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## Jordan-Hiller, Ginger oral history interview

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## **Interview with Ginger Jordan-Hillier by Greg Beam**

*Summary Sheet and Transcript*

### **Interviewee**

Jordan-Hillier, Ginger

### **Interviewer**

Beam, Greg

### **Date**

July 27, 2000

### **Place**

Lewiston, Maine

### **ID Number**

MOH 209

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### **Biographical Note**

Ginger Jordan-Hillier was born in Augusta, Maine on May 7, 1952 to Richard and Lucille Jordan. She lived in Millinocket, Maine until 1966 when her family moved to the small town of Orland, Maine. She attended St. Anselms College in New Hampshire and in September of 1971, when she was a sophomore, she worked for Ed Muskie's campaign office. After the New Hampshire primary, she returned to school. In 1973, she transferred to the University of Maine in Farmington and became very active in politics, including registering voters. After graduating with a degree in special education, she spent a year working for Phil Merrill. She worked for Muskie on two other occasions: his 1976 Senate campaign and the coordination of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party. After 1976, she went to work in Bangor as a child care worker at a home for adolescent boys with emotional and behavioral problems. At the time of this interview she was working for the State of Maine Department of Conservation.

### **Scope and Content Note**

Interview includes discussions of: Millinocket, Maine; Orland, Maine; Ed Muskie's 1969-1972 campaign; Mafia; The Ugly American; Muskie's jokes; Election Day; anecdote concerning the Secret Service and Hugh Gallen; William Loeb; McGovern; New Hampshire primary, 1972; University of Maine at Farmington; young Democrats; Jack Wyman; Muskie's bean suppers;

Department of Conservation; audio tapes of Muskie supporters; Democratic Party in Maine; and 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

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## Transcript

**Greg Beam:** This is Greg Beam and I'm here with Ginger Hillier. We're at the Muskie Archives at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. The date is, what is the date today, July 27th, 2000 and it's 5:00 P.M. To begin could you please state your full name and spell it?

**Ginger Jordan-Hillier:** It's Ginger and I have two last names, Jordan-Hillier, J-O-R-D-A-N, dash, H-I-L-L-I-E-R.

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

**GJH:** I was born in Augusta, Maine in May 7th, 1952.

**GB:** And did you grow up in Augusta?

**GJH:** No, I, as an infant we moved to Millinocket and I lived in Millinocket until '66 and then my family moved to a small town outside of Bucksport called Orland.

**GB:** Orland, all right. And so you lived in Millinocket until you were about fourteen?

**GJH:** Yes.

**GB:** You moved to Orland, so you went to high school mostly in Orland?

**GJH:** In Bucksport, I went to high school in Bucksport. I went to high school in Bucksport because Orland was too small of a community to have a high school so their students were tuitioned to Bucksport High School.

**GB:** Oh, I see, okay. What are your memories of the Millinocket community?

**GJH:** Well, it was, it was a great place to be if you liked the woods. And I was from a family that liked the woods. And my parents, those were the days in the fifties when you didn't have all these fancy things for kids and my parents used to talk about taking me out in the canoe in a backpack, in a pack basket. And it used to be entertainment on Saturday nights to go to the dump and watch the bears.

And, you know, growing up there, I mean the woods was a part of your life but the mountain was a part of your life. You grew up and you always took, Mt. Katahdin I think of as my mountain, along with hundreds of thousands of other people but in Millinocket the mountain was always there. Every day it was like, oh there's snow on the mountain or there's not snow on the mountain, or there's rain on the mountain and, you know, whenever anybody got lost in the park there was a big search and rescue unit in town and they would all go up to help.

And so, yeah, it was really fun growing up. Fifties was the boom time in Millinocket and my dad was an engineer at the mill so we were very related to that. And I used to, in those days I used to get to go into the mill and used to think that was interesting. And lots of kids. I lived on, I lived in one of the streets in what they called the new development in Millinocket, and there were like ninety-six kids from my street. And so it was almost like, you know, in a big city and so I mean it was a fun place to live.

Everybody had camps in those days. The mill would lease you a lot on one of the lakes for like ninety bucks a year, so it didn't matter if you were management or, you know, a regular mill worker, you could afford to have a camp so, I mean, if you like the outdoors it was really fun. Lots of movie theaters, lots of bowling alleys, so those sorts of things.

**GB:** Oh great, okay. So, what are your parents' names?

**GJH:** My father's name is Richard Jordan and my mother's name is Lucille Jordan.

**GB:** Okay. And did your mom work?

**GJH:** No.

**GB:** And your dad you said was an engineer.

**GJH:** Yeah, he eventually became the chief engineer at Great Northern.

**GB:** Oh Okay. And do you recall the ethnic make up of Millinocket when you were living there?

**GJH:** Oh it, there were a variety of groups. There was a little Italy and so there were a lot of people that were Italian, but a lot of those kids went, would go to the, went to the Catholic school and then they didn't come into the school system until in junior high.

And there were a lot of French people. I remember neighbors in back of us and the woman didn't speak English, she only spoke French. And I remember, my mother is French, and I remember this neighbor when her little girl got very sick and died and my mother was one of the people they brought in to help translate for her in the hospital and stuff like that.

And then there were a lot of Eastern Europeans, too, like some Sla-, Moragases, and things like, the names were fun, Moragases and things like that, so. And then the mill brought in a lot of people and it sort of felt like there were all kinds of different types of people there.

**GB:** And what was the religious distribution?

**GJH:** Well, because I was, well there were lots of Catholics. There were a lot of churches in Millinocket. There were Catholics and there were Methodists and Episcopalians and Baptists and Nazarenes.

**GB:** All right. And what brought your family to Orland?

**GJH:** Well my dad worked in the mill and there was a major change in administration in the mill in the middle sixties. And so a lot of management people from Great Northern left and what we did is basically went down river to St. Regis. And it was sort of neat to move because there were classmates that moved with me from Millinocket, you know, down from, they went from Great Northern to St. Regis, so that's why we went. It was related to the paper industry.

**GB:** Oh, I see, I see. And what do you remember of the Orland community? I've actually never heard of that town.

**GJH:** Yeah, Orland is, I loved it. It is, it's between Bucksport and Ellsworth, it's a very small town in number of people but it's a very large town in terms of geographic area. And it is on part of Penobscot Bay, on the upper end of that where Bucksport opens out into Verona Island.

And there are two things that I really differentiated Orland for me from Millinocket, and I loved, I really loved the fact that it was on the ocean because in Millinocket you were very far from the ocean and I had probably, when I moved to Orland, only been to the ocean one or two times in my whole life. And so the whole idea of the tide and clam flats and all the birds. And Orland had, the Narramissic River went out of it into the Penobscot and there were alewife traps, weirs, on there and I really found that fascinating.

The other thing that I thought was really neat is things were old there. Millinocket is a very new town and before 1900s there was no town there, and it is literally, you know, I mean you buy the company line and it was 'the town that paper built'. But literally they took this piece of woods with a river running through and one or two cabins, they brought in basically what were Italian stone workers and they built the mill up and they built houses around it. And even, in the fifties it was the boom years and even your lots in Millinocket were sort of like leased and the mill helped do that, but. And so it was a very new town so when I went to Orland, I mean, things were like from the 1800s and I thought that was really, really cool, and I really sort of think I started getting interested in history.

And we bought a very old, an old 1840s, the house we bought in Orland, and so that was neat, the idea of having this house that's so old. And it was in a little cluster of homes that most of them were all very old. And one of the people I was friends with, her mother ran an antique shop. And so, you know, not only did I get to see this in the house I lived in and in the house I was around but I was sort of exposed to it, you know, through that antique business. Those were the things about Orland that I, really impressed me.

Oh, and the cemeteries. There used to be this cemetery up on the top of the hill which was a great place to pick blueberries, and it was great because they never mowed it back in those days. But so you'd be picking the blueberries, so after a while it would just sort of be normal to start reading the stones, you know. There were people there from the Revolutionary War, and when you'd come from a town where there had been nothing there before 1900, this stuff was really neat.

