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Interview with Alice Lander by Mike Richard

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee

Lander, Alice

Interviewer

Richard, Mike

Date

July 23, 1999

Place

Portland, Maine

ID Number

MOH 126

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Biographical Note

Alice Eileen Bernier Lander was born on October 31, 1923 in Waterville, Maine, the youngest of ten children. Alice graduated from the public school system in Waterville in 1942 and met her husband, Charlie, whom she married in 1946. Alice and Charlie moved to Portland, Maine in 1964 and Alice became involved with Muskie's Senate campaign. Charlie did a lot of driving for the Muskies in the 1960s and 1970s. Both Alice and Charlie were present in Washington, DC during Muskie's vice-presidential and presidential campaigns.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: family and personal background; Waterville, Maine community; meeting her husband, Charlie; various jobs; first impression of Ed Muskie; driving with the Muskies; picture with the Queen Mum; Secret Service parties; Washington, DC in 1968; Marjorie Hutchinson; William Loeb/Manchester incident; Muskie's Washington staff; Charlie's involvement with Muskie; Alice's relationship with the Muskie family; Muskie's later years in office; Muskie's temper; and Muskie's legacy.

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Transcript

Mike Richard: It's July 23rd, 1999. I'm here in the home of Alice Lander in Portland, Maine, the time is 2:30 and this is Mike Richard interviewing. And Mrs. Lander, could you please state your full name and spell it?

Alice Lander: Yes, I'm Alice Eileen Bernier Lander.

MR: And what is your date of birth?

AL: Ten,-thirty-one,-twenty-three. [10-31-1923]

MR: Oh, Halloween.

AL: Halloween, yup.

MR: And your home town?

AL: I was born in Waterville, Maine.

MR: And for how long did you live in Waterville?

AL: Forty-two years.

MR: Was that an interrupted stint that you were there?

AL: I stayed complete forty-two years, yes.

MR: Okay, and could you tell me a little bit about your family background? First of all, your parents' names?

AL: My mother and father both came from Canada, they were naturalized here and had ten children. I was the baby of ten. My father was a very hard-working man. He had terrible migraines so he had a hard time keeping a job, so he had to be, do his own way of working, self-employed, so he became, built homes. And during the Depression there was no work and I had, two of my brothers died in infancy so I didn't know them. But the six brothers that I had, had to have employment and there was no work around. So my father the first lot he leased, wood lot, and had two would cut wood and two would take care of the truck and two would cut the wood, and I would take the calls. And, wood, hardwood then was selling for six dollars a cord, softwood was four-fifty a cord, and so he ran a business like that. And then a lot of the fellows wanted jobs so he took in some other fellows to work too. But he was, he was a pretty smart man. He was, he only went as far as fourth grade, and so they ended up building homes, tenement homes for his own use.

And my mother used to buy groceries and go to church and that's about all her activities. She was cooking all the time and washing. In those days there wasn't, you didn't push a button for your washing machine; and we always had plenty of food. Even though it was hard times, there was always a lot of food on the table. And my father died, he was sixty-nine, he had a brain tumor. And my mother lived to be ninety-six, and she was an amazing woman.

MR: Sounds like it. And what were your parents' names?

AL: My father was Archie, Archiloss Bernier, and my mother was Philixine Bolduc Bernier. And she lost her mother and father when she was eleven years old from yellow fever they had in those, and so she was actually an orphan. She had, there were five in her family and they were all distributed and it wasn't until about thirty years later that they all got together again.

MR: And where in Canada did they originally, did their families originally come from?

AL: St. Victor and LaBos (*sounds like*). I've heard them say that, I really don't know exactly, although I've been there several times but it was a long time ago.

MR: Did you used to go up there when you were a child, you used to do family trips?

AL: Yes.

MR: And also you mentioned that you had eight brothers and I guess one sister . . .

AL: Two, one sister, yeah, I have a brother and sister that, right now they're eighty-five years old and, went to Minneapolis, Minnesota with them just about three weeks ago. And they went circles around me. They're in very great condition.

MR: And what position are you in the family?

AL: I'm the baby.

MR: What was that like growing up the youngest of a big family like that?

AL: Well, actually as a family we all got along very good, I don't think we ever had any rifts in the family. Sometimes we didn't agree all the time, but we didn't have any times where we didn't talk to one another. But as a child, they weren't allowed to tease me. I could do what I wanted more or less, but they weren't allowed to tease me, so I was protected. They were very good to me, they all thought I was kind of cute, you know? But they all were very good to me.

MR: And what were your parents' religious beliefs, you mentioned that your mother...?

AL: Catholics.

MR: Catholics, was that a common religious belief in the area, or in the Waterville community?

AL: Actually, the location that we lived in, it was a, there weren't, we lived in Sacred Heart. And later on when I went to a private school, they called it a pagan parish because there were less Catholics in that parish and there were not many French people in that parish. We were brought up where there weren't too many French people. I don't know if there was any on my street, French people, but that's where my father decided to build and that's where we stayed. When I went to school, I didn't know how to speak English, but I was very fortunate. The teachers were very, very good to me and they wouldn't let the children pick, I had no problem. I was left-handed and couldn't speak English, but they were awfully good to me.

MR: Did you notice any other incidents of, were there any incidents that happened to other

people or other students of discrimination because of ethnic or religious background?

AL: The only trouble was when I got into the fourth grade. 'Course we'd go to church every morning and during Holy Week we were late one morning. And the principal did make all the students that were late for school stay in the office until noon time. But I'm sure that doesn't happen today, if it happens, but in those, but this particular principal... I'm sure the other teachers that I had would not have done that, but the principal did do that. She wanted to embarrass us, but we still went to Mass.

MR: Now did you speak French in the household, did you your . . .?

AL: My mother, that was the only time my mother and father had an argument. If my father would utter English in the house, my mother would be in a flurry. But no, I didn't, in the house it was French.

MR: Now where did you go for your secondary high school education, was that in the Waterville public system?

AL: I went to the public schools. And then I went four years at Mt. Mary St. Convent, Mount Mercy, which is an academy and what is no longer, it's now not an academy like it was. It was run by Urseline nuns.

MR: And what was the ethnic and religious make up of the student body there like, was it pretty similar to your earlier experiences?

AL: I think there were maybe, of course there was a lot of people from up in the northern part of Maine, the students. Most of the students would stay there, they were boarders. I lived in Waterville and was a half boarder, and that's where I first came across the Dubords because their youngest daughter went to Mt. Mercy and I'd go to the Dubord's house to catch the car. They had a big car that would pick up the students and take them up to Mt. Mercy every morning and night.

MR: Did you get to know, is it Dick Dubord, Robert Dubord pretty well?

AL: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

MR: What were they like?

AL: Well, they were very nice. They were very, when I'd go there in the morning they were always very nice to me and everything. I mean, I never, I don't recall that we ever did much socially. I did meet Dick's wife [Evelyn Dubord] and we used to talk a lot, but Bob used to be more or less that was political, one was political. I never mixed into the politics part of, in their life.

MR: Did you know, did you maintain ties with the Dubord family for many years?

AL: Yes, my brother of course, and my two nephews are in the Dubord firm. My oldest brother is an attorney, he's retired right now but he's still... And then I have two nephews, his two sons are lawyers and they're in the firm.

MR: Is that your brother Al Bernier?

AL: Yup, and he's a year older than I am.

MR: So he was obviously the next one up, the second youngest in the family. Okay. Oh, something I didn't cover, in the Waterville community in general, or at least in your neighborhood, what was the dominant ethnic make-up? Was it Yankee (*unintelligible phrase*)?

