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# Kinnelly, Charlene (Pomeroy) and Pomeroy, Arlene oral history interview

Andrea L'Hommedieu

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# **Interview with Arlene Pomeroy and Charlene (Pomeroy) Kinnelly by Andrea L'Hommedieu**

*Summary Sheet and Transcript*

## **Interviewee**

Pomeroy, Arlene

Kinnelly, Charlene (Pomeroy)

## **Interviewer**

L'Hommedieu, Andrea

## **Date**

March 14, 2000

## **Place**

Lewiston, Maine

## **ID Number**

MOH 168

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## **Biographical Note**

Arlene Pomeroy was born in 1918. Both of her parents were Republicans. Her mother, the daughter of a dairy farmer, was born in the Stevens Mills area of Auburn. Her father was born in the Norway area and worked in the shoe factories. She worked in shoe factory offices. She married Charles Pomeroy (see biographical note below) in 1936 and they were married for 58 years until his death. They had four children, two girls, including Charlene, and two boys. They lived in Auburn until 1948. She was most active in the Democratic party during the late 1930s and early 1940s, specifically during Louis Brann's bid for Governor. She was a Committeewoman for Androscoggin County, and the secretary for the Democratic State Committee. She volunteered for various Muskie campaigns, most notably the 1954 gubernatorial campaign.

Charles "Charlie" Pomeroy was active in Democratic politics from the time that he was 17 or 18 years old. He roomed with Tom Delahanty. They also attended Columbia University law school in Washington together. His father (Charles, Sr.) was part of the Maine Democratic Committee.

He was the Chair of Auburn City Committee. He was also the Probation Officer for Androscoggin County. His father and mother were R. N.s who met in Detroit, Michigan.

Charles worked in the office of Fred Lancaster and the office of Brann & Isaacson. He was active in Brann's gubernatorial campaign. He was an Auburn city solicitor. In 1942 he worked in the Office of Price Administration. He joined the Navy in 1944. He worked for the Office of Price Stabilization in Boston during the late forties. He was a Referee in Bankruptcy at that time they moved to Portland. He was appointed to the Superior Court in 1956. Governor Curtis elevated Pomeroy to the Supreme Court in 1969. In 1980 he was chair of the Indian Tribal State Commission. He retired from the court in 1980 and moved to Florida. He taught George Mitchell for one semester of law school in Portland.

The daughter of Charles and Arlene Pomeroy, Charlene Kinnelly was born in Auburn, Maine. She moved to Portland when she was five years old. She was the town Democratic chair in Litchfield. She was an advocate for people with disabilities. She heads a non-profit agency that serves people with developmental disabilities in Augusta. She chaired state provider associations, legislative committees, and study commissions.

### **Scope and Content Note**

Interview includes discussions of: Navy; Office of Price Stabilization (OPS); Office of Price Administration; 1954 Maine gubernatorial campaign; neighborhood meetings known as "teas and coffees"; Tom Delahanty's involvement; 1955-1956 Governor Muskie's first term; superior court judgeship nominations; Charlene's recollection of Pomeroy's inauguration at State house, Hall of Flags; 1969-1972 presidential campaign; Manchester, New Hampshire incident; environmental protection, Androscoggin River; Democratic Party in Maine; Louis Brann; Frank Coffin; and Tacoma Lake.

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## **Transcript**

**Andrea L'Hommedieu:** This is an interview with Arlene Pomeroy and Charlene Pomeroy on March the 14th, the year 2000, at the Muskie Archives in Lewiston, Maine. I'd like to start just by asking you to each state your names and spell them for me.

**Arlene Pomeroy:** I am Arlene Pomeroy, A-R-L-E-N-E, P-O-M-E-R-O-Y. And I have lived in Maine all my life. I am eight-two years old, within a few days, and have lived here, as I said, all my life. I only went through high school, and went to work in the shoe factory offices. I worked in several, was married very young to a man who even at seventeen and eighteen was in Democratic politics. Well, that is probably how I happened to be there. His dad was on the Democratic state committee. I feel like I was born into the Democratic Party, but it wasn't that way. My own parents were also natives of Maine and were very ardent Republican voters I would guess.

They thought I was a bit of a renegade when I decided to become a Democrat. Dad and mother were both working in the area all their lives. My mother was born in Stevens Mills area of a large, into a large family. Her dad was a dairy farmer, and she had several, eight, brothers and

sisters. My dad was born in the Norway area and was a shoe worker all his life. My husband was Charles Pomeroy, who was also a native of Maine. We met in church at a young peoples' Sunday night meeting and [he] was the only man I ever dated, ever married, ever knew. That was a long time, I was married fifty-eight years. We had four children, two boys and two girls, which Charlene is our oldest daughter.

**Charlene Kinnelly:** I am Charlene Kinnelly, C-H-A-R-L-E-N-E, K-I-N-N-E-L-L-Y. I was born in Auburn, moved to Portland when I was five. I guess I too was born into the Democratic Party.