**GB:** There are a couple of those little cemeteries in Lewiston. Yeah, there's one right, it is fascinating yes it is?

**GJH:** It is, it is. And you start reading them and, you know, you read about all the babies that used to die.

**GB:** Oh, I know.

**GJH:** I mean, a cemetery (*unintelligible word*) wonderful.

**GB:** Oh, I know. It's surprising the number of young people from those, in those older cemeteries.

**GJH:** Yeah, yes. So those are my, yeah, impressions. And it was a very, it was a much smaller community. I remember one of the first few days we moved in there, one of the girls in the neighborhood walked up to me and she said, oh, you're Ginger, and she named my brothers and sisters. The postmistress has told everybody you're coming. So things like, Millinocket had a much bigger post office and so that was sort of a little bit of a culture shock. And definitely the post office was the place where all the gossip got passed around, and you'd wait for the bus there and the postmistress always kept an eye on the conversation and, you know.

So it was a really little town. And we used to have a, the river ran right in front of our house and there was sort of a community, a little float and the kids would all swim there. And like on the Fourth of July I remember we, oh we snuck into the, one year we decided we'd have this big Fourth of July celebration because this town was too little to have its own, and so the kids organized one. And I, you know, we got a hold of firecrackers from someplace. But the big thing that we did is, the family that had owned the antique shop, they also had a little cannon and so we figured out how to shoot that cannon up. So we set this time, and I think it was noon, and we had all the kids organized with all the bells and the whistles we could find and somebody snuck into the church to ring the church bell. And we shot off the cannon and all the kids, you know, made, and you know, we thought we were quite something to (*unintelligible phrase*).

So those are the things you can do in real little towns that, you know, often don't, in a bigger town that would have been organized by the Rec. Department you know, or something like that.

**GB:** Do you have any idea what the population was approximately?

**GJH:** In Orland, I'm just guessing. I live in Monmouth now, which is about three thousand and my guess is that Orland was probably about two.

**GB:** Wow. Have you been back there much since?

**GJH:** Not, my parents don't live there anymore and I get to go through there some, so, you know, I get to go through now and then.

**GB:** Has it changed much?

**GJH:** Well, no. I mean the economy is better. Back in those days the village was down at the bottom of the hill, there was a river that ran through. And then every place else in the town, there was like east Orland and south Orland, was uphill. And there was this fire department and it was sort of this two bay garage which was falling apart, which as a matter of fact when a shop opened up next to it they had to pay extra insurance because they were so close to another building. It was considered a fire hazard and the building was the fire department.

But the other piece was, they had these old trucks and they'd always stall out on the hills. And so, I mean, the word was if your house caught on fire they couldn't get mutual aid there, forget it, because by the time the fire department got there. So now they have this nice new fire department and it's up on the top of the hill and the trucks all work.

And so like every place else, you know, in Hancock County the economy has improved. And I think the demographics haven't changed in Hancock County. I, I, we were down there last summer, summer before, in Gouldsboro and I was just noticing like all the Saabs and stuff like that, with Maine license plates on them. And when I was living there if you didn't work at the mill people, a lot of people really struggled, you know, for something good, for, to make a good living.

And there were not a lot of Democrats back then. When I came home from college after doing volunteer work for Muskie and I went to my first Hancock County committee meeting in City Hall in Ellsworth, people got up and cheered, like all six people because there was another Democrat in Hancock County. And at that point in time and I think for the next few years, Hancock County, and then Franklin County. (*unintelligible word*), I went to school there, were the two most Rep-, I remember hearing this, the two most Republican counties on the eastern seaboard. Yeah, yeah, so it was pretty funny.

**GB:** What were your family's political beliefs?

**GJH:** Oh, they were definitely Republican.

**GB:** Oh really.

**GJH:** Because my father was mill management and my mother had married mill management, you know, so.

**GB:** Were they quite conservative Republicans?

**GJH:** No, I think they were fairly moderate Republicans.

**GB:** I see. Did they try to instill those Republican values in you, or?

**GJH:** No, they didn't do politics in my household. I ended up getting involved in Muskie's campaign not because I was interested in politics but because I was in New Hampshire and he



was running for president. I was in college, and I'd always been very good at organizing things and people said, well you have to go help him at least once because he's from Maine. So I went down and helped, you know, and things went for me and it was just really fun. And I liked the people part of it and my skills were very, because I was very good in organizing and coordinating, those skills were very valuable and so that's how it happened.

I did have one family relationship, my grandmother always called him Ed. And she, and she called him Ed because she knew him from when he was in the house of representatives from Waterville, and her second husband was the representative at the same time from South China. And the Muskies had a summer camp on China Lake and so Ed, he used to come over to the farm and talk politics with my step-grandfather. But, so she approved, but, and admitted she had on one time maybe crossed the ticket to vote for him. Not very loud did she say that.

**GB:** What were their names, your grandparents?

**GJH:** Well, her name was, at that time it was Regina Fuller and that husband, his name was Howard Fuller.

**GB:** Oh, I see, okay, all right. And so you, you went to work for Muskie when you were in college?

**GJH:** I was going to college St. Anselms College, which is just outside of Manchester, New Hampshire. And, I was a sophomore, that would have been the year I was a sophomore. And some people at the college, you know, basically said come down and do this and so I did. I got in really way at the beginning, they didn't have the, even have the Elm Street office yet. They were still up in one of the rooms (*unintelligible phrase*) hotels.

And basically I, at first I just did sort of paper stuff. But then, I'd been there a very little while and they assigned me to work with a guy called King Golden, do you know who King is? King Golden. Well King, well there was the, there was Lanny Davis, you know, Lanny was the youth coordinator and I can't remember if his official title was like the New England youth coordinator or was bigger than that. And King was like the New Hampshire youth coordinator. So they assigned, I was like nineteen at the time and, I mean, I probably looked like I was sixteen. And King was, he was this anti-war hippie with, you know, long straight hair. And he, not long after I met him he said, "Now you know, you have to be careful because I think I have a record and I know I have an FBI record because of all my anti-war demonstrations. So if you ever see anybody strange hanging around, that's probably what it is." But he was an attorney at that time and had taken a leave from what he was doing in Washington to help out. And he would, we would go to high schools and I would come with him because I was the person that looked like I was a high school age person and he looked a little older.

So, and then, and then when we moved down to the Elm Street office then I just helped with a lot of things. I wasn't paid but I ended up spending so much time there that I basically after a point was considered his staff person. And they would just give me to whoever needed me to help that day. And sometimes I helped out in, I rem-, I'd out in press and, you know, just doing clippings and sort of that. But then as I stayed there longer they gave me like areas of responsibility and

sometimes when there were phone banks and I would organize phone banks.

Oh, I remember Mrs. Muskie, we were going to do a bean supper and, in Manchester, and *Life* magazine was supposed to come and so I organized all that. But we had a big blizzard and we had to cancel the bean supper, *Life* magazine didn't come. It was a good lesson, I mean, you got a blizzard, you got a blizzard and nothing happened. And I helped out, you know, I drove cars back and forth, I, I did a little bit of everything and it was really, I mean are you interested in like some of the people we had?

**GB:** Oh, absolutely, absolutely.

**GJH:** Well let me, I'll just throw it out and you tell me what you think is interesting. Some of the things that really, that I remember as, because I was so young and some of them are just stories. I had just, I was from small towns in Maine, I was not a city person, and I had recently read The Godfather, that had sort of come out along that time. And there were two women from Rhode Island that were like college students age that were working there and they had seen me reading. They said you know, it is real, the Mafia, because I just couldn't believe that this was real, you know, I'd never seen anything like that. And so later on there was this bus load of volunteers coming up from Rhode Island to help out and they said, you know, the Mafia's around Rhode Island. And this bus load of volunteers arrives and it's all these older women they get out and they've got the furs on, they've got the jewels and I'm going, oh my God, what are we getting ourselves into. So anyway, we were supposed to be doing phone banks and there was this guy with them, this little Italian guy with the suit, with the hair, with the jewelry, and so we're talking and figuring things out and then this guy snaps his fingers and he'd go, and all these little ladies come right to attention. And then he points at me and he goes, anything this little lady wants she gets. And I'm going, great, we've got the Mafia running phone banks. But, you know, I'm sure they were just nice ladies and they were just Italian people that were very different from the Italian people that I knew in Millinocket.

