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Schoenberger, Maralyn oral history interview

Andrea L'Hommedieu

Interview with Maralyn Schoenberger by Andrea L'Hommedieu

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee
Schoenberger, Maralyn

Interviewer
L'Hommedieu, Andrea

Date
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Place
Orono, Maine

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Biographical Note

Maralyn (Morton) Schoenberger was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and moved to Maine with her husband in 1956. Her political views were strongly influenced by a book read at the age of 16, *Valley of Decision*. Her husband, Walter Smith "Bud" Schoenberger, taught at the University of Maine, Orono after he graduated from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. She ran for the School Board in 1968 at the request of her daughter Corinne. She briefly lived in Silver Spring, MD when her husband took a leave of absence from the University of Maine. She was active on the Maine Democratic Committee as well as in organizing young voters. In 2000 she was an alternate delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: Bud Schoenberger's political activities; Young Democrats in Maine; personality of Ed and Jane Muskie; University of Maine social life; Boy's State; John Donovan; Muskie and Vietnam; New Hampshire incident; Mainers and outsiders; widespread participation in the Democratic Party during the 1960s; political backgrounds of her husband and his family; political activism at the University of Maine during the Vietnam War; Model United Nations; and the election of Ken Curtis.

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Transcript

Andrea L'Hommedieu: This is an interview with Maralyn Schoenberger at her home in Orono, Maine on October 23rd, the year 2003, and this is Andrea L'Hommedieu. Could you start by stating your full name, including your maiden name, and spelling it?

Maralyn Schoenberger: My name is Maralyn, M-A-R-A-L-Y-N, Morton, M-O-R-T-O-N, Schoenberger, S-C-H-O-E-N-B-E-R-G-E-R, and I was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as was my late husband, Walter Smith Schoenberger, as was our daughter Corinne Schoenberger. And we moved to Maine in 1956 after he graduated from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and he was the only member of the political science department. He taught international relations. And from that beginning he developed a program, and by the time he retired he had established an international affairs program which is covered quite well statewide.

AL: And that was at the University of Maine?

MS: At the University of Maine in Orono.

AL: And during your time here, you came in '56 so Edmund S. Muskie had just become governor, was in his first term.

MS: Had just been elected governor, yes, and we were quite enthusiastic because we were coming to Maine to turn it into a Democratic state.

AL: Did you really have that in mind?

MS: Well, that's not the only reason that we came, but yes, we had that in mind. We were very excited that he was elected the first in, what, fifty years or some long, long, long period of time. I don't remember precisely, but it had been a very long while since they had a Democrat. So, that's, we proceeded to be involved. I wasn't as involved early on, because our daughter was three and a half and I was home with her while my husband was teaching. But he was very much involved early on with Senator Muskie.

They met in a phone booth, you know, that famous phone booth you've heard about *ad nauseam*, well it's true. And they plotted and they planned at these meetings, and I would go pick him up when he was finished, you know, it was really quite interesting. I heard all about what went on. But they were busy recruiting young people, you know, to get them to work for the party. And it's amazing what's happened in that period of time. This is my forty-eighth year here, and it's amazing what has been accomplished in that period of time.

AL: You've seen quite a transition over the years.

MS: Oh, tremendous, tremendous. And Senator Muskie was very nice and very intelligent, but he was very distant. You know, he wasn't, like Bill Hathaway was a very outgoing. I think Jane [Muskie] was the outgoing one in that family, and my husband taught a number of their children, too, at Orono. But I worked mostly, politically, I, my husband taught international relations but we worked with the Young Democrats and I, we got a lot of Young Democrats to run for office. And also I ran the Orono headquarters for years and taught them how to get out the vote, and then they'd go home to their town and get elected to the legislature.

At one time, it was kinda fun, there were about ninety eight of the house members were people that my husband had taught and we had worked with, you know, to teach them how to get out the vote. And we went, did a lot of things, you know, once Corinne was older I was able to go do things with him, so we both participated. He believed in practicing what he taught, and that is participation, so we all participated.

AL: Did your husband ever run for a political office?

MS: Oh, just town council. In fact I, our daughter was in high school when she begged me to run for the school board because I understood what the young people were doing in 1968. So I

said “all right, I'll do that to make you happy.” And then my husband decided he would run for city council and we both lost. And I went off to Augusta to a meeting for the Governor's Committee on Children and Youth, and he went to teach classes the next day. It wasn't anything terribly exciting.

There was a time when he was asked to run for Congress. And we very seriously, we were on a leave of absence in Silver Spring, Maryland, he was writing a book. And he was, we were thinking very seriously about it and he went to see Senator Muskie to see what he thought about it, and I think Senator Muskie had decided that Elmer Violette should be the candidate, so Elmer was. But we also had contacts in Washington we'd talk to. And one of them was a lobbyist for Union Carbide where my husband's brother worked, and he said, “Well, you can run against Margaret Chase Smith but you better pray she dies because that's the only way you're going to beat her.” And interestingly enough, that wasn't so. William D. Hathaway ran against her and beat her, much to everyone's surprise. So it's interesting how those things work out. But he really loved teaching, you know.