**AL:** Have you remained with that affiliation?

**CK:** Yes.

**AL:** So, you and Charles both grew up in Auburn?

**AP:** Yes.

**AL:** And married here and started your family?

**AP:** Yes.

**AL:** And then moved to Portland. Was that when he became a -?

**AP:** No, we lived in Auburn until 1948. We were married in '36, and we lived in Auburn, and it was during that, about '37, '38, through the forties, the mid-forties, that I was most active in the Democratic Party. My husband was on the Democratic, the Auburn city committee, chairman of the city committee, and practicing law, passed his Bar exam, and worked in the office of Fred Lancaster, who was the Democratic national chairman, committeeman, from Maine at that point, when he was studying law. He studied law in his office, took the Bar exam and passed it and practiced in that office. Then he went into the office of Brann & Isaacson, and of course Louis Brann, what, became governor, and we were very active in that campaign. I remember one of the gimmicks that we did was the signpost of all of the towns in Maine that have the same names as European countries. And I remember the Brann campaign, my husband and a whole core of young men, Jack Maloney was one, and, made an effort to get to Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and to get to each of these towns, for meetings and the campaign and trying to stimulate interest in the Brann campaign.

At that point I was at Augusta, I found myself in Augusta at a Democratic meeting one day and heard my name nominated to be committeewoman for Androscoggin County. And I can't tell you how many years I served in this capacity. I remember all these names and all these faces, but I couldn't put a date to it if I wanted to. At one point I was secretary of the state committee.

And I guess, all my life, perhaps because my mother's profession was food, I have found myself the punch and cookies lady of about everything I was ever associated with. It seems to me,

whether it was a golf association at the country club or a political campaign. But I remember at that time arranging a reception or a luncheon to honor Mrs. Brann at the Elm House in Auburn, which has been torn down for, how many years has it been gone? Many. And I continued, I have always continued to do the same thing. I think I'm hospitality (*unintelligible word*) messenger of the Democrats I guess. But I find myself in that same capacity whatever organization I'm in, so, whether it be a golf association or a quilting group, I'm still cooking.

But that's beside the point. Charlie, my husband, was as I said active in town politics. He was city solicitor for city of Auburn, and in 1942 he took a part-time position with the Office of Price Administration, the OPA [*sic*], which was the rationing organization during WWII. And that's where he first met Ed, and of course where I had met him through, I had known of him, of course, that he was a young lawyer practicing law. And he also was working at the Office of Price Administration with my husband. Ed went off and went into the Navy, and I, my husband went off and went into service in 1944.

**AL:** And he went into the Navy?

**AP:** Yes, he also served in the Navy. Charlie came back and worked for a few years with what I think was called the Office of Price Stabilization at that point, at a regional office in Boston. He was in a legal department of that agency for a couple of years. And my husband was the referee in bankruptcy for a term, and I can't remember now, but I'm assuming it was in the late forties, '48 or '49, that he assumed, was appointed to that position. We moved to Portland, Maine at that time, in 1949, and in 1955, late '55, '56, Governor Muskie nominated my husband for a position on the Superior Court of the state of Maine. We had known Ed, not closely, not socially, but he and my husband of course had a different relationship than I had, but I very vividly remember when Ed was running for governor their coming to my house and soliciting my help. And again it was tea and cookies, perhaps it was coffee that day, and he and Judge Coffin, Judge Frank Coffin, were campaigning. They were trying to rejuvenate the Democratic Party within Maine, that had been very quiet and very dormant from, of course, from the years when Brann was governor through until Ed was governor. We had hard work to fill the ticket for an election, to even get candidates to run for office, say nothing about be elected. But I remember a conversation that day, and we were living in Auburn, and I can see Ed sitting, and Frank, sitting in the living room, and they were soliciting my ideas and my help, and we came up with the idea of teas and coffees, neighborhood sort of meetings. And I took upon myself the responsibility to get hostesses for this thing. And I remember several occasions. Mrs. Phillip Corey did one out in the Falmouth area, there was a lady in Westbrook, I can remember the house, I have no idea what her name was at this point. Mrs. Frank Taylor did one up on Western Promenade in Portland, and I did one, and it was a series of small meetings to introduce the candidate and to let him meet the people. And it was many, many years later, as late as whenever Dukakis was the candidate [1988], that I had a telephone call and they asked me to do the same thing in Orlando, Florida. We were living down there, and someone called and suggested that, they were doing the same thing, back yard barbecue, small neighborhood gatherings, so I'm not sure whether that's a Democratic tradition or what it is, but we did the same thing down there under a tent. So, but as I said, that was what we did during the Muskie campaign.

And I also agreed to be the chairman of volunteers, a committee of volunteers who manned and kept the Muskie for Governor headquarters open in Portland, where we welcomed people and distributed literature and addressed envelopes, and stamped envelopes and all of that procedure. The day of the election, I voted and left the state, went to Massachusetts, I had a little time to think about this since I knew I was coming. I went to Massachusetts to attend a conference at the Congregational Conference Center there, representing the ladies of the Universalist Church, it was a national and international church conference. And I remember looking for a radio to try to get to the results of the Maine election in Massachusetts. I was in my nightie in my car at very wee hours of the morning, it was still daylight, listening to the car radio when I heard the results of the election, and Muskie had been elected the first Democratic governor in a long time. And of course it was a great happy moment, all by myself out there in the end of daylight hours. In 19-, of course we knew both Jane and Ed socially, but a very formal social relationship in state occasions or at the Blaine House, or at a reception in someone's home, or a banquet or a dinner or something of that sort, but not a very close relationship.