AL: Well I'll tell you, when I was a child I had a little playhouse out in back of the house, it used to be a chicken coop. And they took it in and refurnished it inside, wall papered and everything for me. And that's where, I didn't go in the neighborhood at all as a child, I stayed in my playhouse. I had a girlfriend across the street that would come over and play with me. She, I'm trying to think what nationality, I guess maybe it was Irish that she was. But you know, I wasn't concerned about nationalities in those days. In those days children weren't quite as bright as they are now.

MR: Well what were your parents' political beliefs?

AL: Well my mother was very much like myself, she never mixed in on it, she remained silent when it was brought up. But my father was very much a Democrat. I like to feel that I go for the man rather than the party, but my father was a Democrat. And my father-in-law rented across the street from us, across the driveway from us, that's before I knew my husband [Charlie Lander], and he was a staunch Republican. And they, he'd come over and pay the rent and they'd both sit across from the door and they'd argue for a whole hour on politics. And then after the hour they'd get up and shake hands and look forward to the next week.

MR: So it was never kind of a (*unintelligible phrase*)?

AL: No, it was to see who could come up with the most problems, but then afterwards it was all over. Because that was in Roosevelt's time, you know?

MR: Did your father discuss politics with you and your brothers much when you were younger?

AL: No, no.

MR: It wasn't discussed at dinner or anything.

AL: No. My mother used to say, (my brother Albert used to love to read books), and my

mother used to say that's the work of the devil, you'll get to think just like the people that wrote the book. But, you know, she didn't, she said she went to school one day and the teacher was sick, but, she never went to school. And, but she was the one that took care, managed the affairs with the rental money. She knew what was on sale; she taught me French, to read my catechism in French, you know. So she was self-taught, and she was a smart lady.

MR: Now were many of your, you meant of course Al Bernier who would later become mayor and he was an attorney. Were any of your other brothers, or was your sister ever interested in politics?

AL: I think she, I think they asked her to run for ward clerk once, and I don't know whether she did or not. She really was not that interested. She was willing to help, if there was a fund going on she'd help, but to be that active in it, no. And my, let's see, there's my brother Albert and then there was Pete. Well Pete was the city electrician for a while, but he, he never had ambitions of running for politics. And then there was Henry, that's the one I went to see in Minneapolis. Henry was an alcoholic and it's been now over forty years that he has belonged to the AA and he's now in Minnea-, in where he lives. If they want to talk, his name is posted, and that's what he does. He is a person that, he, can consult him and he will try to help them. And he has helped a lot of people. And he's very proud that he stopped his drinking. He's done very well.

And then after that is, I lost a brother then, and I didn't know him. But then there were the twins, that's Arthur and Fern which are now eighty-five. My husband once made the remark that if my brother did all the things he had planned to do, he'd live to be a hundred and thirty. He's still doing them. And he, he's done a lot of work. Arthur is a very, very good cabinet maker. He made the altar for the Blessed Sacrament Church and he's very busy. My sister and my brother both work at the soup kitchen, which they tell me they have about a hundred and sixty [people] a day going to the soup kitchen. And my sister cooks and helps there and my brother washes the dishes. Of course there's a lot of other people working there with them, but they do a great lot of work. And they have enormous amount of people in Waterville giving, all the churches give. The different churches will come in and do the cooking for a certain day, and the synagogue helps, and it's fabulous what goes on there. My sister-in-law, my brother Arthur's wife, which just passed away now, organized the soup kitchen.

MR: Now you mentioned that you were never very interested in politics as a child.

AL: No, I would listen. And of course I remember hearing Roosevelt a lot, but no, I was not interested. It wasn't my favorite thing for Charlie to do either, although we did have a lot of wonderful experiences. But at the time that Charlie went in for politics was a rough time because the children were all, we had one that was, two that were married, and two in college, and the youngest one had gotten married and I really would have like to stay. And Charlie insisted that I go and get an apartment in Washington. And I shiver now when I think of it, how, where I used to go looking for apartments. Hilda was very good in showing me how to get around in Washington, about the street numbers and the letters, and she was very good. So I did,

I'd take off where I wanted to go. It didn't bother me. I went into the office, Ed's office one day, and this girl says, "Are you looking for an apartment?" I says, "Yeah." She says, "Well I would like to sublet ours." She told me where it was, at the Towers in Cathedral Avenue. She gave me her key and she said, "Just go through the door like you know where you're going," she said, "it's the fourteenth floor." I didn't, and I thought, I didn't know this girl very well and here I go into this apartment to check it over, and oh, dear. But at that time it didn't bother me, and we took the apartment which was a very nice apartment.

And so, let's see now, I left out my brother Wilfred. My brother Wilfred was a carpenter, he had six children. Died young, he was only sixty when he passed away of cancer. And my brother Pete also had cancer, he passed away quite young. Then there was my brother George. He was a deaf mute, went to school here in Portland and met a girl while he was here in Portland who was also a deaf mute, and she was from Fort Kent. And they later on got married and had a very happy marriage.

MR: Now you mentioned during the time you were in Washington someone named Hilda?

AL: That's Don's [Nicoll] wife.

MR: Oh, Don's wife, Hilda. Okay. Okay, and you went, so you said you went to public high school in Waterville, and then what did you do after you graduated?

AL: Well, my mother always wanted me to do what my sister did, and she worked at Hathaway's. And so I went to Hathaway's and they hired me right away, so I worked at Hathaway's for five years. And I met Charlie after four years, and in those days it was a compliment for a husband to want to take care of you and you wouldn't have to work. So I gave, when we got married he had me give up my job. Which he was very sorry later on that he had because we really had to struggle, but that's what he wanted. He said, "I don't want you to work after you're married."

And of course my mother and father at first did not like my husband too much. They liked him, but they objected because he was not a Catholic and he was not French, and that was no problem to me. When I told him, I said, "I can't go out with you on Wednesdays and Friday nights," because there was church services during Lent, he said, "Well, why can't I go with you?" And I said, "There's no reason why you can't." And he asked me then, he said, "What do I have to do to become a Catholic?" And I said, "Well," I says, "I'll go see the chaplain at the school," that I was going, that I had been going to. And so he gave him instructions and he told him after he was done instructions, he says, "Now Charlie, if you believe what I have taught you," which took eight weeks, he says, "you go and be baptized at Sacred Heart. And if you don't believe, don't marry Alice, just don't become a Catholic just because you, for Alice. Become a Catholic because you believe." And my husband was a very, very strong Catholic, he was very good. And it was . . .

MR: Did he belong to a different church before . . .?

AL: Not any particular church. It was, he used to tell me it depended on where they moved, the church that was close by or that happened to invite them. There was no strong, his mother and father did not object. In fact we had a, our oldest son went to the seminary for a while. I didn't want him to go, he was only fourteen years old. But Charlie thought it was a good idea, everybody thought it was a good idea so he did. And Charlie's father was so proud that his son was going to be, his grandson was going to be a priest. And here he wasn't a Catholic, but he was very happy about it. And, sent him money every week, you know. And my son decided not to go, after my gran-, the grandfather died. He said, "Mum, do you mind if I don't go back the next year?" I said, "Well, I think if you want to become a priest after school, you're finished your school, that's fine with me, but I think you are young to go." And my husband was very disappointed that I made that decision, but that's the way I felt about it.

MR: Now which year were you and Charlie married?

AL: Nineteen forty-six.

MR: Forty-six, okay. So you graduated from high school it must have been in forty-two?

AL: Forty-two.

MR: Forty-two. And actually, what were you, what were some of your extra curricular or academic interests while you were in high school?