AL: Was that his primary focus?

MS: Oh yes, yes, he just thoroughly enjoyed it. And he fought during World War Two, a fighter pilot, and so he gave up his youth from twenty-one years of age to twenty-six, twenty-seven for World War Two. Then went back to school and decided he didn't want to be an aeronautical engineer, which he had studied before the war. And he went into political science at the University of Pittsburgh. He shifted from Carnegie Institute of Technology, which is now Carnegie-Mellon. But he went to University of Pittsburgh and he finished his undergrad work in three years because they gave him credit for what he had taken before the war. Then he went on and got a master’s, but that took a little longer because he met me and we got married and had a baby. And then we went to graduate school, and then we came here.

Because Austin Peck, who was then the, a member of the economics department, we had met one summer when we held a Russian institute at the Fletcher School. We were proctors in the dorm there, and we were hosts for the visiting dignitaries that came. And that summer they had a Russian institute and Austin came down from Orono. And he knew they were looking for someone in political science so he talked Bud into coming up for an interview, which he did. And he was kind of tired of school; he wanted to get to teaching. He did teach part time all the way through, he taught at the University of Pittsburgh and Tufts University in the government department, and then the University of Maine in Orono.

But so, we ultimately came, and we were only going to stay two years. And I said earlier, this is my forty eighth year, you know, he made it to forty-six, well it wasn't quite forty-six up here, but we've been here a long time. So, and we've had a really neat time working with the young people, too.

And our daughter is quite political also, believe it or not, yes. You never would have known it growing up, she couldn't have cared less. But when we moved to Silver Spring on leave of absence, she ran for the class chairman the first time she got there, she was running for president of the class, and she had her own little campaign and they made campaign stickers and all this,

and we were just fascinated. We said, “Corinne, how did you do that, you were brand new?” She said, “Well mother, you know the young boy.” It was sixth grade, that's all in that school, “The young boy never went near the kindergartners, and I went and got their vote.” Isn't that funny? So she was president of the fifth grade class the year we were on leave of absence. She had a wonderful time.

And then of course we were there in Washington and we did a lot of things, we saw a lot of things, we participated in. Well that was the first teach-in I think against the Vietnamese War that year. And of course we were in Silver Spring, and Maine went Democratic for the first time in I don't know how long, they got the vote in the House and the Senate, and I said, “Wouldn't you know it, one year we're away and they win.” It was really kind of funny. But anyway, it's been very interesting.

And this is particularly about Senator Muskie; we were both very impressed with Senator Muskie right from the beginning, you know. He was a very intelligent articulate man. And as I said, I think Jane was the one who was the real politician in that she was more outgoing, he was more reserved.

AL: Do you think they balanced each other well?

MS: Oh, they were very complementary, very. I think that part of his success, he might have been very bright, which he was, but her personality, she was also very bright, but they were very complementary, very complementary couple. And we didn't know either of them well, but when I did see Jane it was fun because I took her around Orono a couple times when he was running for the Senate, and let's see, it was the man that has all the money, Bob?

AL: Bob Monks.

MS: Yes, Bob Monks. And Jane came up here and she was a sketch, she was so funny. And we had pictures of her and we'd send a whole batch of pictures to her that were taken of her going around the various places. And we put them up in the store windows; they let us put them up so that the people who met her could see themselves shaking her hand. You know, it was really a lot of fun. And everybody participated. I think that was the fun thing. When we came there was a very big divide between town and gown, as very often happens in university towns. And somehow we were able to pull the townspeople in, and we had them all working. It was really exciting. And the university people participated, you know. We were all in one big room bound and determined we were going to make the state Democratic. And it worked! Took a while but, and of course now we're in good shape again with the Governor and the House and the Senate. So it's rewarding to feel, you know, the time we spent was well spent.

AL: Yes, and there was another professor here that really not only taught but practiced politics.

MS: Jerry Grady.

AL: Tell me about him.

MS: Jerry Grady? Jerry was the first member of the political science, well it was the History and Government Department then, as was my husband part of the History and Government Department, it wasn't a political science department back in the late fifties. Jerry wanted to run for Congress and interesting enough the university people made him take the year off to run. They didn't feel that he had any business running for Congress when he was a professor on this campus. Can you believe the stupidity? Anyway, he didn't win, unfortunately, but he left. He went to Massachusetts, the University of Massachusetts because he felt he couldn't continue here.

There wasn't any imagination or no, it was a whole different place then than it is now, very, very different. And very ingrown. You know, most of the young people had gone through Orono and they taught at Orono, or maybe they went away and got a degree and then came back, but it was all very, very much ingrown. And I think one of the best things that happened to the university was people "from away," that expression, came and opened the eyes of a lot of young people who didn't realize what was outside the state of Maine. That was one of the things I think that gave Bud, that was his nickname. One of the things that gave Bud such a thrill, to introduce the young people. They didn't know there was a *New York Times*, or about international relations or other countries. He taught them political geography over a period of years, he taught every course that they had at one time or another except, Bob Thompson's was political theory. He could have done that, too, but he didn't have to because they had Bob Thompson who did that.