Then, about the only other thing I can say is that in 1956 Ed made the very wise decision to appoint my husband, same day that he appointed two other very close friends, Armand Dufresne and Jim Archibald, to the court. He elevated Justice [Robert] Williamson, Harold Dubord, and Frances Sullivan from the Superior Court to the Supreme Court and put these three friends in the lower position. And probably that was one of the most important occasions in our lives because it changed our lives considerably. Gave my husband a job he had aspired to, which he was very proud of and certainly completely dedicated to for over thirty-eight years of his life. And he was always very proud of the assignment. And of course it was because of this appointment that I have made friends, and have met and enjoyed the company of the people who were my closest friends, and the group of clerks who clerked for my husband kind of became kind of an extended family and we have always maintained our interest in them and their success. One of the things my husband did, this isn't Ed, but one of the things my husband did was to take the newest appointee to the court under his wing with a little session to brief them on the protocol and this sort of thing, this was his baby. And in his memorial service they gave him credit for this, this deal.

Our association with the governor and Jane became strictly business and, you know, whatever was going on statewide. Something happens when you are appointed to the court that suddenly you are not supposed to be in politics. You are supposed to go down the middle of the road and not have any thoughts either one side or the other, become a real center of the road guy. So we did not participate and, other than my volunteer efforts on Muskie's, in all of the campaigns, whether it was senatorial or, you know, when he went to Washington I volunteered with getting the vote out and working at the polls and transporting people to the polls and that sort of thing. But we just were not in politics as such after Charlie went on the court. I continued to serve punch and cookies to the court on every occasion that came along, and we did have dinner parties and have a very happy, and of course I would have to say that Governor Muskie was responsible for giving us the opportunity to have this. We had a very good, a very busy life, had a wonderful family, and I am sure that Senator Muskie was in part respon-, very largely responsible for our success and for our lives.

My husband passed away, he retired from the court in '80. We went to Florida to live; he wanted to move to Florida and live on a golf course. And that was what we did, and I served brunch and cookies to the golf association rather than to the court at that point. We remember him fondly and very proudly, very glad to have been his friend and very grateful for his association with us and his help.

**AL:** Now, you were, you knew Louis Brann to some extent?

**AP:** Yes, very well. My husband worked in his office, yeah.

**AL:** Right, at Brann & Isaacson?

**AP:** Yes.

**AL:** And what was your impression of Louis Brann? What was his style? How did he come across to the people?

**AP:** He was a good looking man, very personable, very outgoing. He was strictly a mover and a shaker, he was very active. I've been interested, even way back, well, not necessarily in the Brann campaign as much, I don't remember as well at that point, but all my life I have remembered that with each campaign that I've been associated with or that I've listened to, including the one going on at the present time, the same issues are there. Of course it was, always been minimum wage as long as I've lived, women's rights has always, always been there. Of course employment and industry within the state of Maine, and it was the same back in the thirties as it is in the two thousands. My, doesn't that make me sound ancient, wow. But, no, Louis was a very, was an efficient man, he moved very quickly. I don't think he had the Down East, natural attitude and flavor that Ed had. He was a little more aloof and efficient and busy and, but a very nice man. I knew Mrs. Brann and the girls. I knew Nancy and, oh, the older daughter's name was, I knew her husband better, I knew her husband in later years; I knew him and his second wife. Scotty, was that her nickname? The oldest daughter? I've forgotten. But, Governor Brann was a very different man than Ed Muskie; he didn't have, to me. Now bear in mind, I was a young, sweet young thing at that point, completely naive. I am today, but I was much more naive at that point, and as I said, of course I was a little bit in awe of his position and his authority. We were junior in the firm, and, you know, it was a different, different relationship completely.

**AL:** What were your first impressions when you met Ed Muskie?

**AP:** A friend. A very capable, young, too skinny, he and my husband both were as thin as your lamp over here. They both looked like they needed a good square meal. Ed was, but very outgoing and with a warm feeling, and his eyes sparkled, and there was a warmth that there wasn't with Governor Brann. But as I said, that may have been the relationship and our ages, it may have been the difference, and the difference, see he was the boss in those days, and Ed was a friend. And as I said, my personal relationship with Ed, other than on very few occasions,



were to discuss our children. As I said, Melinda, I think it was Melinda who was the same age as our youngest daughter Pamela, and we talked family and kids and that sort of thing more than we ever talked politics or business. The business and other interests were of course were with my husband and Ed. My husband respected Ed very much. In his later years, while we were living in Florida, he spent a long time in front of the tube watching TV, and he was always so proud each time that he saw Ed in any capacity, whether it be as senator or on a committee or as candidate for vice president or president, and, but he took great pride. And he always took great pride in saying that Governor Curtis and, I think he felt that he had a great part in making Senator Mitchell the man he is. He, I think he taught him one semester at Portland University [law school], but you would have thought to hear my husband repeat the tale that he had taught him everything he knew. But he very much enjoyed seeing Senator Muskie and Senator Mitchell and Governor Curtis and some of these people he had of course worked with and had been with through the years. And I enjoyed it through his pleasure and seeing his relationship, as we watched them on TV in our retirement years.

**AL:** Now, Governor Curtis, during his administration he elevated your husband to the position of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court?

**AP:** Correct.

**AL:** Was that in '69?

**CK:** Yes.

**AL:** Sixty-nine.

**AP:** My date gal, my calendar, yes. That was in '69, and Charlie served, it was interesting that Governor, that Judge Archibald, whose wife passed away just two or three days ago in Florida, and I spoke with him only yesterday, and I told him that I was coming to the Muskie Archives today. He and Charlie were two appointees on the very same day in '56, and they retired on the same day in 1980, they served exactly the same number of years. Governor [*sic* Judge James P.] Archibald has stayed as a retiree on the court and I believe still does sit sometimes, but Mrs. Archibald just passed away. But as I said, these people have become my extended family, of the court and way back to Justice [Robert] Williamson, who, of course, was the chief on the day that, back in '56 when Charlie joined the court.