AL: Well, my granddaughter often said to me, she says, "Gram, how old were you when you started going out with boys?" And I says, "Well, Kim, you have to remember that I grew up, that there weren't any boys around." So we, us girls had to do our own thing. The boys were all gone in the service, and so, I don't recall getting the girlfriends together and talking at each other's house, you know. Actually I guess I did not do too much socially. I did have people in the backyard, she didn't have any children. And when I was two years old she'd come over to speak to me, and evidently I put out my hand and she decided she'd like to adopt me. And my mother said no, but she said she could come over and stay with me once in a while. So I was with these people an awful lot. And they came, they were from New York, and they'd take me to the nice places. They'd take me out to eat in very nice places and took me, they had a home in Old Orchard also and they'd take me there in the summer time. So I was not at home as much as I could have been. They were very good to me.

MR: Okay, now when you met Charlie, did you say he was working at the telephone company already?

AL: No, he, actually once his father was over to the house talking to my father and he says, "Well I've got a son, he's in the Pacific right now, and he'll never get anywhere in his life, he's a gambler." It clicked on me just like that. And I had another boyfriend at the time. But when he came home, I peeked out, there he was, there was this driveway between us and that's all. And I

saw him and I thought, "Oh, he is handsome." He was in a Marine outfit, you know, tall and thin.

And evidently he did the same thing when he saw me. And he told his father evidently, he said, "I'm going to marry that girl." And he had a girlfriend in fact, she was from Manhattan and she was coming in to see him that weekend. Well, he come over to use the telephone, not everybody had telephones in those days. And he'd come over to use the telephone and my sister and I were playing cards, Tripoli I think it was. And he said, "Gee, that looks like fun." And I says, "Well, come on over with," his girlfriend's name was Bobbi, I says, "Come on over with Bob and play." He says, "Okay." So they come over and played. But she realized that actually I wanted him to play. So we started going out right away and we got married the next year.

MR: And then where was he working at the time, or was he just . . . ?

AL: At the time, he went in first and worked for Russ Squire, which was the mayor at the time, but he worked at... Russ Squire had a women's clothing store, very exclusive store, and he worked there for a couple weeks. And I don't know whether he didn't like it or what, but he got a job at Hathaway and I guess evidently that really wasn't what he wanted to do, but he never... In those days there was a twenty, twenty-twenty call or something like that; it was when you came out of the service you got twenty dollars a week for twenty weeks, I think it was. He never collected on that, he went right to work right away.

And so he worked at Squire's, then he, he worked at Hathaway's for maybe a month. And then he went to see the telephone company and spoke to the manager, and the manager was my, our back door neighbor so we knew him and he knew us very well. And the manager asked him, "How far would you like to go with the company?" And Charlie said, "Well I'd like to fill your shoes and then some." I thought it was quite a, quite brave, but the fellow liked him very much. He was, he had a lovely personality. And so he was, he got, he started work, let's see now if I can that, in 1945, the 28th of December. Well the 28th of December came on a Friday, so he didn't work after that until the 1st of January, or the 2nd of January, but that 28th day gave him a whole year's service.

MR: Oh wow, that's great. Okay, so actually Charlie came from Aroostook originally?

AL: Patten, Maine. Patten, Maine. He was born in Bangor simply because his mother couldn't wait until she got to Patten. They were coming in from Connecticut and she had him sooner than she expected and it happened to be Bangor, but the, he, his home was Patten, Maine.

MR: And after he moved down to Waterville, did he still have family up there that . . . ?

AL: Yeah, his parents moved down. His father needed an operation at Thayer Hospital [Waterville, Maine], I think they call it InterMed now, do they call it, Maine Med I guess now, don't they? And, but his father needed to be operated on, and so my father had an empty apartment. So they took that, so that she could be with her husband more, my mother-in-law

could be with her husband more. And she worked for Harris Bakeries and that was very close, she could do that in walking distance. Oh, I guess she did have a car, though. But she liked her job. And when he got well enough he worked at Hathaway, too, the Harris Bakery too, so they stayed longer, long enough for us to meet. And Charlie never wanted to go back to Patten anyways. He liked to visit but not, he said it's a nice place to visit but not to live. But he used to say everybody up there was his cousin.

MR: And how did he start to get involved with the telephone labor union? I know you said he was, he eventually became president of that union.

AL: Well, I guess he was the kind of fellow that if you were with him very long you knew what he, what was on his mind. And I guess when something didn't go the way he liked, he would say so. And he would fight for it. And I guess that they, you know, maybe, whether he decided to be, you know, president, or whether they asked him to be, I really don't know. I was quite busy in those days because I six young ones, only six years apart the six, so I was quite busy and I didn't interfere with those things.

MR: Would he discuss his work much with you in the home?

AL: He usually would tell me, but I used to tell him, if you don't want me to repeat it don't tell me. And then sometimes he'd say, I don't want you to repeat this but, you know. Yeah, we knew what each other were up to.

MR: And did he have strong political views at that time that he would talk with you about?

AL: Yes, he did. He was in the council, I guess two terms. He tried to, he went for legislature, and of course the kids all passed around the leaflets and things like that, but. I can't think of the fellow's name now, he's, Shapiro. I don't know if you know who that is. He's in city government, in state government. They all helped. And so that night after election was over the kids said, "Did daddy win?" And I said, "No, daddy didn't win, but we did." So, he never, he didn't make the legislature.

MR: Would he try again later for a state office?

AL: I think that's maybe pretty close to the time that maybe we moved. I don't know, I don't think he had any anticipation of trying a second time. He might of, because I know there was once he didn't pass an exam at his work for a rating, because at the telephone company you had to take ratings, you know, to get into a different department. And there was once that he didn't do, he didn't make it, and all the other fellows that didn't make it, never took it back. But Charlie went right back to it after three months and took it and passed. And I think that both of the things that, as I was reading through some of the papers, I could see that he was willing to, he was, as Father at church says, Charlie was the type of fellow if he saw something needed to be done he'd do it. He wouldn't expect somebody else to do it, he would do it.

MR: Now just for a little bit of the chronology here, when did he, what year did he become president of the union? Was that before you moved or was that later on?

AL: Oh yeah, when we moved to Portland, he was, he went for the management, that's why we moved to Portland, which was 1964. I know that he was a union president at least five years because if you're a union president five years you got a gold ring. And we had a piece of property we wanted to buy. And he thought instead of his gold ring he'd get the money and get that piece of property, it was camp property, and, which was very nice of him. Rather than, you know, getting himself a ring, he wanted something to share with the family. And that's what we did instead. Which that was two years before we moved to Portland.

MR: So you moved to Portland in '66?

AL: Sixty-four.

MR: Sixty-four? And you've been there, you've been in Portland ever since, except for your time in Washington?

AL: Yes. Well we still kept our home in... He did want me to buy, to look for a home, and I did look once in a while and anything we could afford was nothing we'd want to live in, so. But we kept our home and come back, when the campaign plane would come to Sanford my son-in-law would come and pick me up; I'd come back home whenever there was something going on. And he'd come, we were home holidays and things like that.

MR: And so you always maintained close ties to Waterville and the home (*unintelligible phrase*).

AL: That was Portland, home was Portland in those days. I'm not as, I should go to Waterville more often but I don't. We did used to, when Charlie's mother was in Patten and she was not well at all and she wanted to go into a nursing home. Charlie had a sister in Waterville and Charlie told his mother, he said, "Mum, you come to Waterville and be in, and go to the nursing home in Waterville. I'll come see you every week." And he did, he went every single week. We'd go and we'd take her out to eat. As long as she was well enough to go out to eat we'd find restaurants with, on one floor. And when you'd take her out, that's after campaigning was all over anyways. But he did, every week. Once he went on a Wednesday night because he couldn't have made it that Sunday and Charlie's mother would not talk to him. It was not his night to go visit. It was Buddy's night, the nephew. And I can understand her point because she had Buddy's undivided attention, but when we got there we were talking to Buddy and not to Grandma. She was cute.

MR: Did Charlie ever try for local office? You mentioned his attempt in the legislature.

AL: Well, he was in the council in Waterville. But he really didn't, he never had time to do anything politically, he was very busy.