The honor center is named for him. So it's going to be, on the seventh of November the University of Maine Foundation and the new dean of the College of Arts and Science is going to name their political science student lounge for Walter Smith Schoenberger.

AL: Oh, isn't that nice.

MS: Isn't that nice, after all these years. He's been gone five, and he didn't teach for eight before that, he retired, so it is nice, very thoughtful. But he built that department, really. And he contributed a lot to the University because he cared, you know. And he felt the students were just as bright and intelligent, they just hadn't had the experience as we did growing up in a big city and all the advantages you have, even though there are disadvantages to it, too. So he found his great love right here. And he had opportunities to leave and go away to other places, but he decided that this was a good place for him. Because they needed him, and that was nice.

AL: Did he work closely with Ken Hayes?

MS: Oh yes, Ken was one of his former students who came to school and then he went away, got his degree. He was a Korean veteran when he came to school. And that's a funny story, too. I don't if this is appropriate to put it in here, but why not?

He was a Korean veteran and he was a Beta Theta Pi, and they were noted for their marvelous parties. And during the time he was president of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity, they got a dancing girl to come from Old Town to the campus, the fraternity house. And she apparently entertained each and every one of the students. Well, now what does the dean of men do with a Korean veteran who's fought a war and is older, you know, you don't punish him like you punish the

young. I don't think they did a thing, they just said, no more.

But we got a big kick out of that, we thought that was very, very funny because this, no drinking on campus was the rule then. And you weren't allowed to drink, but the fraternities all drank, and they had to have chaperones. And we couldn't understand why we were so popular when we first came; because we would go to the parties, and we didn't know that you weren't allowed, in quotes, to drink. Nobody ever told us, we were just chaperones and they gave us a bottle of schnapps or something and we would sit there and drink it and watch them carry on, you know. And somebody finally said to Bud, "You know, there's no drinking on this campus." And Bud Schoenberger said, "With 'fill the steins to dear old Maine, there's no drinking?'" Now, it was ridiculous.

AL: A bit of a contradiction.

MS: Oh, I'd say so. And Rudy Vallee of course came and carried on mightily here as a student. I think he was here one year, I'm not sure about that, but he attended University of Maine anyway at some point in his life. And he came back to visit, and when he'd come visit he'd have an entourage with him and all his good looking girls, women, young women, you know, and it was quite exciting.

But it was kind of a contradiction, you know, it was phony, and everybody knew the boys drank. I don't know about the girls. Dean Wilson wasn't so easy on the girls. She didn't approve of the girls drinking. But they did, you know, and some of them had never had any drinks before and they. I can't count the stomachs I held of young people who got sick. You know, you feel so sorry for them because it's awful, you know, being sick. And you didn't know how to drink and you drank too much or you drank too fast, or you were nervous. You know how that goes. But, you know, those were different days, but fun.

It's different today; there's not so much congeniality, you know, it's bigger, it's grown. There were thirty five hundred students here when we moved here on campus, and now there are thirteen thousand and some. You know, it's just grown tremendously. And buildings, my goodness. We've had building after building after building, you know. It just swelled and it keeps getting bigger and bigger. But it's been a very, very interesting time, and I think all of the efforts that Senator Muskie put in made this a much better state and improved the lot of the Maine people. And I think that anybody who came and worked hard here contributed, if they stayed and cared, you know, because they needed the outside contacts and kind of point of view, too. And there are a lot of good solid things that Maine people stand for. You know, I'm very impressed with their industry and their frugality, you know, they don't waste money and all. But there are other things in life, too, that also add joy. And of course the Music Department has grown and grown, and the Art Department. Jensen Harkins started the Art Department, a lone man, all those years ago. He would go around the campus and hang paintings in the various buildings, you know, people would give paintings so that everybody could see the art collection. Now the art collection's so big they've moved it to Bangor, you know. So they can show it because they had so many they collected over the years, but not enough space to show them. I don't know whether that was a good idea or not, you know, to take it away from Orono, but it adds something -

AL: In a way, it's hard but if it's a facility that more people can see it?

MS: It's useful, yes, it opens it up to the public so they get a chance to see it. And it's a lovely place in Bangor, too, very nice. But there's still a small gallery here on the campus. Oh, we've seen, my goodness, the changes.

There was no interstate. You know, when we went to Pittsburgh to see the families at Christmas time we'd start here and go over Route 2 to Augusta and then we would get, hit the turnpike and go the turnpike the rest of the way. But it was a long haul to Pittsburgh. And we used to do it in twelve hours, can you believe that? Young and foolish. We'd leave after class on the day and start driving, and drive straight through. I wouldn't do that today to save my life.

AL: Do you recall some of the, of your husband talking about some of the conversations he had with Senator Muskie? Especially in those early years when they were planning?