But there have been lots of changes through the years, and I've managed to survive them all at this point. Still have an interest in what's going on. But I just see the same, one of the things that has stuck in my mind all these years, and has come back to mind since I've been thinking about coming to talk to you, is that people were, one of the questions that we got in the headquarters on Congress Street was, had to do with where Senator Muskie and Jane went to church. They were very interested in the fact that he was a Catholic, and they kept asking, and wanted to confirm this. And I thought the other day, and here we are back at Bob Jones, and somebody speaking at Bob Jones University starts a, a debate of some kind. And as I said, I am sure that things haven't changed much. We are talking about the same campaign issues that we

were talking about at least in the fifties, late forties and fifties.

I can't recall the issues as clearly with the Brann campaign because I was very, very young, home with one very active youngster, and, but we were very busy attending all the meetings. They were all held in these run down dilapidated grange halls and little community buildings in these little towns. And, but that philosophy, I was interested that the philosophy of the small town, little neighborhood meeting, had held way through the years, way up into the eighties, I thought that was quite remarkable. Apparently it was a successful and effective way of campaigning.

**AL:** Now, go back a little to what, you were talking about, that your husband Charlie also grew up in Auburn. Was his family politically involved?

**AP:** His father was on the city Democratic committee before Charlie, when Charlie was growing up. Charlie later agreed to serve in that same capacity at some point.

**AL:** And what were their names and what did they do?

**AP:** Charles Pomeroy and Jeanne Pomeroy were both nurses, registered nurses. Father Pomeroy, they met at Grace Memorial Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, father Pomeroy from, not Buckfield, Peru? Was he born in Peru?

**CK:** I don't know (*unintelligible phrase*).

**AP:** He was born in one of those old towns over the hill from Paris Hill. Father Pomeroy lived on Paris Hill at one point. His father worked in a mill, Maxim Mill up in Paris. Actually it was in Buckfield, it was over the hill across the town mile. Mother Pomeroy was a registered nurse, and she was born in Canada and came to Detroit; she was the supervisor of nurses when father Pomeroy went to Grace Memorial to intern and to train. And they both, father Pomeroy worked caring for people, and he worked in a drugstore at the corner of Court and Main Street, and other than that he did, at one point he cared for the Ricker family who were the owners of Poland Spring Hotel and resort at that point. He went south in the winter to care for one of the elder, one of the Hiram Rickers. There were several generations named Hiram. I don't know which one was the one, but father Pomeroy used to go south to Georgia to a hotel through the winter, and so he was not at home during that phase of the children's upbringing. There were four Pomeroy children, two sisters, two brothers, two boys and two girls as there was in our own family, two boys and two girls. And mother Pomeroy was a nurse and they both practiced their nursing careers. Father Pomeroy at one point served a term as probation officer for Androscoggin County, and other than that his profession was nursing.

**AL:** Did Charlie, either one of you, did Charlie ever talk about where he really got his Democratic ideals, was there a particular event or person that really shaped -?

**AP:** Don't really think so. I think Charlie always had a concern for people as such, and I think he felt the Democratic Party perhaps was a little closer to the ordinary person. And Charlie

always was very protective of that individual right and the dignity of a person, whatever economic status they might be and so forth. Now whether, and as I said, he was born in it, and I married into it. He was born into Democratic philosophy, and I married it.

**CK:** As a child it almost appeared as divine inspiration as though, how could there possibly be any other position that was valid. Dad loved history, and dinner discussions were history lessons and he very much, from as far back as I can remember, we would discuss those kinds of things, and then he would explain why it was that whatever the event turned out exactly as it should have or to the contrary as it shouldn't have. But it was as though there was no question, this, this was the -

**AP:** The way.

**CK:** The way, yeah.

**AL:** Do you remember any particular issue discussed at the dinner table that kind of illustrates what you're talking about?

**CK:** Oh dear, well, as mom said, again, rights of individuals, and whether that was the Civil War or that was a particular situation that was happening currently. And I can't think of a specific situation, whether there was a bill before Congress or something along the line in the state legislature, it was just always, always the discussion.

**AP:** Dinner was history, wasn't it?

**CK:** Un-huh.

**AP:** We did somehow manage to, most of our lives, maintain a dinner hour in which the family generally were there. We almost always ate in the dining room around a dining room table. It wasn't a kitchen, maybe we didn't have a table in the kitchen in those days, perhaps that was why. But dinner, and I know the children were not always sitting listening patiently, because dad did get carried away sometimes (*unintelligible phrase*). And as people have always said he loved to tell stories, but frequently started in the middle assuming that you knew the beginning. But he was very sure to tell you the end, eventually. But this doesn't concern Ed, but it concerns Charlie and his Democratic philosophy.

**AL:** Oh, it's important.

**AP:** Charlene was saying she doesn't remember, she remembers the inauguration in the State House, dad's being gotten sworn in.

**CK:** That's certainly my first memory of -

**AL:** In 1956?

**CK:** Of then Governor Muskie, yes. And what struck me was how tall he was, and I thought he looked exactly as Abraham Lincoln should look, or would have looked. But I can vividly remember standing in the Hall of Flags and looking up, up, up at this man who just seemed to be huge. He was a tall man, but -

**AP:** And still skinny.

**AL:** And how old were you at that time?

**CK:** I would have been twelve, eleven, actually eleven. Almost twelve. That was the first time I think that I was in the Hall of Flags. I was there again yesterday.