So, you know, part of it was, I think one of the things I loved about that campaign is how much I learned about the world beyond Orland and Millinocket. And some of the other things. Well, when all the stories came out about Watergate then it reminded us, you know, about some of the things that happened. I remember when somebody broke in and they took stationery and they theoretically were using the phones to call people at night. Because there was a guy named Jonathan Miller that worked on that campaign and after that happened Jonathan had to start sleeping at the Elm Street headquarters because we didn't know, we thought it was McGovern people, we were sure it was McGovern who was doing this.

And then my job for a while after some of that stuff happened, I, they had me sit at the front desk where people came in and my job was basically to eyeball people as they came through and try and figure out if this, this was people here legitimately to help out on the campaign, or if we had somebody that was trying to come in to do something.

But what, oh, there was, Eugene McCarthy's niece worked on that campaign and it was a big secret, we weren't supposed to tell anybody. She was going to law school and she would sneak up on weekends to volunteer, and if her uncle ever found out he would have killed her. So we all

were supposed to keep that a big secret so, you know, sort of the thing.

I don't remember like big policy stuff, but it's mostly people stuff. And then there was this woman named Elizabeth who came from Australia and she was just sort of an interesting person and she was over here just because she thought it would be fun to work on a presidential campaign. And then there was a guy named Bruce Lederer, I mean do you have all these names someplace?

**GB:** Bruce, Bruce Lederer sounds familiar, (*unintelligible phrase*).

**GJH:** Well Bruce's father wrote The Ugly American so we all thought that was pretty cool because his father. And that was a book people had actually heard of back then, and we all thought that was cool because his father was a famous author.

And I remember like John Podesta, you know, and it was sort of cool to watch which people went up and became famous. And I worked a lot with a woman called Karen Miaka, and Karen was from Chicago and she was someone that had known, probably had known Tony [Podesta] and John [Podesta]. And later near the end of the campaign her younger sister came in and she was, for a long while she did a lot of work with coordinating on volunteers and I used to help her out with a lot of stuff.

And my husband worked on the campaign, and he worked on advance, but we sort of didn't know each other then. We met each other later in Young Democrats and then realized that some people had tried to fix us up at one point but it hadn't worked.

And then I remember one day, I remember, why were so few people from Maine, you know, God, because I, and then I remember, and Muskie would tell jokes. Like he had this joke about ears of corn and, I just remember he told it a zillion times and nobody would think it was funny but it was sort of this Maine joke and I remember thinking it was funny. And then I remember people said, "Well wait until the man from Maine gets here, wait until the man from Maine." And so I sort of, "Well, let's see who this guy is." Well, it was Charlie Micoleau and Micoleau walks in with a three piece suit, and I'm going, "If this is the idea of the man from Maine, they're in trouble," but anyway.

There weren't a lot of people down there with Maine accents. But sometimes they'd bring them down in buses to help out, you know, on weekends. And we did door to door one time and I went door to door with a woman named Evelyn Jepson who I later found, you know, she was, has been on the board of environmental protection, she's not doing that any more. For years and years and she brought her daughter down and we did this whole big door-to-door thing one day.

And just lots of, let me see what else. Well, one day they put me on the phone and a voice at the other end of the phone said this is W-something-something broadcasting live to the entire western seaboard, and what are your impressions of this campaign as a volunteer, so you know that was sort of fun.

**GB:** Wow, and what did you tell them?

**GJH:** Well, I just, I can't, you know, I can't, I just remember being so ner-, I don't remember what I said because I was so nervous and I didn't know that this was what was on the other end of the phone when they handed it to me. So, you know, it was a fun place to work, it was, you met all these different kinds of people and, vote for Ed Muskie, you know?

And that, and then I sort of had a fun experience on Election Day. On Election Day, you know basically it's, if you haven't done it it's already done so people are sort of looking for stuff to do. So they're doing get out the vote, they're doing give the rides to the polls.

And so there weren't many people in the office but my job was to be the person back at the storefront and anybody who didn't have an assigned job came in to me and I filled in holes with them. Or they'd call in if there was an overflow on rides to the polls and I'd send people out and then I would arrange for like food to go out to all the precincts, coffee and all of that. So people come in, you know, I'd have a job, they'd volunteer, they'd go out.

Well there's this one guy and he just keeps sitting there and he's not volunteering so I said, "Well maybe he's shy." So I have him empty the garbage, so people come in and they go out and he's still sitting there, he doesn't volunteer, I have him empty the garbage again. The third time I have him empty the garbage, he says, "Lady, come here." He pulls me over to the side and he whips open his jacket and he says, "I'm with the Secret Service, and I can't do my job if I have to keep emptying the garbage." So that was pretty funny. So not everybody can say they've had the Secret Service emptying the garbage for them.

**GB:** Oh, that's funny.

**GJH:** Yeah, that was pretty funny. There were some little Polish ladies that used to make up Polish food and they would bring it in and, you know, they'd make Perogis and things like that for the volunteers. And there was some guy with a pizza shop, he always used to donate, he would, we ate more pizza because he would don-, his donation was donating this pizza for free.

**GB:** Let me ask you about a couple of these things that you've mentioned. You said Ed Muskie used to always tell this joke about corn, do you remember the joke?

**GJH:** No, it was something about the ears of corn in a field and I'm sure Don Nicoll would know what that story was. It was just some "Bert and I" type of joke, you know, it wasn't from "Bert and I" but I can't remember the joke exactly. I just remember that it really struck me that of the people around me that most people didn't get it and it was the kind of joke I'd always heard growing up.

**GB:** So it gave you a real sense of, you know, Muskie as a Mainer and yourself as a Mainer I suppose?

**GJH:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

**GB:** All right. Also this fellow King Golden you mentioned, who was, now, he was sort of,

you know, an anti war real liberal hippie type?

**GJH:** Yeah.

**GB:** Were there a lot of those among Muskie's supporters?

**GJH:** No, I don't think so.

**GB:** Really.

**GJH:** I don't think so. And I do remember that politically that was a very big deal, that he had changed his opinion on that. That he'd originally I think voted for the Gulf of Tonkin resolution and then he had changed his mind and come to see that we needed to pull out of that. And I do remember that that was an issue we spent an awful lot of time explaining to people.

But I, you know, I don't remember other people who particularly characterizes themselves. Now my husband as I came to know later was ver-, was not a real active anti war person but, you know, for instance he was what I would call a, he's a, I think he's a more liberal Democrat than I am. And hippies, you know, we all dressed like that in those days so what you think of as a real hippie type, it was a little bit more of a normal dressing.

I have a picture I should share with you that, of Chuck and some of the other guys on the advance team with (*unintelligible phrase*). And they look like a crew, yeah, so, no, I don't remember, you know, people clearly being there because of their anti war sentiments except for King had just mentioned that particular issue to me.

**GB:** I see. All right, now were a lot of the people within the campaign young like yourself or was there a widespread -?

**GJH:** I remember the regulars, the people that were there from day to day were mostly younger people which is part of what made it so much fun for me. I remember older people, you know, like Hugh Gallen and, you know, who was, you probably know who Hugh Gallen is.

**GB:** I actually don't.

**GJH:** He later became governor of New Hampshire. Well he, there were two people we got cars from, Shep Lee and Hugh Gallen, okay? But he was, he was a big wig for more than the fact that he could provide cars. You know, and those people would come in and there'd be bid closed office meetings or whatever with Tony and, but the people that seemed to be doing most of the day to day work were for the most part younger people. Some of them were like just out of law school like John Podesta and there were a bunch of the little lawyer group. And some of them, you know, were kids like me who had maybe quit college for a year or were or came in for a while in college, or doing, but generally twenties and thirties. Not a lot of old, I don't remember a lot of older people. They would be people like, well Micoleau would come in and even Severin, I mean, he was fairly young back in those days. I thought of Micoleau and Severin as people, and George Mitchell, as people who were older back then. But I was nineteen so, you

know, I had a very narrow perspective at that point.

**GB:** Well that must have been an impressive, or was it even an intimidating experience going in, into this presidential campaign at such a young age?

**GJH:** I had no idea what that meant so it wasn't. And because no, I didn't get dragged down to Washington, I went to this little rat hole of an office in a run down hotel, you know, and then to a little store front. And I don't ever recall, what would be intimidating was when somebody would hand you the phone and they would say this is broadcasting to the west coast of California when you didn't know it was coming. And I was very nervous about um *Life* magazine because, you know, that was something I knew.