MS: No, I never heard personal conversations that they had. I was in groups where, let's see, Coffin, Frank Coffin, when Muskie was going to run for Senate, Frank Coffin was running and we participated in a meeting. And he was asking the group of people, "How do we sell people on the need for education." And I said, and I thought it was a very intelligent comment but everyone went, (*sharp inhalation*). I said, "Well, sell it just like they sell soap. You need an education because you'll get your clothes whiter, make your brain smarter, you know." But they, that didn't sit too well, but that's in the late fifties, you know, and they were still rather conservative here. But I still think they could have done a, you know, if you tell people what advantages having an education will make in your earning power, you know, and the way you live, why it makes common sense. But see, I was trained in retailing, and not an academician.

Anyway, I don't recall, but I'm sure he did talk to Senator Muskie, you know, at these various things. Well, the little state conventions in the telephone booth. But I never heard much about, they might have said, "Well, we got somebody to help with the, take care of the students or somebody to do this," and that sort of thing.

Of course Bud did participate in Boys State for years, which was here on the campus and it was really a fun thing, he enjoyed doing that, too. The Legion put it on and paid for it, and they sent the wives and the children down to Greene Lake for the week. The boys were up here at Boys State, which was delightful because we had a lake and about twelve or thirteen little kids under eight years of age. It was all right as long as it didn't rain. But that was a very, very excellent thing they did, to teach Maine government and state government to the young people of the state. But they let it go, you know, they let it go. It went to; when Ken Curtis was governor it was moved down, because nobody over here wanted to do it. Moved to Castine, Maine Maritime, and I can't remember now where it went. I don't know whether they had it, if Castine still has it there or whether it went somewhere else, I've lost tabs. I used to try to watch the papers to see when it was going to happen because it was always the last week in June or something, in that vicinity. I know the peonies always were coming into bloom at the time.

I never had very many words with Senator Muskie at all except to say "hello." You know, I

think our daughter once very brazenly said to him after she heard a speech; she was a freshman at Yale then, “Senator Muskie.” And I don't remember the figures, but it was funny. He was talking about the human body chemicals being worth ninety eight cents or something, it used to be. And Corinne said, “You know Senator Muskie, the cost of the human body's gone up,” and she quoted these new figures. And he didn't say, “Well thank you, I didn't realize that.” He didn't like that.

But I did spend a little bit of time with him out in Kansas City at the issues conference that was held, let's see, when was that? That was about 1970 I think, '71, ‘68. Yeah, it must have been '70. We traveled a great distance to see him, from where we were housed. And we got there and there were about eight people from the Maine delegation, that was all that went. And there was a young man from Bowdoin, no, no, no, no, Bates, Bates. And he was very nervous but he was sitting with a swizzle stick in his fingers like this, and he was talking and he asked Senator Muskie a question and Senator Muskie said, “Don't you shake that swizzle stick at me!” And I went, like that, and I said, “Don't you talk to John Donovan's student that way!” I just couldn't understand why, you know, the response. I called up John later, I said, “John, what's wrong with Muskie, he was just terrible to this young student?” He said, “Oh, he said, he's kind of a smart one anyway.”

AL: Do you have recollections of John Donovan?

MS: Oh, yes.

AL: Tell me about him, because I know that we don't have a lot of people who can talk to us about who he was.

MS: Well, John was, let's see, John was Muskie's administrative assistant in Washington. And that year we were on leave of absence, they were holding my husband's Ph.D. dissertation, classified material, and we had a terrible time. It was ten years to get that thing written because he was working with classified information. And they'd give it him and then they'd take it away, and then they'd give it to him, take it away. I don't know why he ever continued, you know, I wouldn't have had the patience, but he wanted to finish.

And John was very instrumental in helping get it out of the State Department, as was Mr. McBundy. I called their office there in the president's, you know, president's office and said, “Could you please ask Mr. McBundy if he could possibly help because my husband needs to get his thesis done because they won't give him a raise on campus here in Maine until he finishes his thesis.” And they had it down there for a year, and Princeton University had it for a year, held it, and much to Bud's surprise, Herbert Feiss put out a new edition of his book and used Bud's book, manuscript, to update his book. And there's no way you could prove that he had used it. Because they had it for a year at Princeton, but this is what happened with that, you know, it's very discouraging. Anyway, it was John Donovan who was very helpful there, and we had been to John's house once to a dinner party. I think Bud saw more of him because they went to various political science meetings that I wouldn't have attended.

But he was a very kind, unassuming. Oh, he taught a neighbor of ours at the Fletcher School,

well the neighbor's husband was in dental school, but John Donovan had taught Betty Houston from Maine, and Harry was from Brewer, and they lived upstairs in the G.I. housing at Tufts. And she was always talking about Professor Donovan, Professor Donovan, Professor Donovan at Bates, and we didn't know who he was. We found out pretty soon when we moved here. But he was very well liked as far as we ever discerned. And I'm sure Bud then knew him better than I did, but he was very kind, he even mentioned Bud's book in a book he wrote. Now, I don't remember the name of the book, it's so long ago now, but it was interesting.

And he worked, he was a very good person to work for Senator Muskie because he followed through. He took care of whatever. It's like John Baldacci's people are very good, have been, you know. About if somebody needs something it gets done, you know, it's not, you don't write a letter and never get any answer. It's always answered and somebody resolves the situation somehow if they can. But, yeah, I liked John a lot.