**AP:** Yesterday.

**CK:** I've been there many times since, but I'm sure that was my first.

**AL:** Now, have you been politically active at all?

**CK:** I've certainly worked on campaigns, I was town Democratic chair in Litchfield, a small town where we live now. I'm very active in terms of advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities. So I do spend a lot of time at the State House attempting to persuade the legislature and the governor to do the right thing on behalf of people with disabilities. I am the director of a private non-profit agency that serves people with developmental disabilities. And it's located in the greater Augusta area, so that because of my geographic proximity I've chaired a state provider association and legislative committees for a long time and do spend a lot of time there. I've been appointed several times to various study commissions looking at, the first one was looking at the adequacy of staff providing services to people outside of Pineland, the state institution, was appointed to the commission that in the late, early nineties I guess looked at restructuring state government. Most recently I studied a commission to look at the adequacy of services to people with mental retardation. So I do spend a lot of time -

**AP:** In the Hall of Flags.

**CK:** In the Hall of Flags and on the third floor.

**AL:** And it also sounds like that you've developed your father's philosophy of protecting and helping individuals.

**CK:** I would say so, definitely.

**AL:** You feel you got that from your father?

**CK:** Yes, without question, yeah. And probably have the strongest passion of the four kids, I would say, in terms of (*unintelligible phrase*).

**AP:** I think both of you girls do, your sis-, I have a daughter who's a speech pathologist who also has a lot of passion for people and disabilities and also she, she also worked at Pineland in her early training. And married a man who is also interested in the care of the mentally retarded, so, all of our kids are, our boys. We have a very active insurance man who's extremely successful but loves people and does a great deal for people but not at a, the same capacity, the same level as the girls carry out their interests and their activities.

**CK:** I think certainly without question it's dad's influence. I've always loved the law. I've, I'm fascinated with politics, and how things come about, and how it is possible to fashion compromise and develop win-win situations. And I love seeing it happen.

**AP:** She spends most of her life, when the legislature's in session, she spends as much time in the State House as the legislators are doing.

**CK:** Not quite.

**AP:** Lobbying for her causes, and interested in others, not just her own interests. Yesterday they had a success meeting, sort of, in the State [sic Hall] of Flags.

**AL:** Great. What, was it a big adjustment for your husband when he became a judge to just really have to disassociate himself with politics?

**AP:** I don't think he ever did except publicly.

**AL:** Right, right.

**AP:** No, he was always very avidly interested. And as Charlene will tell you, our years in Portland we were the first to be on the telephone line to see how an election had come out, and how it looked, and what the final count was, and that sort of thing. I, of course, had been active through the years in trying to fill a slate, to keep the slate and gather Democratic candidates for each of the offices in the slate, and to try to get people there to vote for them. And, yeah, that whole process is interesting, and I think Charlene inherited more of those genes than he did some of the others. Charlie never lost his interest in politics, or in candidates and always had very definite ideas about this one or that candidate. And had a reason for believing that way. It wasn't prejudice, it was based on an analysis of their abilities and faults and, in his mind anyway. I sometimes wonder how he would vote today, it's interesting, interesting.

**AL:** It is what- over the years when you saw Muskie go from governor to senator to secretary of state did you have any contacts with him in the later years?

**AP:** Very little, very little. Unless it was just at a, as I said, a public occasion whether it be a banquet or a dinner or a, something of that kind. They were always, most of my associations with Muskie were what I call command performances. They were things that we necessarily felt we needed to attend, did attend, and enjoyed. No, we did not have a personal relationship with Ed or with Jane, other than the very early one that the men developed in their very early years.

**AL:** Did you observe over that time period any changes in Ed as to the way he dealt with people, or?

**AP:** No, he seemed to retain a lot of that, to me anyway. And of course I only observed him on television and what I read and what I heard. No, I think he rather kept a very sensible Maine approach, if you will. He, of course the media has done some terrible things to him, as it has other candidates, and continues to do it heavens only knows. That chafes me a little bit, is the influence that they do have and, the media, and that they use.

I would never have guessed that that Manchester incident would ever have occurred in, I can't imagine. I do know they always said that Ed had a quick temper. I never saw it. I am sure it was a temper on that day. That was not any failure; that was a flare of, you know, of emotion, and we're all capable of it; and I don't think it was anything to be ashamed of. It happened, the media blew it out of all sense and all proportion to the event that it was. No, I was always, as I said, very proud of him. I thought he handled himself, I always felt very, I felt sorry for the incident in the Carter administration where they had their failure and trying to work that out. I thought he looked rather and was very depressed at that time, and disappointed. But we all were. That was one of those things.

Is Don Nicoll around (*unintelligible phrase*)?

**AL:** Oh, he's -

*End of Side A*  
*Side B*

**AL:** We are now on side B of the interview with Arlene Pomeroy and Charlene Kinnelly on March the 14th, the year 2000. And you were just speaking about Don Nicoll. Do you have any memories of him?

**AP:** Yes, he just was always sort of at Ed's right hand. If you looked up and looked in the group of people who were assembled either in the governor's office or wherever we were in Augusta or in chambers, he just was there. Always very pleasant, very cordial and certainly an extremely diligent worker in the committee or campaign or as assistant or whatever capacity he was in at the time.