But I think I didn't really realize until after what I'd sort of jumped into, and didn't really appreciate it until after. But at the time, no, it didn't, we were just doing work and helping out and doing this and doing that and there were all these interesting people. And, you know, some were very likeable, some you could care less if you never saw again like any campaign. And, you know, and there were the people that were a little crazy and the people that were just wonderful and brilliant and people that were just interesting.

**GB:** Who would you say were the most interesting people to work with in that campaign?

**GJH:** It's, they bounced me around all the time so I never like worked with one person for a long time. It was wherever there was a hole, I was the flow person that they would put in.

So, I mean I really enjoyed working with, Karen Miaca was oriental and from Chicago and I found her a very interesting, intelligent person. Um, but I guess people don't stand out. Like, I didn't work with Tony Podesta, I mean he was like, you know, he was the behind the closed doors stuff, the policy, all of that. No, I was sort of out on the floor with the people who were getting things done. And most of the other people out there, you know, were, were at that level. So I really didn't get to meet or work with a lot of the, what I would call the, you know, the higher up people.

**GB:** So now you did most of your work right within New Hampshire?

**GJH:** Yes, they kept me pretty much, I stayed in Manchester almost the whole time. Like there would be occasions when, I remember going, there was an event at Dartmouth. There was, I would go to some high schools that were outside of the city with King but that didn't last very long. After that they kept me right in the office doing stuff. Yeah, I worked primarily in Manchester.

**GB:** I see. Now, were you on the staff at the time of uh, at the beginning of the primaries and at the New Hampshire primary?

**GJH:** Yes. That Secret Service story.

**GB:** Oh that was, I didn't realize, I'm sorry.

**GJH:** That was the New Hampshire primary day.

**GB:** OK.

**GJH:** And I was there for the be-, I was there really right at the, very early on. I was there, Christmas vacation before the primary they had wanted me to take my vacation and work for them. And I had said if you can find me a ride and room and board I'd be happy to do that and so. I remember my parents were quite impressed. The governor's office called, Governor (*name*), it was Neil Rolde called and said they'd arranged for the representative from Bangor who was Frank Murray to give me a ride to Augusta. And in Augusta they put me on the VIP bus and people are all, you know, in their gowns and stuff and it's the big kick off to the campaign and here I am getting on with my sleeping bag and all of this. And so that's how they got me down to New Hampshire right after, right after Christmas, you know, on whatever day that big kickoff was and then I was able to work full time during that whole semester break.

So, and I had been working there for quite a bit of time before that so I probably started, that was in, the primary was in '72 so I probably started like September, October of '71 because it wasn't, there wasn't snow on the ground and it wasn't really cold so that's probably about when I started. So I think it was pretty close to the beginning of any organized operation. There weren't a lot of staff. I don't even think there was a press person on at that point. Like I said it was just this little office in the hotel and we were doing mailings at that point and, you know, that sort of stuff.

**GB:** I see. Now, were you around when that whole incident in Manchester happened?

**GJH:** Yes, and it's a bit of a, I didn't go but I helped organize it. My father had told me if I ever participated in any-, he wasn't paying for me to go to college for me to participate in demonstrations. So I said, "Well, he didn't say I couldn't help organize one." So I- I remember helping to call people and to get people there, you know, and I helped at sort of that level. But I didn't actually attend it. But I do remember afterwards going door to door and in the French section of Manchester and actually getting a door slammed in my face because, you know, because Muskie had called the French people Canucks and, you know, and how upset that made me feel because I knew, you know, I knew that wasn't true.

**GB:** Yeah.

**GJH:** Yeah, so.

**GB:** Wow.

**GJH:** So, and the Canuck thing didn't happen at the *Manchester Union Leader* but it happened right around the same time. It was, you know, something that Loeb had had printed in the paper.

**GB:** And of course it must have been especially difficult for you with your French heritage to have these people, you know.

**GJH:** Well it, it, I think it really for the first time in my life, I had never been a person that had really read the newspapers a lot or had done all of that. The lesson that it taught me was how many people believe what they read whether or not it was true. And I think it really gave me a very basic understanding of, you know, the power of that medium and how that can be used for pros and cons, so.

**GB:** That must have been a really frustrating time for all the people in that campaign (*unintelligible phrase*).

**GJH:** Oh, oh, we were so angry at Loeb. Oh, we just were very angry at him. It wasn't frus-, it, there, it was frustrating on a lot of points because you had that going on with Loeb, people were sneaking in at night and using the phones and calling people at two in the morning. And cars were disappearing, and, but, you know, so it, so it felt like a battle, you know, but campaigns sort of always feel like a battle and, I mean I've worked on many campaigns since then and there's, there comes a point in every campaign where there's a battle mentality. It's just this was a bigger campaign so the issues were bigger. I mean it didn't matter if it was, you know, if it was a Maine Democratic primary, at some point, you know, you sort of felt like it was us against them. And I don't, you know, in subs-, working on subsequent campaigns from where I sat it didn't feel all that much bigger than the sort of mentality that I felt in other campaigns too. Except for sleeping on, you know, having to have somebody sleep there but that was a little unusual.

**GB:** I see, um now with this issue, Manchester with, you know, Loeb's, Loeb's article in the paper and then of course, you know, Muskie's statement in defense of his wife, you know, when she -

**GJH:** And the theoretical tears.

**GB:** Of course, yeah, yeah. Was there, um was there a lot of talk about that in the office or did people kind of keep a hush-hush.

**GJH:** Oh yeah.

**GB:** They talked about it a lot?

**GJH:** Oh, because it ended up in *Time*, it ended up like in *Time* magazine or something didn't it?

**GB:** Yeah.

**GJH:** Oh yeah, there was, yeah, people were just, yeah, buzzed about that.

**GB:** Uh-huh. And do you recall what people were saying, what kind of comments were circulating around (*unintelligible word*)?



**GJH:** Well I mean it was a Loeb thing, you know? That's what it was about, was William Loeb. He couldn't stop, he was this power hungry, you know, sort of guy and, and you know it was more like that. Like I said, but the sort of the Watergate sorts of stuff, the people I hung around with, we were all sure it was McGovern people.

**GB:** Wow. So that probably heightened your sense of competition against McGovern in the primaries.

**GJH:** Yeah, yeah, but it, yeah, and I do remember getting close to the primaries and we were really worried about what the vote was going to be. And I remember thinking that it was sort of like in basketball when the number one team plays a team that's lower down on the roster, even if you win you lose. You still lose points in the standings to get you to the tournament. This is, Millinocket was a big basketball (*unintelligible word*) in my day. Stern was like the New England champion back when they had New England champions, so.

But I remember we were worried about what that vote was and we thought that we would probably win but we didn't, we were concerned that we were not going to win by such a big amount that it would make the statement that it needed to be and that people expected because Muskie was next door to do so well that it seemed that no matter what you did it wouldn't be able to be good enough.

**GB:** And so were folks kind of disappointed by the results of the New Hampshire primary?

**GJH:** Oh, definitely.

**GB:** Yeah?

**GJH:** Yeah, I, well I remember feeling that we were, yeah.

**GB:** Was that kind of demoralizing to the campaign?

**GJH:** Yeah, and after that I didn't have much to do with anything.

**GB:** Really?

**GJH:** Because I went back to school and, at what point did he pull out? And then I just sort of went back to my life at school and, you know, didn't really much, pay much more attention to things. Now my husband went on and worked for McGovern on that -

**GB:** Oh really?

**GJH:** Yeah, he went from that campaign right to the McGovern campaign and coordinated Franklin, Oxford and several other counties in Maine for McGovern.

**GB:** That's before you really knew him?

**GJH:** Yeah, but I went back to school and was focused on doing that.

**GB:** I see, I see. All right, so did you afterwards in the following years remain involved in politics anywhere?

**GJH:** Yes, when I, I went, I left, I worked for Muskie on, in two other occasions. I was the assistant campaign director on his last senate campaign. And then the Democrat-, for his, when his, he had his eightieth birthday the Democratic Party hired me to coordinate that.

So I was in school in St. Anselm's but I left and went to the University of Maine at Farmington and prob--, and the next year I think in '73 I did that half way through the year in between semesters. And I got, I did get active, well I decided there was all this political apathy at Farmington and so I decided I would do something about that and I started this committee called the Ad Hoc Committee on Gubernatorial Candidates. I was just, I just did it.

