthroat, that presidential race.

ST: As they seem to be becoming more and more.

JG: They're becoming more and more. When he ran for governor, nobody thought he would make it. They were surprised, we had so many Republicans. It was a big surprise that he got in. So, but I say, he's somebody to think about. I hope that helped a little.

ST: It did. Thank you very much.

JG: You're welcome.

ST: We'll just turn this off and rewind it here.

End of Interview