**AL:** I'm wondering if you or your husband knew Judge Delahanty?

**AP:** My husband and Tom left Lewiston and Auburn schools, Lewiston-Auburn area, and went to Washington, D.C. as young men. It would be in 1933, '4, '33 or '4, soon after high school. They lived together as roommates in a boarding home in Washington and attended law school together. They have been, we have been extremely close as families and friends. Saw Jeanne [Clifford Delahanty] as recently as yesterday. She told me that she expected a visit from the Muskie Archives at some point, but it had to be delayed. Yes, Judge Delahanty and Judge

Pomeroy were roommates and close friends and went to law school. They were attending night classes at Columbus University Law School at the time that they were, they were working during the day time, somewhere in the State Department, had some clerical job I'm sure.

Charlie and Ed [*sic* Tom] practiced together, they had sons who passed the Bar in the same Bar exam. The boys, the men, sat on the bench and admitted the two boys, Tom and Davy, we did it in Cumberland County first and then drove to Androscoggin County, in Cumberland County to admit us, Charlie and Tom sat on the bench together, to admit Dave to the Bar in what date I don't know, I can't tell you, and Tom. Then we drove directly to Auburn and in Androscoggin County admitted Tom, Jr., Tom to the Bar, and all went to Steckino's to eat together as families.

We did the same following the dedication of the library in Androscoggin County to Judge Delahanty, we attended and then went to Marco's or Marois' or one of those places and all ate as a family. Did the same following Judge Delahanty's memorial service. So we've had a very close relationship through the years. And of course John [Delahanty] and the boys have always been very busy and active in political campaigns, John especially. And, yes, we're very good friends, always have been.

**AL:** So they must have worked, Tom and Charlie must have worked closely together in '54 probably on Muskie's first gubernatorial campaign?

**AP:** Oh yes, oh yes.

**AL:** Was getting sort of a -

**AP:** Tom and his family I think were more active than my husband was at that point. Charlie was overwhelmed; the job of referee of bankruptcy in those days was just overwhelming, the volume and the whole business, and I. At that point he was having some physical problems with surgeries and largely stress and nerves and, Charlie was less active than the Delahanty family was in those ages.

**AL:** You said he served in the Navy during WWII?

**AP:** Yes.

**AL:** What years?

**AP:** Charlie went in in January of 1944, he was there for two years, served eventually in the Pacific area, in the sh-, about two years. It was a short term.

**AL:** And you were already married.

**AP:** Oh yes, we've been married forever. We were married in 1936.

**AL:** Thirty-six, okay.

**AP:** Yes, had two boys, two girls.

**AL:** Okay. And I understand that in 1980 he became the chair of the Indian Tribal-State Commission?

**AP:** Charlie did.

**AL:** Yes.

**AP:** Yes.

**AL:** Do you remember that, and what did that entail?

**AP:** I don't know. I think it was a very difficult. They were apparently trying to do something about the situation, perhaps a tribe having some representation or something of the kind. I remember it as a very difficult assignment, it irritated my husband to no end that the tribe and that the Indian situation was the way it was. He ran into some very much younger and more enthusiastic young men working on this committee, and he became quite disenchanted with their attitude. And I don't, I can't tell you the thing. I do know that we got in some very heated discussions at our neighborhood meetings when we'd get together. We had a group of fourteen friends who got together at least once a month for a covered dish supper, and I remember some very heated discussions over the situation and the whole business.

I was reminded of the whole thing within the last couple of years, in fact I guess within this last year when a young lady was speaking to us about the Abenakis, this was at a art and literature meeting in Auburn- and talking about the situation. And it was at that moment when she said they still have no representation, and it just, it's just not right, and I don't know why that, why, talk about civil rights, you know, I just don't know why it has never been resolved, but it hasn't apparently.

**CK:** My memory is pretty sketchy of that, too, although as I remember the Land Claims suit had just been settled, and the commission was just being established at that point. I think that was right at the very, the very -

**AP:** Very beginning of it.

**CK:** The beginning of implementing whatever the suit settlement was and would agree that it was not dad's most favorite undertaking.

**AP:** No, he was not happy. He was not happy with the assignment, he was not happy with the people that he was dealing with. That wasn't a happy time, that's about all I can tell you. Whether or not it was the result or, is there still a commission?

**CK:** Yes, I believe there is, I'm not positive.



**AP:** There is a -

**CK:** I believe there is still a commission but -

**AP:** But they do have people who represent.

**CK:** But can't vote.

**AP:** I know, but they have people who represent the Indian tribes in the legislature. They have some representation, delegates, is that what they're called?

**CK:** There are two representatives, they cannot vote (*unintelligible phrase*).

**AP:** I realize that, there are two. They still don't have the right to representation.

**CK:** But I believe it's Passamaquoddy and Penobscot, I don't believe Abenaki has one or Malachites or any others do.

**AP:** I don't know, I don't know, but I do know that it was not a happy assignment. He was, my husband served on the judicial council and had a lot of assignments he very much enjoyed. That was one he did not enjoy, and I don't think he thought it was much of a success, that he was able to be very effective, and that of course was disappointing.

**AL:** Now, were there other families in this area that you knew well who were politically involved that we haven't mentioned that you were close to?