And I decided I needed to register voters and help to get people involved and so I went to the dean with my idea and basically he said, well, if you can me my justice of the peace when you get your justice of the peace I'll go along with this idea. And so I managed to get both of us our justice of the peace and I set up this thing where the gubernatorial candidates, this is the year George Mitchell ran and Joe Brennan and Peter Kelley. They would come to the campus and they had this interview with the campus radio, the local Farmington radio station, the campus newspaper and leaders from the student senate and the faculty senate. And then we did this sort of brief tour of the campus and then we ended up in the dining room at dinner and then I registered voters.

And my husband ended up, he was the president of Young Democrats coming in and helping me to do that. We, we, that was sort of when we started going out together. And so we registered a ton of voters and the law had just passed in Maine, the residency law and, that you, that, where college students could register in the community where they lived. And I have since found out that the Farmington town clerk was ready to shoot me on sight because I registered hundreds of people and we flooded the Democratic - . . . .

*End of Side A*

*Side B*

**GB:** All right, go ahead and continue.

**GJH:** So that, when I started that effort I was doing it on my own. But then one day, but then a couple of other kids on campus got involved who were Young Democrats and so we sort of had this organized thing, you know, very focused on this particular effort. And then as part of that somebody suggested, I was going to Augusta one day for something and they said, oh, you should stop in at headquarters and meet the president of Young Democrats. So I went in and I met him and he took me to lunch and, and I ended up becoming the national committee woman for Young Democrats dating the guy and we're still married, you know, many years later.

But then so that, so through that I then ended up really getting all back into Maine politics. And I

was on the Franklin County committee and I, you know, went to the conventions and I was like a page at that point at the conventions. And this little group of Young Democrats that was sort of had grown out of this, we helped in local campaigns and one of the, this is a very interesting st--, it doesn't have to do with Muskie, so.

**GB:** Well go ahead, go ahead, that's fine.

**GJH:** Okay. Well one of these Young Democrats was a guy named Jack Wyman, have you ever heard of that name?

**GB:** I've heard the name, I don't know much about him.**GJH:** Well Jack, well, I'll tell you where Jack got (*unintelligible word*). But he was just a college student like any of us and we helped Pam Scarcelli ran for the legislature back then and we helped out on her campaign. And I remember we went to Democratic, a convention, and Severin Beliveau was running for the state committee from Oxford County. And we decided, this little group of young Democrats, that we'd take Severin on and we'd try and get this kid, this Young Democrat named Ben McCaulister from Canton to beat him out.

We had more fun, and Severin was like, yeah, all right. And then we were doing such a good job getting the votes, we're saying, "You know, Severin, he just takes this stuff for granted and he thinks it's owed to him, you know. " And we're going, "Yeah, yeah, we should really have somebody young in there who really wants this and they're really hungry, you know, and they'll go to all the meetings." And all of a sudden we were starting to rack up the votes, you know, and it was starting to look like Severin could actually lose this race.

So finally he caught on to it and he started having to really work hard to keep this foolish little state committee (*unintelligible word*) from Oxford County. But, you know, I mean, and we really didn't sort of realize we were taking on the establishment, we were just having a good time, you know. And you'd, one thing at a time you'd do things like that and you'd get really involved.

And so then my sen-, I got to my senior year, well back up. So George ended up winning the primary and I helped out on that campaign and Chuck was helping out on that campaign. And then what was that, was that. And then the summer between my junior year at Farmington and my senior year there was a guy named Norm Whitzell who was a representative. And he had a group of Young Democrats that was myself and Chuck and a guy from Farmingdale, Jacobson, David Jacobson. And our job was to go around and register voters throughout the state of Maine. So we would go to shoe shops and chicken factories and every state fair. Chuck and I could care less if we ever see a state fair again. And we registered thousands of voters that summer. And we would go like into a shoe shop and Norm would be the front man, he'd go up front and he'd ask them if we could go in and register voters. And by the time the guy had got finished saying no for the fourth time, we'd already done the place, we'd gotten through the place, we'd registered everybody and we were heading out on to the next place.

And so we registered literally thousands, thousands of voters. As a matter of fact we all got awards from the Democratic Party for doing that but as I was working the night shift at a nursing

home I couldn't go and receive my award, but paying for college (*unintelligible phrase*). But some people, Longley ended up beating Mitchell for that campaign and some people felt like what had happened that a lot of these people that we'd registered had in fact decided to vote independent rather than Democrat. Now I don't know if there are ever any studies done on that or anything.

And then that next ye-, I went back to college in the fall but then at, again in the break in my senior year I was doing student teaching and so I came to Augusta to do that. And my, and Chuck was working, had gone to work for the legislature in the documents room and so we used to hang around with all those people in the legislature. And that's how I met a lot of the people that I then worked with on the Muskie campaign. And, you know, and people like Jimmy Wilfong and Dick Spencer, Jim Tierney and, you know, that, John Martin. They were sort of all, we were all young back then.

And so when I graduated I graduated, I finished up my spring, my student teaching and then I went to work at Camp Susan Curtis. And then in the fall of that year, it would have been '75, Jim Wilfong had married Valerie Cayton. Valerie had been the Sergeant of Arms, the first woman Sergeant of Arms in the State House and Jim had been a legislator, and they were building a log cabin and were having a log cabin raising. And a guy was, and another guy that was at that log cabin raising that was a state senator was Phil Merrill. And Phil Merrill had been hired as the campaign manager for Muskie's U.S. senate campaign and I was looking for a job. And my degree was in special education but I had worked on all these campaigns while I was on school and I had said for once in my life I want to just work on a campaign where I can focus on this campaign and not always having to be called to class. And so he was looking for a staff person to be a part time secretary for his new law firm and then a part time secretary for the campaign. And so basically after seeing how hard I worked at, on building a log cabin. I mean I think basically the interview process was, "Well have you ever done anything in politics?" And I'd done this, this and this. And, "How many people hate you?" And I said, "I don't really think there are that many people that know me well enough to hate me." I was hired.

And what happened is very soon the ca-, the law firm was busy and they really needed somebody full time for that. And the campaign got busy and they needed some full time for that and, like at the beginning of any campaign I was doing everything. I did press, you know, you know, I would help, I'd read the stuff that went out on the radios, I'd go out to committee meetings, you know, to get people involved. I would do the typing. I would do the phones, I would do the paper work and so I just did a little bit of everything.

But then as the campaign got bigger, you know, my role narrowed a little bit and they fi--, and I finally became the assistant campaign director. And my job, partly because I was a woman and I was young and I mean I. You know, and it, they, that was a campaign where they were really trying to make sure there were young people and they were women and that had never been a real issue on Muskie's previous campaigns. But they, he was older, he had been around for a while and I think it was really important, they wanted to make sure that people felt like he represented all groups. For instance Pat Angelone was the treasurer and I think she was, it was the first time he'd had a, ever had a woman treasurer, I mean in the past I'm sure Joe Angelone would have been the treasurer, not Pat, you know.

But my, I was sort of the person that stayed in the office in Portland in the Monument Square office and then helped as things got bigger and bigger, bigger, bigger coordinate, you know, all the other pieces that came out. The campaign manager was somebody who was, you know, working on policy stuff and was out on the road. And, you know, I was always the person that they could find and was there and, you know, could make sure, and pick up the little pieces when they fell through or make sure that whoever needed to do that did that.

And we had a great, we had fun volunteers, it was a really fun campaign. And I, we had these different groups of volunteers. I had one group that, it was sort of my, I called them my old ladies and I say that with a great deal of fondness. But I had old ladies day and on these days I had three in particular old ladies that came in. One we actually got out of a nursing home to come in and to help us. The other two ladies, one was Margery Berman and she had been, she was a retired schoolteacher who had taught at very exclusive private schools in New Jersey. She had taught Nelson Rockefeller's kids. And the other one was a woman named Lucille Todd and Lucille had been one of the first female executives for Revlon in Paris. And they were the most interesting ladies. And I can't remember the name of the lady we got out of the nursing home but she had been a founding member of the American for Democratic Action, ADA, in New York state and had had tea at Hyde Park with Eleanor Roosevelt. So we used to have more fun when those, the ladies would get together.