The interesting thing is, his wife was fascinating, she was a very, very bright, intelligent woman. She went to Wellesley, and that was the, in the. Well she was the last of the times where the women were taught to think for themselves and have a career and they could combine, you know, a career and whatever. And I don't know a lot about what she did, but I found her to be a charming, very interesting woman, very nice.

And then they had the visiting foreign service couple that year that were based at Bates. Was it Bates? No, that was Bowdoin, I think that was Bowdoin. But they were there in that area for a year, and we had got, had them as, well actually he was an older person when we were at the Fletcher School, but we were house parents to this older man who had been sent back to school, the Fletcher School, for more training. It was kind of interesting how these things work out. Just a, well, just a good time, and I think Muskie came along just at the right time. We needed him.

AL: During the Vietnam era?

MS: Yeah, oh, that was so sad, that was so sad. Oh, we wanted him to be vice president so badly. But we didn't feel we should be in Vietnam and it turns out we were right. You know, we anti-war types were very right. They lied to us, and I have a feeling we're repeating the same thing again now over the war with Iraq, it's heartbreaking.

AL: And going back to the Vietnam time, it must have been a difficult time for you as a Democrat and wanting to support Muskie but conflicting feelings on his stance?

MS: Oh, we supported him, but we didn't agree with him on that issue. You know, there are a lot of people that run for office, you can't agree with every issue. But that was a very important one, and we worked very hard to get people organized to, you know, take over the party structure in Penobscot county so that we could change it. Because we wanted to change the thing and that's how you do it, from within, you know, working within the system. That was another thing that was very important. Sitting in the street and marching didn't do any good. You got to get in and change it from within if you want to change it and make it different.

But I'm pretty sure that Senator Muskie was sad when they did vote a favorite son vote. I can remember him standing at the podium and his hands, he was livid, his hands were squeezing the podium like this, they were white, and he was saying, "I thought this was a lovely honor but I didn't want it this way." And so you could see he was hurt. But when the Eugene McCarthy people of course lost, on the plane coming back I went to Jane, who was sitting beside Senator Muskie, and said, "Well, we had a wake last night." You know, we were sorry, and truly sorry. If they just had a little more time, they might have made it, you know. But the media there again played that game, you know, of "He cried in the snow and he was so damn mad you could tell." He wasn't crying, he was furious that they would talk about his wife that way, over in New Hampshire. And I don't blame him. I would hope my husband would behave the same way. They said terrible things about her, and she's a lovely, lovely lady. But, well that healed, you know, over time. Not that, I don't think I ever held anything against Muskie for making a stand. If he's going to be vice presidential candidate, you know, what man wouldn't back - - it was just the situation.

But Jane was surprised at that time when I was talking to her. She said, "How long have you been in Maine?" And I said, "Seventeen years." And she said, "Oh, I thought you were newcomers." After all that work. She didn't remember, she couldn't remember everybody.

AL: Well, sometimes it's Mainers, you have to be here a long time to be considered not a newcomer.

MS: You aren't ever. If you weren't born here, if you weren't born here, and there's still a lot of that feeling. You're not a native, you know, you weren't born here. I will never belong here. This is my forty-eighth year here, but I wasn't born and raised here. And there are a lot of Maine people that have that very, very strong feeling. Case in point: when we redid the party rules, I was state committee woman by that time and I went around to all of Penobscot county, we were implementing the rules. Bud wrote the rules, by the way, that first batch, and they went all over the state and took the testimony and so forth, it went through state committee, they voted them in, whatever.

So then in Penobscot I was the county committee woman and I went to all of the different caucuses I could go to to see that they implemented them right, the right way. Because they were going to be thrown out, you know, would let them be seated if they weren't followed. And I was sitting beside a lady in Levant, Maine and she was saying, "Oh that so-and-so, why doesn't she be quiet, she's from away." I said, "Oh? Where's she from?" And she said, "Carmel." Isn't that delightful? Carmel, right next door, little town right next door. So that proves this point, you'll never belong if you weren't born here.

And yet I don't think I ever laughed so much in my life as I Bud and I did with the "Bert and I" record. That first fall we were here we were introduced to them, and thought they were just hilarious and laughed and laughed and laughed. Sent them all to each family, a record. They didn't get it, from away, they didn't understand the humor in it, and we thought it was very humorous, the packet. They're back, by the way. I saw in a catalogue that they're reissuing Marshall Dodge's things, which is interesting.

Let's see, Muskie on, let's see, the Vietnamese War, that was tough, that was really tough.

AL: How about Madelin Kiah, do you remember her?

MS: Oh, Lord, do I ever remember Madelin, yes, yes, yes. My husband taught her kids in school, too, and I worked with her. I was state committeewoman and she had been national committeewoman, and she told stories about, have you ever heard, talked to Mary Ellen?

AL: No, I haven't found her last name yet so I don't know how to get a hold of her.

MS: Well, wait a minute, it'll come, I can tell you. But let me tell you this story. Madelin Kiah told stories about them going to Washington to go to the inaugurations. And who was wearing what and who was dressed how, and who had to be poured into his tuxedo. She is a very funny, oh, I don't know that she's still alive. Is she gone? Well, Mary Ellen, her husband worked at the airport. Maybe it'll, my retriever system slows down a little, it might come back.