**AP:** Well I guess as the wife of a member of the court. You feel a closeness to any of the executives, any of the governors and their wives, and of course there are many occasions when you are invited into their homes and go to the Blaine House and do all this sort of thing. I, of course, knew the Hildreths and knew the Crosses and knew a lot of the governors and their wives. As far as politics are concerned I think our association was always with local committee people who were active in Portland or in Lewiston and Auburn, and.

I was just the other day, it was as recently as last night, reading the names of some of the people who had been appointed as delegates to the state convention in Augusta from Auburn and Lewiston, from Auburn, from the Auburn committee, had posted this list of people, and I was reading the list of names and knew most of them. But they were the electorate and the people; they were not the executives or the candidates or the people serving in capacities.

I got to ride the elevator with Estes Kefauver at convention once. He and I were the only two people in the elevator, I remember that. I can remember that sort of thing.

**AL:** What do you remember about that?

**AP:** What do I remember about it? That we were the only two people in that big elevator; and I said, "Hi," and introduced myself. He was the speaker at a dinner meeting, this I believe was out at Poland Springs, and I just remember he was very charming. I, of course that ride isn't very long, and I had three stories (*unintelligible word*) in the hotel.

**CK:** What I remember of that story is that dad had been saying he really, really hoped he would have an opportunity to actually meet Estes Kefauver and mum had gone up to the room to check on us or something and down comes the elevator and she steps off with Estes Kefauver. Dad said, "Wouldn't you know," that she would be the one. And I think you introduced them, didn't you?

**AP:** I can't remember, I do remember that we did, that we did meet. One of the, God, I remember that now, I had not recalled it, you're right, yup, you're right. No, we of course did attend, you know, all of the state, local and state conventions and any of the Democratic things that were happening; we'd always support it and attend it. And as I said, I guess I just turned out to be the prime minister (?) of the Democratic Party and any committee I ever was on. Seemed to me I was always either concerned with food or hospitality or something of that, that décor. . . .

I do remember, oh I must have been, I think back and think what an insignificant young little inexperienced girl I must have been, but I remember standing and reading the call to order and the official call for a state convention when I was secretary. I can even tell you the suit that I had on that day; it was brown and beige, brand new for the occasion. And I remember doing that, and at that point I think that Governor Muskie must have been in state government because it was way back early, early, early.

**AL:** In the forties.

**AP:** Yes, yup, and, but he was there. Of course I remember Judge Dubord. Of course the Dubord family and the Marden family and the, you know, all these people who were, Governor Lausier, who was, had been a candidate for, unsuccessful candidate for governor many, many times on our ticket.

**AL:** Were you close with Ruth and Frank Coffin?

**AP:** Yes, we still get that lovely Christmas card that Frank hand does every year, and we see them at memorial services generally and state occasions. Yes, Frank and Ruth. Of course Frank Coffin was one of my husband's, probably one of his idols. Not that Frank was that much older, but he also lived in Lewiston when we lived in Auburn and was just that few years older. And Ruth Morey Coffin, who was Frank's mother, was one of my very good friends, you know, through the years, and of course his dad. And his grandfa--, his father was a, even though he was divorced, separated and divorced from Ruth, his father was a very good friend in Auburn and someone whom we knew through the years.

The stepmother went to church with us, Frank and Ruth went to Lewiston church, but Anna and Herb Coffin went to our church, so we've been friends for a long, long time. We don't see them

as frequently as we'd like to, but I do talk to them occasionally and see them. But once you have lost a spouse, you have lost that connection and you don't see people as often as you'd like to. It changes. And of course I had, was living in Florida and we had been away for thirteen years from the area and I have only been back in Maine since, full time, since 1996 and I find that most of my friends are either not active or they're single or they're gone. But that happens when you get to my ripe old age. But, no, I look forward, Frank writes a family typewritten newsy letter that he encloses with his Christmas card always, it's one of my favorite things is to open his woodcutting copy on his Christmas card, he does one every year, some his son has done, some Doug has done, but Frank does one, and this one was one of his own, this last year's. They're very good. Yes, we've been friends for a long, long time.

**AL:** Do you have recollections or something that sticks out in your mind about your dad either politically or personality-wise that you'd like to share, something that sort of illustrates who he was?

**CK:** Passions is the word that always comes to mind. As mum had said earlier, a storyteller, convoluted at times because he had to make sure he got all of the details in that, um. Dad was always teaching, always, regardless of the story he was telling or the discussion, he was always making a point. Sometimes it was on a debate for a legal argument, but generally I guess that would be it. That he was always sharing information and teaching and trying to, whether he was talking about the Red Sox to a three-year-old grandchild, or the medical malpractice commission that he was working on, or Watergate, it was always drawing upon history and teaching.

**AP:** Definition of the word impeccable.

**CK:** I remember one Halloween when we were teenagers, I was probably a freshman in high school, and my brother Dave would have been a sophomore or junior, and there was a discussion about what we were going to be doing that night. And Dave said he was going out with friends who, in someone else's car but that all of the kids were chipping in to pay for the gas. And before we could leave the house, we had to go to the statutes, to M.R.S.A., and read the provision on joint liability, because David was contributing to the gas, therefore he would have a liability in anything that happened. That's probably the best example of, and there was never a lecture about behave yourself, or whatever, but go look it up in the statutes (*unintelligible phrase*).