MR: Do you remember him talking about any of his work in the council back when you were in Waterville?

AL: Yeah, I guess, yeah. If they wanted something passed they'd usually hit Charlie up because he would; my brother was married at the time and he gave him a few hard times. Charlie was a good one to sponsor anything, you know, to do anything, to go get it. And as a rule he would succeed.

MR: Actually now that you mention your brother again, let's talk about your brother's political involvement, Albert. So he was mayor from '58 to '61, is that (*unintelligible word*)?

AL: It could be, I don't remember the years but that sounds right.

MR: And did you follow his political involvement pretty closely?

AL: Well I did to a certain extent because of Charlie. I guess Albert is the one that, Albert and Char-, my husband and my brother got along very nicely. And I guess there was an opening and Char-, and my brother said, must have said, "Why don't you take it Charlie?" And of course Charlie did it, he liked that.

And, but Albert just graduated Colby College and then went to Yale, graduated Yale. And then he went up to McGill in Canada, to be able to interpret the law in French. And so that gave him, that's where the "in" came in for him to get in with the Dubords, because Dubord liked this very much. And of course we had no one in the family that ever was in any field, lawyer's field or anything like that. So it was going to be very difficult for him to start an office and get a clientele, but he was asked to join Dubord's firm which was great. So he's been with them all this time, and his two sons are.

MR: So your brother's still practicing in the Dubord firm?

AL: He's retired but he's got a few cases I guess that he keeps. He goes in just to oversee, you know.

MR: So while he was practicing, and even back when he was mayor, were you, did you get to witness any of his involvement in that way or were you close to that?

AL: I was close to it but I wasn't active into many things, no. Charlie was. But, as I say, my children were young at that time and I belonged to things. I was a Girl Scout leader and different things with the kids. That was my role.

MR: You and Charlie moved to Portland in '64, and then, when did you, at what time did you start to become involved in Muskie's campaign?

AL: Well, it was the summer of '64. We were, moved to camp, put our house up for sale when Johnny Jarvais called him up one night and asked him what he thought of it. And I thought that he really kind of really liked the idea right away but he wanted to be sure that I, you know. And he did tell Johnny, oh, I would like to do that. So then he did, you know. It took a little while before he started up but he talked to the company and they went along with it and... Because I guess the company does always, when somebody goes in for office, they always did supply someone for the communications. And so he did.

MR: Now was he in management with the telephone company at this point?

AL: He had just become in management the first of April, see, before that. And that summer we went to our cottage because we wanted to sell our house. And while we was in the cottage waiting to buy a house in Portland, to, when the kids started school, that's when Johnny called.

MR: Now, you, neither you or Charlie had really met or had any contact with Ed Muskie until this campaign, it was (*unintelligible phrase*)?

AL: Well the ninth of January in '64, that January before, we knew, because I knew he was around because I'd see him, you know, but I didn't know him enough to talk to. But I did meet him personally the ninth of January. We went to that banquet at the telephone company union.

MR: What were your first impressions of him?

AL: Well, it was a very, very bad night, and most intelligent people would not be traveling that night, but nothing, Charlie could conquer everything, didn't bother him a bit. And I thought Ed was a very nice fellow, but he let out a few curse words. And I said, "Oh," because I had been shielded most of my life, you know? But other than that I was very impressed when he said to me about how lovely the ladies looked, and he knew it didn't take an arm and a leg to get them that way, you know. I liked him. But I never thought any more about it, I never thought I'd, you know, because I knew, I knew his wife anyways from Waterville. We never did anything socially but we'd run across each other once in a while because, see, I went to Mt. Mercy and so there was a lot of these people I didn't have any contact with. And . . .

MR: Actually, yeah, let's talk a little bit about how well you knew the Gray family and Jane when you were in Waterville, was it . . .?

AL: Well, again, I met the Gray family mostly at church. And Howard's wife, I think her name was, I don't remember what her name was, was in Girl Scouts. She was also, she was a leader and we'd go to the Girl Scout office, she had some official thing there. And so I'd go to her when we needed something. And we'd have meetings at her house usually, so I met her that way. And of course I had met Jane at different functions, raising functions in Waterville, or, can't remember what, Professor Fulman's [*sic* Fullam's] I think his name was. I don't remember, but at his . . .

MR: Paul Fullam?

AL: Yeah.

MR: Fullam?

AL: Something like that, yeah. They had had a fundraiser and I had gone over. And we were comparing, it was kind of odd that we had children, she had a Martha and I had a Martha, she had an Ellen and I had an Ellen, you know. There was a lot of, they were... My children were a little bit older than hers but then the two, two of the children, Steve and my daughter were in school together in the same class, until he went to be a governor. He had to leave during that year because his father became governor. But it was quite a coincidence that seemed to weave into.

MR: Now were you close with that family socially, did you meet on a social level or was it more, you mentioned your involvement with the Boy Scouts and . . .

AL: It was Girl Scouts, yeah.

MR: Sorry, Girl Scouts, right.

AL: Yeah, the involvement was with Girl Scouts. And because he was, I don't know what his affiliation with the *Waterville Morning Sentinel*, but he was one of the fellows in charge and we knew that, you know. We'd see him in church and speak, you know?

MR: Okay, so getting back to the time in Portland when you began to be involved in Muskie's senatorial campaign. Did you, were you present for many of the times that Charlie would drive Muskie around the campaign trail, were you in the car with them many of those?

AL: Well of course his campaign trail was mostly... See, Charlie, he never was on the trail with the senator. He only went with him when we went to the, well, he went with him before, the '68 convention. But, it was Johnson, and at that time, that's when Charlie went with him. I know he went with him in '64 and, but he wasn't, it wasn't until '68 that he went with Humphrey as VP. I'm trying to figure what he did in between that, but he was with Ed and maybe that, it was all political but I don't remember just what it was. But it wasn't until the '68 convention, and of course I went, it was an understanding if I wanted to go on any of the trips I could go. But when he drove him around here for something, lots of times I'd just as soon not go, you know? And I was not, I was not keen on going all the time. I thought it was very tiring, but Charlie could go night and day and it would never tire him. And Jane loved, that's one thing you've got to give Jane a lot of credit, because she would admit that she loved the politician's life. It's great.

MR: And would Charlie ever tell you any, would he tell you many stories of his car trips with Jane and Ed, or?

AL: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Well if Jane went, I most always went.

MR: Oh, really.

AL: Yeah. But if he went alone with Ed, I normally would say, "Forget it," you know, or something. Or else even I wasn't asked maybe, because with some things there was nothing for me to go for. Yeah, but if Jane went I most always, Ed would say, "Take Alice," you know. That was one thing about Ed, whenever we were with him he wanted us treated exactly like they were treated. They were very, very, they didn't want us to feel, you know, out of anything. They wanted us to be right there with them and their friends, we were introduced to them, you know. He was very, very good. Because we went to Campobello for about twelve years and it was always a pleasure because we were treated really royally. I was there at the dedication at Campobello when the Queen Mother came. I wish I had it right now, I had a... The Queen Mother was coming down off the porch at Campobello and she came down and spoke to me, and we were talking. And someone evidently, the photographers took a picture and it came in the paper at Moncton, a centerfold like *Parade* magazine, and it was a beautiful picture. The both of us looked like we were having a great conversation, but she was asking me if I was married or some simple thing, you know, like that. But it looked really... And my girlfriend's father lived in Moncton and he recognized that it was me, so he sent it to her. And I got to call up the library or something in Moncton one of these days because I've got the date and everything, and see if they could give me a copy of that.

MR: Oh, that's neat. So, actually I think I should flip the tape before we get any further.