And back in those days computers had just started coming in, we had no computers in the office. We had, they were file cards and they had little holes and we had these things like knitting needles. And you'd stick the knitting needle through and then depending on where you stuck the knitting needle through the cards you wanted, the sort that you wanted would fall out. And then that would be your list of Oxford County or whatever to then get the addresses. So there were lots of paper tasks and you really needed lots of volunteers to just do those sorts of things. So, you know, so those were the sorts of things that I did.

I, like I said, I would go out to county committee meetings. I would organize the raffles. I would organize the volunteers. I would, when the supplies didn't get through to the offices I would try and make sure that all that sort of stuff happened. You get to do anything on those types of campaigns.

I helped design, oh, the bean suppers, you know, I was major. I think everybody takes credit but I was one of the people that I think had thought up those bean suppers. When I lived in Orland we lived next to a church where there were bean suppers every Saturday night and, you know, anybody could go. They were affordable, and you've seen the bean supper bumper sticker, right? Had, everybody's -

**GB:** Oh, bumper sticker.

**GJH:** Oh, you don't know there's a bumper sticker.

**GB:** I don't, I didn't know that, I mean I'm familiar with bean suppers, there are a bunch of them (*unintelligible word*) but -

**GJH:** No, no, the bean suppers were a very big deal. As a matter of fact Muskie was just about ready to kill us if we sent him to another, we did bean suppers everywhere. And we had this special sticker design and it, bumper sticker. And it was designed like the B&M label and we called B&M and we got permission for it and it said, 'I ate beans with Ed Muskie' on it. And we would hand them out at the sup-, people would put them on, people loved them, they, they, I don't think I have one.

**GB:** Oh, wow.

**GJH:** So you didn't know about that?

**GB:** I didn't, I mean they probably have some in the archives here.

**GJH:** Oh, they got to have some of those.

**GB:** They must, they must. I had never heard of that though, that's funny.

**GJH:** So yeah, so I helped organize, you know, when they were doing them in Portland. But you would work with the people that were organizing them, you know, out in the field, and then after a while we had all the field offices. There was one in Bangor and Charlie Jacobs and Dick Davies and Gloria whose last name has just left me ran that one. And then my friend Jimmy Wilfong and a guy named Steve (*name*) ran the Lewiston one, and then Mary McAleney eventually. Well, and I hired, I hire-, Mary came in as a volunteer and she and I got to be great friends and I recommended that they hired her, that's something I'm very proud of.

**GB:** So you kind of got her into the political scene?

**GJH:** Yeah, yeah, she was going through a very hard time. She came from a very political family and she was going through a very hard personal time in her life and, yeah, and I just encouraged her to do that. And I remember one of the first things we did together is we went, where was it, South Berwick. They just changed the rules for how you got elected to the caucuses that year and so we would go to the caucuses on behalf of Muskie to bring information about that for the convention. But actually what we'd end up doing is telling people how they were supposed to do this because people were looking at the. And actually I helped, I helped out with those because I'd served on a committee, on the equal employment, not the eq-, but some EEO sort of committee to help make the rules of the Democratic Party, bring in, you know, a greater diversity of people. So I knew what those rules were for electing delegates to the caucus pretty well.

But I remember we went to South Berwick and there were these two old farmers. I mean they had that, you know, the jeans on and they were Humphrey boys. And Humphrey didn't get the minimum that he needed to elect, get a delegate to the state convention. And they were just, if they couldn't vote for Humphrey they weren't going. So we said, "Well," we said, "if you sort of redo this and you form a big group with this group over here that doesn't really have enough then you can get enough to have some Humphrey delegates." So they were all quite happy we'd

figured that out and we organized and these two guys somehow got to be the Humphrey delegates. You know, so those were the sorts of things that we used to do.

**GB:** Oh wow.

**GJH:** Yeah, that was fun. So Mary had the southern part of the state and Jim Wilfong and Steve sort of had the central up into Oxford County, and then Charlie and Dick and Gloria Culbert had north and Down East and that was sort of how the field operation was divided up.

**GB:** I see. Now, in both of these campaigns, in the '72 campaign and the '76 senate campaign, did you get a lot of opportunities to meet Muskie?

**GJH:** No. I was always this behind the scenes person. I mean, I got some opportunities but not like the field people because they would end up driving him around and that would be how he would end up. I don't, I, to this day I don't think he ever knew my name, okay? You know, I got sent a telegram when we were married but it was really Charlie that arranged for the telegram to be sent. But so, no, I, I, I don't really, you know, I never had a real personal relationship with the senator. It was, I was always very, this behind the scenes person that did this stuff.

**GB:** From the times you did meet him though, what were your initial impressions of him?

**GJH:** Well he was big. He was big and you figured out really quick that you better know what you're talking about or you were going to get challenged big time. And he could go from being very gruff and very serious to, to you know, sort of funny with this, you know, sort of the Maine sense of humor. But I certainly always had a great deal of respect for what he'd done and as I learned more about him what he'd accomplished, and particularly on environmental issues. Having grown up, I came from a family that always liked the outdoors and always spent a lot of time outdoors, and in paper mill towns. And I had seen the dirty rivers and I didn't like that. And um and the air pollution. And I really liked that part about what he stood for and I was, you know, very proud to be associated, you know, with what he'd done particularly in that area.

**GB:** I see. I see.

**GJH:** And I also, and he worked really very hard on a program that brought money back to the states and then allowed them to redistribute it rather than Washington deciding it. And as somebody who'd always lived in small towns I real-, what did they call it, revenue sharing was the name for it, and I really thought that was a real good policy that he had.

**GB:** I see. Now, you just called to mind a question. What did your parents think about you being such an involved Democrat since they were Republicans?

**GJH:** Oh my God. Well, not only was I involved in Democratic politics but as time went on I worked for a labor union and I was brought in to start help the public, MSCA, have you heard of MSCA, the public sector. They're this labor union that represents state employees.

**GB:** Oh yes, yes.

**GJH:** Well they used to be an association and it was in the early eighties that they went from being an association to being a labor union. And we were, when I was working for Muskie in Portland on his senate campaign, downstairs was the Carter office and so we used to have all this interaction with them. And there was a guy on that campaign, Joe Mackey, who went to work for MSCA and basically, when they really in their organizational stuff, they hired me into that union to help with that effort of going from an association to a union.

So I had Republican middle management parents, I worked for a Democratic candidate, and I worked for a labor union. And I was lobbying in the legislature one day and one of the guys from the pulp and paper information office came up to me and in total seriousness, I mean the guy was really serious, he looked at me and he says, Does your father know what you're doing?

So, I, they didn't agree with my politics but they respected the fact that I got involved in things and worked hard at things and made a difference. And so, they didn't agree with the causes I'd taken up but they very much respected, you know, the work, the work that I was doing. So that's sort of how that went, yeah. The conversations at home were very interesting.

**GB:** Oh, I can imagine, I can imagine. Now do you have any siblings?

**GJH:** Yes, I have a younger brother and two younger sisters.

**GB:** I'm curious, how did they turn out politically?

**GJH:** Three of us are Democrats and one is a Republican.

**GB:** So your parents got it right with of them in there, (*unintelligible phrase*).

**GJH:** Yes, and she married an engineer, although one of my brothers is an engineer and is quite, he is quite a liberal Democrat, is a very liberal Democrat. And that, you know, where do I think that came from. Even though my parents were by registration Republican they were by attitude people who didn't look down on other people and they always encouraged us to have friendships with whoever we found interesting. And the towns we lived in were small enough so even though there was a mill management and then the union people, you all lived in the same neighborhoods and you were all on the same sports teams and you all took swimming lessons together and you had camps next to each other. And it wasn't like where you had camps that there was a section of the lake where all the management people had camps and there was a section of the lake, because it was the same lease price for everybody.

And when it came to building a house in Millinocket you leased the land and the mill helped you put in your foundation. What they would do, they'd give you the forms and they'd send you, the mill would pay for a cement truck full of cement to put your foundation on. And then, you know, if you, if you had more money you might hire people to do the rest, if you had less money you would do it yourself. So I never lived in segregated neighborhoods, and you were always friends with, you know, the people around you.



And my parents always really encouraged that and they always helped out other people, too. And they got involved in community things and so, you know, I think through those sorts of things you got to see people who have a lot less than you did and.