**AL:** Was there a little bit of sense of humor in there, or was it very, very serious?

**CK:** More serious than sense of humor I would say, although -

**AP:** Her father wasn't a funny man, Charlie wasn't.

**CK:** Not when it came to right and wrong.

**AP:** Statutes.

**CK:** Right and wrong for (*unintelligible phrase*).

**AL:** That's a wonderful story. What, having observed Muskie for many, many years, and being involved in politics yourself, and both of you can answer this, what you think Muskie contributed the most to the state of Maine.

**AP:** Well, of course many, many years of service. To want to continue to serve and not be so physically exhausted that you chose not to be a candidate, I can't envision. It just seemed, I have never participated in it except at the state level and being in service, but, of course my husband physically was not able to continue. I just think he was a very dependable, fine, honest man and tried to do his very level best in every situation he found himself in. I was always very proud of the way he handled himself. I can't remember any specifics particularly. Of course I get Senator [Margaret Chase] Smith and Ed all mixed up when I think about, you know, our representation and their attitudes towards things. But I just think the longevity of his service was remarkable. I don't know of other people, yes, Strom Thurmond of course, served that long and, you know, and a lot of people do, but it just seems to me that it was a very, you had to be very dedicated to do this. As far as achievements are concerned I'm afraid I don't think of any.

**AL:** What do you think his contributions were to the Maine Democratic Party? Do you feel that he strengthened the party?

**AP:** Oh, of course. Having a, an intelligent, interested, active young man as a candidate, and of course he was young, did infuse a lot of enthusiasm in the party we didn't have. But I have remembered and I have said this to Charlene, and I said it yesterday to Judge Archibald, and he agreed with me, that at Ed's right hand was Frank Coffin during all of this campaigning, and Frank was very effective in speaking to people and, and creating enthusiasm and certainly unstinting in the hours that he gave. And personally I rather felt that Frank was as influential in that period of rebuilding in the party and the interest within the state as Ed was. Whether Ed would have done it by himself and with other assistance and associates without Frank, I don't know. So I think of them as a joint effort. But naturally, as I said, years of trying to get someone to be a candidate for office that you could go out and enthusiastically endorse and sell were few and far because people just felt it was a futile effort, you know, they were not, a thankless task because their chances of being elected were so discouraging in those days.

**CK:** I would say that whenever I think of Muskie and Margaret Chase Smith both, I think, the word integrity comes to mind. And I think that those two people began what I hope will be a forever tradition and standard of expecting that our senators, our congressional representatives, will have integrity, will have, will be better. And I think that George Mitchell, Bill Cohen have certainly continued that tradition. And certainly Muskie's election as governor began that process of equalizing the parties in a point where the Democratic Party could not only survive but thrive in the state. But I think the, I think he is synonymous with integrity, and that's not necessarily true across the country.

**AP:** Of course I think of him as his interest in the environment as being very important, you know, his interest in, environmental interest and these things.

**AL:** Did you see changes occur in the environment in the state of Maine as a-

**AP:** I beg your pardon?

**AL:** Have you seen changes occur in our environment in Maine over the years since that legislation took place?

**AP:** I don't, I don't know. I am convinced that water, whether it be salt or fresh within the state, is still going downhill. The fish doesn't taste like it used to, and, but that could be my taste buds as much as the environment. Well, there have been improvements of course in the, the smog and the, you know, the mill.

**CK:** The Androscoggin River is certainly . . . .

**AP:** Navigable.

**CK:** . . . . better now than I can remember the Androscoggin being. Pretty stinky. Literally stinky.

**AP:** Then of course if you went north on the Androscoggin, it was terrible. Which, of course, the pollution was from the mills at that point. And of course we don't have the effluent going from mills that we had in those days. But what it would be if we did have, I don't know how it would compare. Of course, Mitchell was very active in this sort of thing, too, through the years.

**AL:** Is . . . . ?

**AP:** We live where we look out at the environment, we live on a lake, on a pond, and . . . .

**AL:** What pond?

**AP:** Tacoma Lake, one of the Tacoma Lakes, and I appreciate the water and the cleanliness and the fact that across the lake from us there are no cottages. You look across that land that, presumably it's still being maintained, I don't know if it always will be retained without construction or not. I understood somebody owns it but they will not, is it -

**CK:** Right, and it will be deeded to the Audubon Society (*unintelligible phrase*).

**AP:** It's going to be deeded to be preserved. I appreciate that considerably, not that Ed had much to do with it, probably, but I'm very appreciative of the water and of being next to the water. I almost sent for a pillow from one of my catalogues that deluge me in the mail every day, that said 'heaven is living next to the water'. I almost sent for it. So I, it's very important that it stay nice and clean.

**AL:** Is there anything that I haven't talked about or asked you today that may, perhaps I

missed in forming my outline that you feel is important to talk about?

**AP:** I'm afraid that you rather struck out as far as people being very close to Ed because I don't have that feeling. He was an acquaintance, very grateful to him for the effects he has had on our life. I feel he was very influential because he has influenced my group of friends because of his appointment and our association with the court and the judicial system. I am also equally proud of the job that my husband did, that he was asked to do and appointed to do. He certainly was a dedicated, sincere justice, worked very hard. But I don't feel that we can contribute too much more personally about Ed.

**CK:** I would agree.

**AP:** Very proud to have, very proud to have known him and very glad to have been invited to talk to you, but don't feel that we've contributed much to the archives.

**AL:** Oh, it's been wonderful. The background on you and your husband and your political involvement will be a great asset to this project.

**AP:** Thank you.

**AL:** Thank you very much for coming.

**CK:** Thank you.

*End of Interview*