AL: Well, Dave Smith was thinking he remembered that Mary Ellen's husband was a pilot for Delta?

MS: He wasn't a pilot, he worked in the airport scheduling planes and, you know, seeing that everything went. I don't know what his precise title was, but he wasn't a pilot. But Mary Ellen had a nursery school for little children, run with her mother; she and her mother had that nursery school that they ran at their house. And, but oh, Madeleine, what a wonderful, wonderful story she could tell, and there must still be some people alive that remember her. There's a woman in Bangor named Frazier and I'm going to try to remember her first name. Who was eighty-something and I saw her at the last state convention, spry as ever. We both got on the last bus that took us back to our cars.

AL: Her last name is Frazier?

MS: Yeah, let me think. I can think of these, I can come up with these; I'll just have to take a little bit of time because this is going back quite a long ways. But there are still some older people that could tell you some fun stories about Muskie, probably knew more about Muskie. Like Madeleine was national committeewoman, so she traveled to Washington and did things, you know, that I didn't do ever. Mine was mostly within the state until I chaired the Governor's Committee on Children and Youth for Ken Curtis. Then I went to Washington on various meetings, you know, for children and youth. But Madeleine oh, what a, and Mary Ellen Kiah, no, Mary Ellen, Mary Ellen, Mary Ellen, well, I'll think about it.

AL: That's okay, I can get back to you.

MS: Yeah, but they're, and they're, let me see, there are some other older people, too. Mrs. Cox, Bill Cox's wife. Her husband was county commissioner, if I have the right Cox because that Cox family was a very large family of Catholic kiddos. And the one I am thinking of was county commissioner before I went on, then I went on the board as the county commissioner for four years, and then they unloaded me. Republicans. I'd had enough of four years. We had a

crazy sheriff who was really terrible, terrible thing. I don't think he was mentally stable, but we had a lot of problems those four years with him. He ran again just this past election. Tim Richardson. Oh, well anyway, it's best not to -.

AL: Well, in terms of Madeleine's -

MS: Faye Broderick is another one, she was national committeewoman. She lives in Lincoln. And she would be filled full of stories about all that went on. And she, as far as I know she and Dick, her husband was very active, too. In fact, I think he was national committeeman if I'm not mistaken. But she's full of stories, oh, you should talk to her, she'd be good for the early part. Actually, it was kind of that group of people that we unseated and took over Penobscot County. And they were really gracious about it, they didn't know how well we were organizing it, you know, all over. And Bill Stone is another one, he was the Vietnamese War era. He's a native Maine man and he lives in Prospect Harbor now, and is remarried to, he has a new wife and her name is Barbara. And I might see them on the 7th of November if they come to the - - but he would be, have a lot of stories to tell, too. He wrote a book about the psychology of politics.

AL: Oh, really?

MS: Yeah, after his experience organizing for Eugene McCarthy. So it's interesting, there's just a lot of people. We drew in, and we didn't do it alone, this is doing with everybody else who was working very hard, you know, to organize so we could get things changed. But we drew in a lot of people who'd never been politically active before.

It's just like [Howard] Dean is doing now, this is what we did within the state of Maine, and turned people, boat builders, we had, you know, you name any walk of life, you know, everybody was represented that was anti war. And I was amazed at the number of people that felt very strongly out in the outer reaches, you know, that we didn't see around here. It was not surprising there would be a lot of people around in an academic community, but they were scattered all over the state. We'd drive the whole of the state, you know, to go to a meeting. Now, I wouldn't do that today, but think nothing of bopping down to the southern coast to have a meeting with people. We got together and we it was a really sociable time, too.

And there was, Mary McCarthy was summering here, of course, Kevin McCarthy, you know, the actor and actress, or writer. And Gerald Rolde I think his name was, he was a famous poet. He came, they came to our picnics. All these interesting people, summer people that we wouldn't have had a chance to meet otherwise. And there was a wonderful man whose name I can't remember who designed sailboats, famous man that designed sailboats, and we met him.

And there was just, really, any number of all kinds of people that got involved because they felt strongly that we were doing the wrong thing being over there. There was a, it was like a social club almost, you know. You're working together when you campaign for anybody, you know, there's an esprit de corps that develops and you talk about it and you plan and think what you're going to do next, how you're going to answer this or that or the other thing. And in the past I, too, have run for House of Representatives when they couldn't get anybody else to do it, and it's very interesting how that happened.

The year we were on leave, I spent a lot of time going to the hearings in D.C. while Corinne was in school. Bud was at work at the Library of Congress; I would go in and pick my hearing. And I came back and I said, at that point I think Ken Curtis was running. Was he? Yes, I think he was elected in '66. He had run, he had won in '66, 1966. I said to him, "You know, when we were in Washington every state that I sat in on hearings had their governors come down and ask for money for certain things for their state, but there's nobody from Maine, I never saw anybody testify and say they wanted something for Maine. Now maybe Senator Muskie might have or, you know, one of the representatives, but I never happened in to see them testifying." I said, "There ought to be a full time person down there, you know." And Ken Curtis got a full time person, which is interesting, and it worked.