I don't know, you know, if somebody hadn't invited me to go down and help out Muskie would I have ended up a Republican rather than a Democrat? I don't know. I haven't found it hard over the years to stay being a Democrat. It fits with the things I believe in very well. I've never had any temptation to be anything else so my guess is I would have ended up a Democrat anyway.

St. Anselm's was a very liberal college, too, that probably disturbed them more than anything else. That they'd paid for this good Catholic education for their daughter and she'd come home with all these liberal ideas that they had no idea was being taught to her by the church.

**GB:** Now I'm kind of surprised to hear you say that St. A's was a, was a liberal school.

**GJH:** Jesuits.

**GB:** Oh, I suppose, yeah.

**GJH:** (*Unintelligible phrase*). And well there were several, there was the order, there's several different orders there but. There were Jesuits there, there were some cloistered nun orders, there was, the cloistered ones, they were the little cooks. They made these wonderful French pastries and you sort of never saw them. And then there were the Benedictines, there were, a lot of the nuns that taught were actually Benedictines. And the priest that taught, and there was another order there, too, and I'm not remembering it.

But they were some pretty interesting people. I remember there was this little nun, she was like about, she made me look tall. And she'd sort of walk around and she was very easy to underestimate. Her name was Sister Gonzaga and she was an immigrant from Poland and had her Ph.D. in nuclear physics. I mean, I had a whole new view on nuns and priests after meeting, you know. And they were very, the people I met were very well educated and were really interesting, interesting people.

**GB:** Were a lot of the students at St. Anselm's fairly liberal?

**GJH:** Yes, oh yes. And they were from the city and they were from all over and they were all different colors, and they came from families where parents had been divorced and all of this was like this whole new world for me, yeah. No I, at that point in time St. Anselm's was a male college, it was. The only females on campus were women who were in the nursing program and so we were sort of down in this separate dorm away from the guys where our virtue could be guarded by the campus security. We were given all these instructions about how we should dress when we were, this seems like a very long time ago, I mean this is in my lifetime, how we should dress so that it wouldn't encourage the boys to be doing things they shouldn't be doing.

**GB:** Oh wow.

**GJH:** But at the same time the school was represented as, it was gauged as one of the top ten drinking schools on the eastern seaboard (*unintelligible phrase*). So it was fun.

**GB:** And I know it is still fairly segregated, the genders, more so than most colleges today.

**GJH:** Yeah, yeah, well that comes from that tradition. Women had, even only had dorms on campus for a couple of years when I was there so it was all very new.

(*Break taping.*)

**GB:** All right, you were saying, go ahead.

**GJH:** Yeah, what was that, well I think that's about it at St. Anselm's. It was, it was a fun place to be. And I would have stayed if I had wanted to stay in nursing but I had decided that I wanted to do something else and so I had to go outside of that college to do that. And I ended up going to Farmington, in learning, special education. But it's not what I ended up, I always would come back to my first love which was organizing and coordinating, find a way to do that.

**GB:** And what was, what was your career path over the years after what we've already covered. Let's see, where did we leave off?

**GJH:** Where did we leave off? Well after I finished, after Muskie's senate campaign was over I decided I would try to do something with my degree in learning disabilities. And I ended up in Bangor and I worked for a while as a childcare worker at a home for adolescent boys with emotional and behavioral problems and decided I really didn't love that. I did that for a couple of years and then Phil Merrill who had been the campaign director on Muskie's campaign ran for governor and so I went and ran half of the state for him on that campaign. That campaign was unsuccessful and after that I then got, MSCA called me and asked me if I would come and work for them. And then I did that until '81 and then I got pregnant and I stayed home with my kids for quite a long time. Although like I was the chairman of the Winthrop town committee and, you know, most of my kids as infants went to state conventions.

And, you know, I went, I went from national and went right back into local politics which Chuck and I always say is the most insane place to be. And we still say that. And, so we lived in Winthrop for a while. Then we moved to Monmouth and I did a lot of community stuff there but. And then I worked, but people would call me for like six weeks jobs or something and if I liked the sound of it I'd do it. If I could work it in with what I was doing with the kids I'd do it.

So I did a little bit of work at the PC and I was, a friend of mine became the commissioner of labor so I was on her advisory board. And I did a little bit of work for the department of labor. And then as the kids got older I started getting back in. I worked on electrical, they called me in on electrical deregulation to, it was this huge consumer group and it got so big that in the last few months of the campaign they sort of wanted to keep. There were like these thirty different groups that made this one consumer group. They were on one side and the power companies were on the other and my job was sort of to help keep everybody headed in the same direction at

the same time.

And then about two years ago, my oldest son is now in college and so I've gone back to work full time. And right now I work for a state department, the department of conservation and I'm the assistant to the commissioner.

**GB:** I see. And what are your duties at the department of conservation?

**GJH:** Well, I'm in, the biggest part of what I do right now is I'm organizing a department-wide safety initiative. We've been working with the department of labor, we're trying to improve our safety record. But I'm trying to set up systems and training and stuff in the department to help people understand what their responsibilities are under OSHA. And I also do a lot of crisis stuff when we have safety issues, I sort of come in and try and help organize (*unintelligible word*). Of course, you realize I have no safety background. But what I have and what has always carried me through, I have organizational background and so that's what I bring to this.

And then I work on other things with a department wide perspective. I help organize basically the paper work that has to do with our departmental responsibilities in terms of the Atlantic salmon plan for the seven rivers and some grant programs we participate in. And then they sort of, sometimes they'll put me into little things where they think I could be useful. It's a really fun job and it's a great department to work for because we oversee all the state parks and the botanists and the bug people and the geologists and so it's a really fun department to work in.

**GB:** I see. Wow, that's great. All right, now I have, I have a few miscellaneous questions to ask you.

**GJH:** Miscellaneous, yes.

**GB:** I was (*unintelligible word*) to see if I could fit them into the flow of things, now I'll just go ahead and -

**GJH:** Yes.

**GB:** I understand that you knew Mary Ellen Twombly, is that correct?

**GJH:** Oh well Mary Ellen and I are old, yes, do you understand how this all works? There's Mary McAleney, okay, and Mary has two cousins. Mary has cousins and Mary Ellen is one of her cousins, and Mary Ellen's sister Annie is one of her cousins. And Annie actually, (*unintelligible word*) their whole family has been active in politics, it goes back for generations. And I don't know if you know but one of Mary's grandfathers was a governor. One of their, and he was, he was the governor that, I've forgotten his name, he was governor for about six days, you know, back when, it was when Joshua Chamberlain was at Bowdoin and there was this battle about who was control-, going to control the legislature. Well, their like great grandfather was governor for about, so they really have a long political tradition in that family.

Yes, so Mary Ellen helped me out on, when Muskie's eightieth birthday celebration, okay? And we were trying to figure out what to do for a present. And, I mean, you know, what do you give to somebody who's done what he's done and probably has everything, and at that point in your life the last thing you need is more stuff. So, and of course there was never enough money to do anything really, really big. So I came up with this idea of doing memory books. We'd go, find people in each county and they'd put together a book and find all the fun stories and great old pictures and put them together in memory books. And so Mary Ellen helped me out in Waldo County and she did it, she asked me if a taping would be okay and I said great. And her sister, Annie's former father-in-law used to work for Muskie when he was governor. And you can get all of this from Mary Ellen because she has all, she has all those great stories on that tape.

**GB:** She's actually been interviewed before.

**GJH:** Yeah, and did she give, did you get the tape that she did?

**GB:** I, no, no, I don't believe so.

**GJH:** It was Eben, that's right, Eben Elwell. And Eben was like the treasurer or something, and so she interviewed Eben for Muskie's birthday party, you know, and all the old war stories from, you know, from those days. And I think Mary's mother who would have been Mary Ellen's aunt, Helen, and Helen is still alive. Helen ran the women's part of the WPA for the state of Maine in the Roosevelt administration so she always, she knew a lot about. And her dad, and her dad was a Twombly, right, yeah, her dad was a Twombly, was I think a friend of Muskie's.

So I just know, and I mean Mary Ellen, I've known Mary Ellen, shortly after I met Mary. When you meet Mary you meet her whole family, and it's a wonderful Irish Yankee family and they take everybody in and so, and I, and so I've kept in touch, you know, with all of those people over the years. And Annie's a very good friend, too. Annie had worked with, Annie who's Mary Ellen's sister, was very active in Kennebec County politics for years and years and she actually knew Chuck in that capacity before I did. So that's how I know Mary Ellen.