End of Side A
Side B

MR: This is the second side of the interview with Alice Lander on July 23rd, 1999. And we were just talking about your time with the first campaign that you were involved with with Ed Muskie in the Portland area. And you were talking about, before I started the tape here, you were talking about how Ed would feel very "at home" when he was visiting with you?

AL: Yes, see, well of course at first he didn't. The first time he came to our house and Charlie says, "Alice, Ed wants," of course it was Senator Muskie we'd say, because we didn't know him that well, and he said, "Alice, the Senator wants to take a shower." So I told the girls, go upstairs and clean the shower. Well they did, they cleaned the shower. And when I looked at it that night there was Dutch cleanser, it was an inch thick. I went and I thought, "Oh, what did Ed think?" But he had children close to my children's age so I'm sure he knew what was going on. But, yeah, he was... And then his mother would go to Washington, she'd stop here to catch her plane. And she'd stop at my house for a while and maybe have lunch with me. And when she came back they'd drop her over to my house until someone from Rumford would pick her up. So we got to know each other very well and we really had a good time together. But it was, the first part of it, he wasn't at the house that much because they had that cottage in, in the summer time, that he would go to in Kennebunk. And then come winter well then he, they, if he'd come, he'd

stay.

But it wasn't until he was, what would you say, selected as VP for Humphrey, then things started rolling real fast then, which was in '68. And Charlie went to Minneapolis, I've got the plans of the plane, I don't know if you'd like it or not, the campaign plane that they had? The yellow bird. And [Charlie] went to Minneapolis and got the specifications. Now that might have been when he was president, ran for president that he got the plane though. I'm not sure if it's, no, I think it was when he was VP, and, yeah, it was when he was VP. And so we went, we both went to Minneapolis. I had a brother there so it was kind of nice we both went together. But most always if I wanted to wherever he went I, you know, I could go if I wanted to. It was one of those things that Ed wanted me to feel free to go if I wanted. And I do this

I was at the, in 1968, that was a terrible experience. Well, when Ed, I'll go back. When Ed was chosen, Charlie would tell me, he says, "I think Humphrey's going to choose Ed," you know. And he went up to Humphrey's apartment in the hotel and when they come back he signaled to me. But I found that people, I've always had a lot of people that loved to talk to me that time at convention, because they knew that Charlie knew what was going on. And, of course, it was all on the QT and things like that, and so they figured if they got friendly with me, I might tell them something. And I was told, Alice, don't talk about that, you know.

And so I was talking at the convention, at the room where everybody got, not at the convention hall but at the other room. There was this fellow and he was talking to me and I was telling him how terrible I thought this protest was, you know, and talking about different things. And I looked at him and I thought, "Oh, what a stupid thing, he's got black, what are those, patent leather shoe, and one regular leather." Well, I didn't realize they were split in half, one side, you know, the shoe? And I was speaking to (*name*). All this time and I didn't know! But he was very nice and I guess he knew I was very naïve; I'm sure it showed.

But then when he was chosen, Charlie says, "Alice, they're going to, they've changed, they changed our room, we're going to be within the Secret Service compound." We were right next to Ed and Jane's room. And I says, "Well, I've got to get moving." And he says, "No, Alice, I think they've done it already." I looked, they moved everything that I had there and put it exactly in the same spot. I would have never known it was a different room. It was amazing. Because I'm left-handed, so you know, they could have changed it, you know. But they put everything right there and so. And of course the Secret Service was fun to be with too, because they'd have parties, and the press sometimes were at the parties. And we were, Charlie and I were invited to both of them.

MR: What were those parties like?

AL: Well, some, there were dinner parties. Well, they most always were an eating party. Now when we were, the Hilton had a party, the Secret Service had a party and they had a cookout. And they just would talk and they would keep away from politics. But we'd gone to Stewart, Dick Stewart I think his name is, he was the press agent, I guess, for Ed?

MR: I think so, yeah.

AL: He was very nice. He and his wife had been a little chummy too, because as I say everybody was very friendly, they wanted to be sure I liked it there. And we'd gone to his house and it was kind of interesting, because they were borderline talking about Ted Kennedy at the time, because it was the time of Chappaquiddick. And so they were borderline saying what they thought about it, which was... I pretended I wasn't interested but I was.

MR: Did you get to meet, you mentioned an interesting conversation you had with Mayor Daly, did you get to meet some other figures there at the convention, maybe even Humphrey or (*unintelligible phrase*)?

AL: I didn't, I never met Humphrey. Charlie of course did, but I never personally knew Humphrey. There was a time that I was invited to a white glove dinner I guess they call it, and President, peanut, peanut boy, I can't think of his name.

MR: U.S. president?

AL: Yeah, U.S. president.

MR: Was it Johnson?

AL: No, one after that.

MR: Oh, Nixon.

AL: No. He was a Democrat. He's a great guy, too. Down in, he's that Habitat, president that's always building homes for Habitat.

MR: Oh, you don't mean Carter, do you?

AL: Carter, yeah. We went to a white, and there happened to be one place next to me and Carter came and the Secret Service stayed out, they didn't mingle with him. And he, Carter sat right there and we had dinner together. Of course it was a table of ten, but.

MR: What was that like? Did you meet Carter and his wife?

AL: I didn't, his wife wasn't there. He was the only, he, because we'd gone to the White House quite a few times with Ed and Jane. And when he was selected for senator, for secretary of state he invited us down and we went. So we went quite a few times to different functions there. They saw to it that we enjoyed a lot of the flavor of Washington.

MR: So what were your over all impressions of being in Washington in '68? You mentioned at

the beginning that it was a pretty stressful time.

AL: Yeah, it, well I guess, you look out the window and of course we were right, I think it was Lincoln Park, was it, right down below there where these fellows were protesting and hollering. And of course there was a lot of, was it tear gas or something? It was a terrible smell and we were not allowed to go out of our surroundings. We (*unintelligible word*) in our rooms, but we looked down and I could see different things that I thought was very distasteful; I could see the policemen grabbing a fellow and whacking him and throwing him in the paddy wagon and that. And I felt, you know, because I had children and they could have been protesting, you know. So, you know, it, I thought that was, that stayed with me for a long time. And, of course, all night long they'd say, "What do you want? Peace! When do you want it? Now!" And all night long they'd chant that, you know. And it bothered me because I wasn't used to that, it was new to me, and the first time I went to a convention, you know.

And then we'd go down, when we'd go to convention hall from the restaurant, we had to go down through the kitchen. It was about the same time as Bobby Kennedy was killed. And we're going through the kitchen, and, but we'd go, because they didn't want to get found. And of course they had blue on our car, Ed and Jane and Charlie and I, they had a blue thing on our car.

MR: Like a police light.

AL: And up above was a helicopter that followed us all the way. So it was frightening, you know? You think it then, "Well, how secure are we?" You know?

MR: I don't remember, was Jane present for the convention? Jane Muskie?

AL: Was she what?

MR: Was she at the convention in Chicago?

AL: Yes.

MR: She was? How did she and Ed react to this, the goings on around the convention, the protest movement and the . . .?

AL: I think Jane tried to close her eyes to it because she knew there was nothing she could do. If it affected her like it affected me, she didn't show it. But she did not perhaps look out the windows because she was busy and things like that. And I wasn't that busy and so I looked out and saw. And I don't know if their room was where they could see what was going on, but I could see what was going on and I felt very sad about it all. But Jane seemed to take it very well in stride. As I say, I don't think that she, she knew she couldn't do anything to change it and there was no need of her getting worked up over it. And when I mentioned something about it to her she just sort of changed the subject, which perhaps was the right thing to do.

MR: Okay, so after the convention you returned to Washington for the rest of the campaign, or for Muskie's vice presidential campaign?

AL: Well Charlie went up to, I don't remember where it was in Minnesota, but Humphrey's place. Charlie went up with them, they went up to Humphrey's place. I don't know if Jane went or not, but I came home.