AL: Let me stop and flip the tape.

End of Side A
Side B

AL: We are now on Side B. And you were saying, and that worked, putting a full time person down there?

MS: Yes, yes. What they found was someone who would represent Maine in a part time way. You know, they had other things that they did, like a newspaper writer; he worked for the Portland paper. I've forgotten his name, but he for a long time was the lobbyist for Maine as well as covering politics.

AL: I probably know the name, but I don't know who you're thinking about.

MS: I'm sure you do. I'm trying to think what his name was, too.

AL: I'm thinking of [John E.] Jeb Byrne?

MS: This is a long time ago, '66. Well, they might come back. It's amazing, I'll sit up in bed in the middle of the night and say, "That's who I was thinking of; why couldn't I remember then?" But it's, this is very true, you have to have people watching. And I think our people who are down there now probably are much more careful and representative of the state than they were years ago, when they were all Republicans. Doesn't Doug Hodgkin teach at Bates?

AL: He has just retired.

MS: Really, oh for goodness sake. Now, see, Bud knew him very well; I didn't. He went to Fletcher too, so that they saw each other at various conferences.

AL: And he was very much a Republican.

MS: Oh very, very, very, yes, yes, and Bud was very, very much a Democrat. Well, you know there's nothing worse than a convert. You know, Bud was a Republican until he studied political

science.

AL: Oh, really?

MS: Oh yes, yes, his family was right wing, arch right wingers, belonged to the Sweden Borgen Church, and that's all right wing people. In Vernassen (*sounds like*), Pennsylvania, and they have sections all over the country, oh actually all over the world of that religion, the Sweden Borgen Church. And Bud was probably one of two or three people in the whole of the Pittsburgh society and Vernassen society that were Democrats, they were all Republicans.

AL: How did his family handle that?

MS: Oh, his father never could figure out what he did wrong. He'd say that to Bud, "I don't know what I did wrong."

AL: So it was with humor.

MS: Yes, well, it wasn't with humor, he was serious. When Bud was fifty years old, I can remember him sitting on the front porch talking to his dad and he said, "The trouble with you is you haven't been in the trenches." And Bud kind of looked at him and said, "Well, Dad, I flew airplanes. I couldn't be in the trenches and fly an airplane, too." But his father would turn purple, he would get so upset. And then his mother would get, oh, now, now, now, now, the peace maker, you know, I don't want my family (*unintelligible word*). But yeah, he was a convert.

They, and I used to kid him, too, say, "Listen here, I became a Democrat when I was sixteen years old and I was sitting in the high school cafeteria at Peabody High School reading a book called Valley of Decision." And it was about the steel workers plight in Pittsburgh way before they unionized and how, what they went through to try to unionize. And I said, "I will never be a Republican, never." Sixteen. And my parents, of course, always blamed Bud for making me a Democrat. They never talked to me about it. They didn't know I made up my own mind, so I'd kid Bud, say, "Listen here, don't you be so smart, I was a Democrat long before you were."

AL: Oh, that's a great story.

MS: Yeah, funny. But I can remember out in California, the past national convention, I was telling a number of the young women who were riding on the bus, they bussed us, you know, to the various places. And I met some young labor people and I said, "Did you ever hear of this book?" And told them about it. And that's how I became a Democrat when I was sixteen, and they said, "No, they hadn't," but they were going to get it and read it. You know, it was really, it's heartbreaking. Actually, it was written by my mother's classmate in college, my mother knew her quite well. But I was just touched. You know, you never know how something you write is going to touch somebody else, and this book just touched me to the core.

The steel company, when a mother with five children lost her husband, he fell in a vat of steel, molten steel, the company sent her a basket of fruit, and that was it, with their sympathies. And

imagine, here's this woman left with five children, of course I could relate to that because I was third in eight, of eight. But that just touched me, oh, so I became a Democrat.

AL: Is there anything else that I haven't asked you that you think is important to add here to the history today of how you knew Edmund Muskie, or the time period on campus?

MS: The time period. Well, the time period on campus I think was really a very, very volatile time, but Maine people, or the Maine young people were apt to want to do things. And I think they had teach-ins and allowed them to blow off the steam, and they did not allow them to call off classes. And it's the responsibility of the faculty members who kind of kept them in tow. And there are always young people who want to go overboard, and they kind of encouraged them to use their minds instead of, you know, throwing eggs. And we had that on campus, egg throwing when they marched against the war. And it was supposed to be a peaceful march which it was except that there were a group of very, very patriotic people who threw eggs. They didn't believe that you should be against the war, you know, that was terrible. If you love your country you just approve of anything they do. But those were very, very trying times for everybody, you know, not only the students but the faculty and the president. Presidents, because there were a number of people.