**GB:** Now I have a note about audiocassettes of twenty old time political folks talking about Muskie. Is that the same thing as what you're talking about (*unintelligible phrase*)?

**GJH:** Yes, and theoretically we put all of the, people brought, they, people brought notebooks. And, oh my God, people were digging stuff out of their attics, you know. Elmer Violette had copies of his most favorite picture made, and Lois Grosse from Bucksport came up with some old, some story that she thought Muskie was finally old enough that we could tell the story in public.

And everybody brought them to the birthday party and theoretically they were going home with Muskie for him to go through with, and then the idea is they were supposed to come to the archives. And I don't know if they ever made it here or not. My assumption is that they did because there was just enough stuff so that I would not have thought they would have wanted to have kept them in Kennebunk for too many years after they'd gone through them.

And there were a lot, there were other tapes that other people did. We had one from every county. I had a contact in every county that helped put this together from each county so there should be a wealth of information. I never saw those because people brought them right to the party and then they went home with the Muskies.

**GB:** Now you mentioned someone had brought a story that she had decided was . . . .

**GJH:** Oh well I can't remember. Well Lois is sort of a character, yeah. And you know I can't even remember what it is but I can just remember Lois laughing. She had this picture and she was going to find it and she was going to send it to him. And Lois Grosse is from Bucksport. She's, I'm pretty sure Lois is dead now. And she just, she's somebody that knew Muskie for years and had probably helped him out when he was governor.

And her husband, she has a brother-in-law and a husband. Her husband was Lawrence Grosse and I think he was in the legislature for one term and had been really active in the union and the mills so they were sort of union Democrats. Again, in Hancock County there weren't too many Democrats so people all sort of knew, you know. If you were a Democrat in Hancock County you were the contact for every Democratic campaign that came along because there just weren't that many of you. And the one place that you might find a few Democrats in Hancock County was in a mill town. And so those were always sort of valuable political contacts and so Lois was sort of in that, in that group. And she'd always been active on the state level, so. But I, I don't remember what the actual story was.

And there was, I think Don had wanted me to tell you, there is a woman in Monmouth whose mother went to high school with Muskie and I've got to get you, Ann got remarried and she changed her last name.

**GB:** Would that be Andrea Meaker Cianchette?

**GJH:** No, (*unintelligible phrase*).

**GB:** That's someone else I was going to ask you about.

**GJH:** This is somebody, no, this is Ann. And I've got it at home and I just, I have to, I forget it, and I may just stop at her house. Her mother went to high school, was a classmate of Muskie's in high school and had told her a story and it was really a sort of a very sad story and involved a teacher in the school and an abuse of a kid. But Muskie had made that public and stood up to that person where a lot of people had never done that before and had actually caused that to be stopped. You should get the particulars from her.

And it was not the sort of thing that we would have wanted to talk about while people were alive but, you know. In terms of somebody who showed some courage and some leadership ability at a very young age, it was really a story that illustrated that. So it would be a very good story to get. And then you could, you can decide, you know, which pieces of it would be appropriate to name names and which pieces of it wouldn't. And I had told you, I had mentioned that I had this I

think to your dad.

Now, Andrea Meaker Cianchette?

**GB:** I was, yeah, I was -

**GJH:** I don't, I mean she's a daughter of the Cianchettes and she was, she's the PR person at what used to be Champion and is now IP. But actually Mary McAleney knows Andrea. I don't have a real relationship with Andrea.

**GB:** Oh, okay, okay, okay.

**GJH:** No, not at all.

**GB:** Someone thought you might know her, but, all right, that's fine. Now, back to, back to the eightieth birthday party, how were you contracted to do that, how did they -?

**GJH:** Well, basically they were looking I think for somebody that was available, A. And they wanted somebody with good organizational skills, B. And they wanted somebody that sort of, wanted somebody that knew the lay of the land. And I, somebody had suggested me, it may have been Mary, it may have been somebody else, and so they asked me if they could do it.

Now, Gwethalyn Philips was the party director and Gwethalyn and I had worked together when Phil Merrill had run for governor and so Gwethalyn knew me well from that. So I was somebody that Gwethalyn felt like, as the party director, she could work well with and that she knew, you know, would work hard on it.

And there were other pe--, and you know Micoleau was on, we had a little group there and, you know. Charlie knew what I did basically from the senate campaign and from other things and, you know, so I had a reputation I guess.

**GB:** I see, I see. And did that all go smoothly, the party?

**GJH:** Oh, it went great, it was wonderful. We found, we drug people out that hadn't gone to anything in years and that was my goal. You know, we said, What would he like? And I said he'd like to see all those people from the old days. You know, because the friends that were your friends when you weren't famous were really your friends. And when you get to be famous, now I can remember Mary telling me how hard it was to be in Washington because you never knew if people were wanting to be friends with you because of you or because of what you were connected with and that the only people you knew that about were people who had been your friends before you were famous.

So we said, you know, A, we'd rather be having the party now than when he's dead because this will be fun, and this would be a great opportunity to just go and see what we could find. And so we just started calling everybody we knew and I'd ask people who they knew and they'd tell me other people and we'd call them. And we just, you know, we had five hundred people at a

luncheon, the seats were sold out.

And people who hadn't seen each other from, for twenty years, you know, came to that. I mean, you had your people who were active now and your legislators and, because you know it was an event you had to be at. But I mean, Julian (*name*), whose husband had died two days before came to Muskie's birthday party, you know, that was how important it was for her to be there. And Julia's parents are Julian and Audrey Davis, she's from Machias, were, they were old time friends of Muskie. And Julian and her husband Mark had been supporters and just done work for him for years and years and years.

And so, yeah, we'd get a name and then that would lead us to another name and then that would get us to somebody else. And one of Muskie's teachers was in an elderly housing, assisted housing in Lewiston and so we got somebody to pick her up and bring her.

**GB:** One of his teachers?

**GJH:** One of his teachers.

**GB:** She must have been -

**GJH:** Oh, she was in her nineties, oh yeah, oh yeah, she was in her nineties. Oh, and we found, there's some old guy up in Dover-Foxcroft who had known him in the service and he came and, you know, it was really fun. It was great because you didn't have to be important to come to this thing, all's you had to do was have been a friend of Ed Muskie's. And those are the people, we knew the politicians would come, you know, they'd be on the regular list (*unintelligible word*). So we really tried to hunt for, you know, the people from the old days. And, you know, just by following the leads we found them one at a time and a lot of them came.

**GB:** I don't suppose you happen to remember the name of this fellow who was in the service with him?

**GJH:** I know, but you know there should be. Because what happened is I was hired and then as soon as the party was over my job was done and I didn't stay on to archive stuff or do thank you notes, you know, or any of that. So somebody else did all of that work and hopefully those records are, one should never assume those things, but hopefully those records are still around. And I mean Gwethalyn is now not the executive director but the chairperson of the party so, I mean. I am sure that she would be very open to somebody looking through, you know, for this project.

And you know, there was one thing that happened, we hired a photographer for that party and that photographer took pictures of lots of people. And the, but, and we were sup-. The original plan had been to get some of those pictures back to people and I think that got dropped. But the pictures were taken and they were paid for, and so those pictures are, hopefully are someplace.

So, you know, you've got some things from that. You've got what happened to all of those memory books and those tapes and, you know, all of that stuff because that's exactly what it was

was like an oral history project. I mean people found their fun stories and their fun pictures and put them together and, you know, are there are lists from that. That guy in Dover-Foxcroft, he's got to be dead by now, he was like really old, he was like in his nineties, too.

**GB:** So if we wanted to um hunt down some of this information the person to contact would be (*unintelligible word*)?

**GJH:** Yeah, Gwethalyn Philips is the director of the Democratic Party and she was the executive director when we did this party, when we did his eightieth birthday celebration. So, I mean, I'm sure she would be very open.

**GB:** Oh, great.

**GJH:** If there are boxes of stuff. And if you actually find boxes of stuff and you want me to go through them with you to see if, you know, I'd be happy to do that, yeah, yeah.

**GB:** Oh wow, well thank you. All right, well I think that's about it.

**GJH:** Good, that's enough.

**GB:** Perfect timing.

*End of Side B*

*End of Interview*