MR: Was that home to Portland?

AL: Portland, yeah, because we didn't have an apartment at that time. And we had someone taking care of the children that I wasn't, I knew but I didn't know that well, and my children were all teenagers and I didn't want to be gone too long. And after seeing that protest, you know, I was... But we had sponsored this German couple and they were living at our house with us until they got situated. And they're the ones that stayed with our children. But you don't know, you know.

MR: Right. And so what year was that that, now I've already forgotten, you went to Washington for a short stay before the convention, or did you go, did Charlie leave for Minneapolis straight from Portland?

AL: It was, he went to Minneapolis, for the plane you mean?

MR: Yeah, for the time right before the convention, it was . . . ?

AL: Well Charlie was in and out, he was like three or four days here, he was still with the company. I think it was after he [Muskie] was chosen for VP with Humphrey, I think that's when Ed said to him, he says, "Charlie I'd feel better if you would go on my payroll and not have any trouble with the telephone company." And the company, Charlie had a talk with the company. And they said, well you, they would not lose his service that time. So there was an arrangement made between the two. And there was some telephone work he still had to do for Ed and so he would go to the subsidiary, the company in Washington. And so he had, he would put in a day a month or a week, I don't remember now, with the company. So it still kept him so he wouldn't lose his tenure with the company.

MR: Oh, okay, okay, so you yourself weren't in Washington during this time, you went to Chicago with him and then you returned to Portland, but you were never in Washington.

AL: No, we didn't move into, didn't get an apartment into Washington until, see that convention was in end of July, something like that. And it wasn't until, now I remember it was April the next year, because I had taken one of my daughters with me on a week's vacation and they objected very much. There wasn't supposed to be anybody else sleeping there. But it was a big enough apartment, but that was their rules. And so it was the April vacation that I had gone and found the apartment and fixed it up so that, and we'd come back and forth, different holidays. And so that must have been '69 when we went to, and that's when I met Hilda.

Well I knew Hilda a little bit, she graduated with my sister at Colby College at the same time. And so when we got together once and were talking different things, we found out that there was a communication, there was a little natural common ground there between them. And they knew Albert very well, and so I got very friendly with Hilda. And with George Mitchell's wife, we used to go out together and do things. But, that's his first wife.

MR: Did you meet Don or George through them, or was it, were you more involved ...?

AL: George?

MR: George Mitchell?

AL: Oh, well George Mitchell's a Waterville boy, so I knew his family. I didn't really know, he, he was part, I did know that he had a younger brother, but I knew his brother Paul and, I don't remember all of them. In fact, one of my daughters used to babysit I think it was for Paul's family. But I knew John and all of them, and so I knew the other family, I knew his sister and everything. But I never knew George until we went into Washington in I think it was, I think it was George and Charlie, they got an apartment in Watergate. And then the telephone company suggested that he get another place.

MR: Good idea.

AL: Yeah. I don't remember if it was Dubord or Mitchell that Charlie was with, but one of them, or maybe it was the three of them had gotten a place there. It was very nice, but the company suggested, "Get something else", which he didn't have too much trouble doing.

MR: Now so you and Charlie used the apartment in Washington on and off from '69 through the '72 campaign?

AL: I think it was '72, yeah.

MR: And then you returned to Portland for good, year round, okay. So how long did you initially stay in Washington when you set up the apartment? Was that just kind of a brief visit and then you returned to Portland to be with your family?

AL: Yeah. I would go on trips with, with the campaign trip once in a while, but I think I only went like on maybe less than half of them perhaps. I didn't care to. It was quite a thing because I would travel with the press, which was very interesting. I guess if I were to do it today I'd appreciate a lot more of the different things that went on. But, I, the press was fun because they didn't know who, some of them didn't know who I was so they didn't know, maybe I was just taking notes, too, or something, you know. So you'd get a lot of dope from them, you know. But they were very nice, and I'd have lunch with them and things like that. But I was, I'd say I maybe stayed in Washington maybe two and a half weeks out of the month and then I'd come

home. If there was a plane, the plane was coming into Sanford, I would come in and spend a few days and then go back again. And holidays were always at home.

MR: But that schedule was pretty consistent, with a couple weeks on, couple weeks off throughout those four years?

AL: Yeah, it was under-, there was no special time, if there was something special going on or something. The first week that we stayed at our apartment, the first night we stayed at our apartment, some of Ed's office people had sort of a little gathering for me. And Charlie and Ed were off somewhere on, campaigning, came back and Charlie was home in the apartment. And the telephone rang and my sister-in-law passed away, so we did, we came right back home to Waterville, you know. But it was just, things like that would take us back home. If there was something special going on. But we had a nice apartment. And I was very busy in, Marge Hutchinson, Marge Hutchinson was his, Ed's office girl in Waterville, which I knew very well. And she told my brother, she says, "Alice is the one having the most fun in Washington." But I did have a good time.

MR: Now what was Marge like?

AL: Oh, she was a special girl, yes, she was a very nice person. She was a Sterling before she was married, and lived on Sanger Avenue in Waterville. And I knew the family very well, but Marge was a very nice person. She'd always make it a point to say, she'd say, "Alice you don't have to worry about Charlie. Some of those people will go out with other girls and boys when there's something on, but," she says, "Charlie wouldn't do that," she says. But she wanted to be sure that I knew that Charlie was being a good boy.

MR: And did you get to meet, or get to know any of the other people on the staff back in Waterville, or Muskie's staff in Washington?

AL: Yeah, there was a Cyr girl. And I got to meet her but, you know, it was only on, a few minutes at a time because... I don't remember why I had to go up to the office every once in a while, whether Charlie had something he wanted me to get or something like that. So I'd go up there every once in a while but I don't recall really why. And I met the office staff and they were very, very nice. He had a nice staff, yeah.

There was one time that Ed was, I don't know what it really was but there was a fundraiser I guess in Portland. And Jane had called Charlie and said, I think it was Jane because Jane was always the one making the arrangements for Ed, called Charlie and said, "Would you pick up John Glenn at the airport," and, "he's coming in on, in his private plane and he's going to be a guest speaker tonight." So Charlie, and of course Jane told him, "Why don't you bring Alice and you can stay if you want to." So we went. And of course I had a book that John Glenn wrote and I took it along, so I had him sign it. He was quite surprised to find out I had his book. It didn't go over that big, but he was quite pleased to think I had it.

MR: Now, were you, you and Charlie also involved in the 19-, with the 1970 senate campaign that Muskie had?

AL: Well the 1970 was when he ran for president.

MR: But that, oh, I'm sorry, I was thinking about the '70 senate campaign, it's '72 I think he ran for president, or he ran for the nomination.

AL: Right, right, yeah, that's right.

MR: So did you, would, did Muskie return to Maine and did you see him in Maine again in 1970 before you . . .?

AL: Well Charlie was still with him. Actually he, there wasn't too much of a break in between there, but Charlie was with him again for his presidential race, yeah.

MR: And so what was that like? Were you down in Washington for much of that also, the '72 campaign?

AL: I don't think I went as much because it didn't last. But we used to stay at, not Watergate, can't remember the name of the place now, but we had a room that wasn't terribly expensive that we stayed at, and I can't think of the name now. But there was a while, we didn't get an apartment again, no, because it wasn't too long; he didn't last too long in that presidential race. And he was, he was more hurt for his staff I think than he was himself when he decided he had to quit. He was, he really hated to tell his staff. He had a great heart.

MR: Do you remember the incident in New Hampshire in front of William Loeb's office? What was your take on that, what was your . . .?