Now the presidents come and go, they don't stay. You know, they used to be here, the first one that we knew was president (*name*) and he was president from, well I don't know how long but we came in 1956 and he didn't retire for a good many years. And then the second one we knew was Lloyd Elliot who came, and he really got money for the university. He knew what he was doing, he got a, contacted all of the alumnae, you know, they had them reach out around the state, and he got a million dollars. Imagine, one whole million dollars for the University of Maine at Orono, and that was unheard of, ever in the history of this university.

And at that time there wasn't a system, university system like there is now, you know, the chancellor's office and all this. There was every president of every, the teachers colleges and the University of Maine. They all went down and the ones who could bargain the best got the best deals for the school. So, but now the presidents come and stay five years and leave, they use this as a jumping board, you know, to go somewhere else, or have been in the past. I don't know what they're going to do in the future, but it's different, it's not so closed. And they're just here for a short period of time.

But those times were, really a lot of times were really exciting and interesting, but those were the worst, most raucous of the years, the anti war. But I think we're beginning to work on another one now, which I think is sad, really tragic. Oh, I won't start that. Senator Muskie would be turning in his grave if he could see what went on at the UN. Bud spent years taking the Maine young people to the model United Nations. He very much believed that this was a way to, you know, resolve people's, if you could keep them talking at least you're not fighting. A lot of people don't agree with that, but he thought it was very worthwhile, and it was.

And they got to go to New York, too. Some of them had never been there before, which is mind boggling to somebody who's never seen New York, can go there and see the massiveness of it, you know. I remember one student who was very tall; he must have been 6'7". And I went,

occasionally I could go, depending on where Corinne was, I could go with them. And this one young man was so tall, and he couldn't get enough to eat, you know, he just needed more food. So I would save some of my food because they always gave me too much. Every night I'd bring a doggie bag back to him, give it to him in is room. And he was appreciative, because he didn't have a lot of money, and a lot of the kids don't. They're working, you know, to earn their way through school and they work summers and, you know how it works. They work hard to get to go to school. And Jim was always so grateful for that, and I was thinking, isn't it nice he's so appreciative, you know, I'd bring my little, "Here you are, Jim, my token for the day."

But there were a number of groups that I went with, had a good time with them. I didn't participate in the assembly itself because that was all done. Bud served on that national board for a while, I don't remember the precise years now, but he was involved in that for a while, too.

He did a lot of things here on campus that nobody knows about. Such as when the governor who was elected, Jim Longley tried to fire the board of trustees. Which he couldn't legally do, you see, but he didn't know that. Bud was quite chagrined because that is not allowed by law; the trustees are there for certain time slots. So he submitted in the name of the university board of trustees for the Meiklejohn Award, which is an award that's given, very seldom had it been given, to someone who has stood up for academic freedom, so he submitted this to the AAUP, and Maine won the award. Now you have the helm a chancellor and a vice chancellor, and some people who are very worried about how this is going to react on Governor Longley. Because Governor Longley is making it hard for the university anyway, cutting the budget. So they never made any big brouhaha about it, but he flew to Washington with Jean Sampson who was the chairman of the board then, and got the Meiklejohn Award. And somewhere in the chancellor's office should be the plaque that was awarded to them. Now, where it is I don't know, but that's something that, there wasn't any big brouhaha about it, Bud just did it. He felt that it was a terrible thing that Longley was trying to do. And if he had been able to convince the legislators, you know, they could have changed the law. But it didn't work, which is nice.

Anyway, yeah, it's been very interesting, and I think Senator Muskie and Jane added just a wonderful thing to, a lot of themselves too, and they were liked, you know. They seemed to be very well liked here, and I wonder what it would have been like had they not been governor and his wife, you know. It could have been a totally different situation, but they made a difference. Then I remember Clinton Clauson. Oh, this is heartbreak. He ran for governor, and I think it was when Muskie left the governorship.

AL: Right, it was right after.

MS: Yes, and he had a heart attack and died after he'd been elected. That's how John Reed got in as governor, and he was in there for seven years because of filling out the term, you know. I don't remember the precise term, I think, what was it, it was only two years I think then, the governor's term was only two. It changed to four when Ken Curtis, before Ken Curtis went into office. Anyway, but that was heartbreak, will you know. And I was just very concerned because Neil Rolde wrote a wonderful book about the history of the Democratic Party, and somewhere along the line he got the idea that Clinton Clauson was a dentist, and I bought the book the year that the convention was held here in Bangor and came home read it, I called him up and said,

“Neil, the man was a chiropractor.” And he said, “Oh, I didn't know that.” but he paid for all these copies to be printed and I don't, still to this day, understand why there wasn't a little slip sheet put in saying mistake, error, something about this. They're still handing this out, I understand, and it says that he was a dentist. And I think that's terrible, it's not right, it's not accurate, it's misleading, and you're the writer, you know. You'd think Neil would have a pang of conscience, but maybe he was thinking more about the money he'd spent, you know, to have it published. Because he's been very generous, as many, many people have been with the Democratic Party. Thank God, because most of us don't have very much money. We give it a lot of time, but no money, not a lot of money anyway. But I hope they continue to do well. It would be sad to backslide after all the years it took us to get to where we are now. Forty-three years!

AL: Well, thank you very much.

MS: You're very welcome.

End of Interview