AL: Well, it was a very tense time and I didn't get mixed up with things too much so some things I didn't understand, you know. But he was very, very upset with what was going on with Jane, you know, what in, and that really ticked him off. But Ed was not feeling up to par. I maybe shouldn't say this, but I know that Charlie told me, he said, "Alice don't say anything, but he showed me the name of the doctor, it was a French name," he says, "I'm taking Ed there." But, he says, "We're going to..." you know, didn't want anyone else to know. And, but Jane does not remember that. I told Jane the things that I was going to talk to you about and Jane says, "I don't remember that." But actually she wasn't always there at the time. Ed was not well at that time, and so it was tense for a couple of reasons. And of course I didn't think it looked, I didn't, I guess there were tears in his eyes but it was snow that was melting as it was snowing, I was right there . . .

MR: Oh, you were?

AL: Oh yeah, I was right by, I could, you know, see everything going on. And I wasn't, I knew

the *Union Leader* was doing a lot of problems. Of course there was a lot of dirty tricks that were going on and we didn't realize they were dirty tricks, but we knew there was someone undermining there all the time, because there was always so many things going on. I wasn't in, I think it was Florida, when someone ordered a hundred pizzas and sent them to Ed's where he was with his group and Ed had not ordered them. It was dirty tricks. And so here they are with a hundred pizzas, you know. But there were a lot of things like that going on all the time.

MR: Now, did you, you said in the '72 campaign you weren't in Washington or involved in that as much as the '68, and also I guess the '72 campaign like you said was shorter, so.

AL: Well, my memory sometimes doesn't do me justice, but I almost think that we weren't, didn't have our apartment at that time. I think we had left it then and that we were coming back and forth, and I don't think we had a apartment at that time. We perhaps would have gotten one if everything had been successful. But I don't quite remember actually, what actually took place. I don't think he campaigned too long. Although I do recall that, yeah, we must have had our apartment because I did go into the office at 1900 E Street. Was 1972 E Street? I guess it was. Yeah, and we had our apartment then because I remember that, so evidently that maybe was when he became, ran for president that we, I don't recall. But I know we did have our apartment then.

MR: So now during that time and also in the years, the couple of years before that, you mentioned that you had some contacts with Muskie's staff also, they threw a party in your place. What was the staff in Washington like?

AL: Well, they were very nice. Happened to have, we happened to have a Siamese cat. And when we had the apartment, had taken the apartment in Washington, we could not take the cat. My daughter was in Florida and she said, "Mum, I'd love to have that cat." So I says, "Okay, I'll bring it down to you." So I, Charlie says, "Bring him down to Washington and then we'll ship him off to Florida." Well when I got there, Charlie had this Sue Scallion pick me up and I had the cat with me. The cat got loose down below. The pilot said, "Whoever owns a cat would they please get off first," because you know Siamese cats can look awfully vicious, but I had no problem.

And so we got there and the National Airport would not keep the cat overnight because their place was not air conditioned at night and it was too hot. And so Sue says, "Well let's take him in the senator's office." So we went to the Senator's and put the cat in his office, put a note, "Do not touch the cat." We went by security and Sue says, "Oh, it's the senator's cat, we want him here overnight." And so the next morning I told Charlie, I says, "The cat's in the senator's office," I says, "maybe we better get there before the senator gets there." Because he always had somebody pick him up in Washington, he didn't, Charlie didn't pick him up from the office to his office, from his home to his office. So anyways, we went and got the cat and brought him for his flight and he went down to Florida for his stay.

MR: So Ed never had to encounter the cat.

AL: No.

MR: Okay, so after the time, or actually, yeah, some other, did you know Gayle Cory, I guess was, you did?

AL: Very well, lovely girl, yeah.

MR: How close did you get to know her while you were in Washington?

AL: Well, Gayle is the kind of a person, you couldn't get close, you just knew her very, very well. And if you wanted to know who was who in Washington, she could tell you. She knew everybody and what their position was and their thinking was and, she was just a lovely girl, yeah.

MR: Were there any other particular members of the staff that you remember that stand out, people that you really clicked with or had some contact with?

AL: Well, Joanne Hoffmann. I don't think she was on his staff after she got married but before that, and I don't remember what her single name was, but she was here with Marge [Marjorie Hutchinson] in Waterville for a while. She came in from Washington and I got to know her and Nordy, her husband, very much. And I think Nordy was one that did finance work for the campaign, uh, head up fundraisers and things like that. So Charlie and I, because that was, we stayed at their house quite a few times when we were in town, before we had our apartment or after we had it and gave it up or something. But we used to stay at their house and we got very friendly with them.

MR: And so after 1972 when you moved back to Portland did, and Charlie also moved back to Portland with you at that time, was in the house with you at that time, was he still working with the telephone company?

AL: He came back to the telephone company, yeah.

MR: Back to his original management position?

AL: Yeah, yeah. He was, he did, he wasn't with safety too much, they gave him a job of employment manager with the company. And he had five, an office in five New England states. Didn't have one in Connecticut, had one in every other state though, except Connecticut. But, and he loved his job because he'd travel a lot by car and he just loved it, but he most always was home. If he was staying over in those days, he'd say, "Why don't you come with me? We'll go to..." you know, stop at different places. But, because he al-, he used his own car. It was suggested that he used his own car because many times he was picking up the senator in between, and rather than, it wouldn't be proper for him to pick up the senator in his telephone company car, so it was suggested that he have a car of his own.

MR: So this was even during, or after the period of the presidential nomination (*unintelligible word*)?

AL: There still was a lot of things, they were all state then, all state things, or unless there was something going on for the last hoorah, and things like that. They flew over, (*unintelligible word*) and a group flew over the last hoorah.

MR: And so was, Charlie was also involved in the '76 senate reelection campaign that Ed Muskie ran for?

AL: For senator?

MR: Yeah, it was . . .

AL: No, he didn't . . .

MR: Oh, it was, right, it was '6-, Charlie was with the '64, '70 and '76 for senator campaigns, is that correct? Or was he, was the '72 campaign the last real campaign he worked with Muskie on?

AL: I think, well he was on, anything he campaigned for Charlie was with him after that. But the dates kind of throw me off there. Seventy-four is the year that we moved into the other house. And he was at the house a lot, but I think it was maybe, I don't know, I don't think he was a presidential or vice presidential at that time. I think he was . . .

MR: Right, it would have been just a senate (*unintelligible phrase*).

AL: Senate, yeah, I think he was, maybe the '74, so maybe a little later than '74 that he went for his secretary of state, 'course we went down then, he invited us so we went down then.

MR: Yeah, that would have been 1980, I think he . . .

AL: Was that what it was? I don't remember the year.

MR: So you, but you and Charlie throughout the seventies after the presidential campaign you were close, or at least had regular contact with Muskie. Was he, what was he like during that period, his later senate period and after the presidential nomination defeat?

AL: Well I don't recall that it was much different. I imagine, like any time, that he had thought of certain things that he could have done different perhaps. But then when we found out about the dirty tricks, we realized that they were just, no matter what he had done, they were against him. And I think it's been said that they were more or less geared to Muskie, that they didn't want Muskie to make it. And so there were a lot of things that happened that didn't need to

happen, you know, that someone was behind it all. But as I say, I sometimes gathered my own conclusions on things. And Charlie and I, when we got together we didn't always talk but we always consulted each other on what we've done that day, but sometimes there were certain things that, you know, he didn't find necessary to discuss perhaps, you know. And it didn't bother me that he didn't.

MR: And so you were, you mentioned in the secretary of state, during the secretary of state period, you were also down in Washington for a while with him, or you just (*unintelligible phrase*).

AL: No, we were just invited down for the ceremony. And so we went down and we only stayed a couple days, I'm sure. And then we went down when both girls got married. No, one of them, they were married here in Ken-, one was married here but Ellen was married in Washington. And we went down for that, and things like that. So, and there were different things going that they'd call us up and say, "Why don't you come down," and, "we got invitations," you know.

MR: And would you have, just like the old times in the '60s, would you have Ed and Jane over to your house sometimes when they were visiting in Maine, or?

AL: Oh, well, we never invited them over to the house for a gathering. Ed was not too much for gatherings, he was not a cocktail party person. Even during the election, he'd go and he'd do it but that was not his favorite thing to do and if he could avoid it he would. In my estimation. But, no, we never, the only thing we ever invited them to is when Charlie retired, he had a retirement party, and we invited them. And they came, and George Mitchell came, and that's the only thing that we invited them. They always were so busy that our two social lives really were pretty much apart. We did a lot of things with them, but doing things with us, they were very busy, you know, and not the same things. There were a lot of things that Charlie and I could enjoy that Ed and Jane wouldn't have wanted to enjoy. Charlie and I loved to play bridge and, you know, we'd play bridge two or three times a week if we could. And they didn't care for things like that. A lot of the things we did that they didn't, you know, didn't take time to do themselves.

MR: Now you mentioned a while ago, this is going back to the time in '64-'65 in Maine that Muskie would leave his mother at the house sometimes when he was driving around. Did you get to know his mother or other members of the family well?

AL: Yeah. He had a, yeah that was, of course I got to know the sisters because we went up to Rumford several times. Of course we went when the mother died, but we went other times, different things going on in Rumford. I always went. Jane went so I always went. I can't remember all the things whether, I think there was a wedding once. Now the time there was a wedding Charlie went alone with him, but we'd... I had gotten to know his mother very well and we got along very well. She reminded me a lot of my mother, she was about the same kind of thinking as my mother, and we got along very well. But, you know, she would be at the house

maybe for a couple hours, that's all. Because she . . .

Ed would not pick her up but someone would pick her up at the airport and bring her over to me, until somebody else would come pick her up to take her to Rumford, and then vice versa. It was a stopping point for her, rather than waiting at the airport for somebody. And so, she'd, they come in, it was a short time, maybe two or three hours at the most. And then there was a nephew that did the same thing, you know, there was different members of the family that would, they'd drop off. And it was, it was, we were like family really, you know. And we understood each other because our children were very much the same age and we knew the problems of having a family, you know, and things like that. So we understood a lot of things that some people maybe, they knew very well, would not. But it was a lot like family together, you know. Nothing pretentious about it, we just had a good time, and . . .

MR: Now going back to your time in the '80s in Maine, would you see, would you or Charlie see Muskie much after he'd moved back up to Kennebunk, was that where he was, or Kennebunkport?

AL: It might have been the time when they bought that place, I don't remember what year they bought the new house that they're in now. Yeah, we did, but there was a little spell that we didn't see each other so much. And when we got back we found out that Ed had had a bad heart attack. That's when Marge Hutchinson, Marge died, and Ed was going to go to the funeral. And evidently before the funeral he had a bad, very bad heart attack. And Charlie and I were in St. Croix at the time. Was it St. Croix? I think we went to Jamaica that time. We come back from Jamaica and found out. And so, for some reason we weren't that close, I don't know why, for about six months there.

Whether Charlie had, of course he did a lot of traveling with the telephone company and that kept him very busy. And then he took on, he was a safety instructor with the AARP, he was a safety instructor for the state for AARP. So he was very busy, he gave classes on that, and so he was quite busy. He was in charge of another group, you know, that he'd get together. He was always a fellow that had to be busy. And Ed and, well, Ed and Charlie used to play golf a lot, so when it was golf time in the summer Charlie would go up. And Charlie had him down here a couple times, but he liked to play up there pretty well. And so we got together in the summer, you know, and Jane and I get together a couple times a year now. I keep quite busy with my children, some live away and I go and see them once a year and they come see me once a year, maybe more. So I keep very busy with them. But we get together for, in the summer, she likes to have me stay over and I find my place quite comfortable, I like to be home.

MR: And now were you present for any of the golfing trips that Charlie would go on with Muskie?

AL: Well they were right there at, um, and Charlie went to some congressional place in Washington which Charlie enjoyed very much. But the golf trips were just, well when we'd go to Campobello, not, they didn't always have time to play golf, but they'd try to get it in. But,

you know, it was, they never went on just a golf trip.

MR: Now I've also heard some things about Muskie's temper. Did you ever, was that ever an issue that you noticed, or did you ever . . . ?

AL: Well that was mostly what happened when we'd go on, when we were in the car.

MR: That's what I was curious about.

AL: And Charlie and I used to say, well, they deserved each other. I always, it was always over something that didn't mean anything, but it seemed to be that that was their form of entertainment. And he could shout, and I would get a kick out of it, but, because it really didn't mean anything and it would blow over in no time, it would never stay. But he did have a temper. He never used it on me.

But I did make it known once that my husband used his temper on me. And I'd, we... Charlie used to have a lobster boat and we, he had money for a winch but he didn't want to buy a winch. And he'd gone out and it was, he was in a hurry and he wanted me to get hold of that trap when he went around it. And I didn't catch it, so he swore. And I says, "Okay, that's the last time I go in the lobster boat." And it was. So I . . .

MR: You wouldn't have put up with anything from Ed anyway. And you mentioned I think before we put the tape on that Ed's sense of humor, what was?

AL: Well, that morning that I was, he was already eating. And usually Charlie would eat with him but sometimes Charlie would be taking care of something for him. Anyways, Charlie was not at the table but I sat next to him and I had my cereal. "What's that?" He says, "Looks like it's already been eaten." Well, I really didn't feel like finishing it either, but, but it did look, after he said that, it did look like it had already been eaten. But he did have a good sense of humor.

One Easter he was over to the house, I don't know how come he was over to the house on Easter day, but. My grandson Steve was over, he was about three, three or four years old, and we had an Easter egg hunt in the house. And so Ed joined in with him and he had his hands behind his back and he was helping him find these eggs all over. And it looked so cute to see this big tall man and this little towhead, you know, he was helping. My son, my grandson had a great time, you know, looking. But he helped him find his eggs. He did love children.

You know, Ed would have been lost without Jane. Jane, he and Jane did have little arguments and everything but she, he would have never taken the wrong bag at the airport when they had a fur coat in it. If Jane had been around she'd have seen to it, I mean, she kept him on the right path. I don't know if I had any other things here that I wanted to talk about or not. Now that's the Easter, the cereal... He loved lamb pork chops so that's, usually when he'd come I'd fix lamb chops and my husband hated them. But he (can't read my own writing, oh yeah), Don was

telling me about, you would be asking me about my brother and family. No, that's, I can't think of any, and I'm sure, as I said, my daughter said, "Mum, there must be millions of things." Well, I know because we always had a good time together and always were laughing and everything. But he did have an expression that he'd say when it was cold, you perhaps have heard it: "yeah, it's cold as a witch's tits," he say. And he knew that would make me mad, so he had a great time saying it.

MR: Okay, well is there anything else that you want to talk about. I mean, anything at all about your life or Charlie's involvement or Ed or anything we might have missed?

AL: What Charlie loved best, I mean Charlie was very disappointed when things didn't go as they should of. And I guess in my heart I was saying, "Well they lost, but we won." Because, well, I think there for a little while I was, and I guess I don't think, I know, I was taking second place. And I always was first place with Charlie, and when Ed came around I took second place. And it, you know, coming from a family with boys always catering to me, and then Charlie always catered to me, it was a little difficult sometimes. But, and we had three daughters that got married within that time, a year, in a year at that time, so I was a busy woman.

MR: Okay, just a kind of brief overall question about Ed, what do you, what would you say that his legacy for Maine or for politics would be today?

AL: Now that's a hard question for me to answer, I'm not . . .

MR: Well maybe I guess just, maybe I should ask you more from the personal side of things.

AL: He was very, very concerned about the people and very upset when he saw things didn't go well, and I guess . . .

End of Side B

End of Interview