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Stetson, Damon oral history interview

Erik Remsen

Interview with Damon Stetson by Erik Remsen

Summary Sheet and Transcript

Interviewee
Stetson, Damon

Interviewer
Remsen, Erik

Date
May 19, 2001

Place
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

ID Number
MOH 271

Biographical Note

Damon Stetson was born August 1, 1915 in Hanover, Massachusetts. He attended Bates College where he took part in cross-country track and student reporting. He was an English major with the senior honors thesis topic: Charles Dickens: a social reformer. He graduated with honors in the class of 1936. He attended Columbia, receiving a master's of science degree, and then began work with the *Newark Evening News*. He served in the Navy (intelligence) during World War II, and then worked for the *New York Times*, eventually in labor reporting. He headed the Detroit bureau of the *Times* in 1955. Erik Remsen, the interviewer, was a Bates College student and grandson of Damon.

Scope and Content Note

Interview includes discussions of: Bates College years; Cornell Law School; Navy; Waterville, Maine law practice; 1954 Maine gubernatorial campaign (Stetson wrote an article for the *New York Times*); 1968 vice presidential campaign (*New York Times* campaign trip); 1969-1972 presidential campaign (*Manchester Union Leader* incident); Colby College; labor history in the United States; Progressive Party Convention, 1948; state and local Michigan politics; Ohio politics; Birch Bayh during his Indiana Senate campaign; Kennedy's 1960 campaign in the Midwest; and desegregation of schools in the South in the mid-1950s.

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Transcript

Erik Remsen: This is May 19th, [2001], and I am interviewing Damon Stetson in his home in

Cape Elizabeth. So, can you say your name and then spell it?

Damon Stetson: Damon Mitchell Stetson, Damon, D-A-M-O-N, Mitchell, M-as in Mary-I-T-C-H-E-double L, Stetson, S for Sam - T, Thomas - E, Edward - T, Thomas - S, Sam - O, Otto - N, Nancy.

ER: Can you tell me when and where you were born?

DS: I was born August 1st, 1915 in Hanover, Massachusetts.

ER: And can you give a little detail about your childhood?

DS: My childhood? Well, I grew up as an only son in a small, relatively small town in those days, in Massachusetts, and I was a great outdoors kid with a close friend who lived nearby and we spent a lot of time together in our early years. And then I got very interested in sports, at that time particularly in baseball, and so I tried to hit the ball and had small teams that we played on. None of the fancy cub teams that they have today maybe, but just ones that we would organize. I got a, organized a group in my area and another friend organized one in another area, and we played games. Then I got to high school and in high school played in three sports, played quarterback on the football team, played forward on the basketball team, and third base on baseball.

ER: Were your parents active, is that where you got your outdoor activeness from?

DS: Well, they weren't in those days, although they, I guess they had been in their younger years to a certain degree, yeah.

ER: Can you actually, can you, what were your parents' names?

DS: Well my father's name was Bernard L. Stetson, and he was in the insurance business and was town clerk and town treasurer in Hanover for some thirty-five years. My mother, a Bates graduate in the class of 1905, Marion Mitchell Stetson, her maiden name was Mitchell. She was from Bangor originally. She was, had been an active Bates student in the earlier years and then had taught school in Hanover where my father lived, and she met him her first year out of Bates but they didn't get married for several years. In the meantime she taught school in Portland, high school, and in Bangor.

ER: Now when you were growing up, the Depression hit as you were sort of I think in high school. Did you feel, or did your family feel the effects at all?

DS: Well, it was certainly, the Depression was, certainly hit around everywhere, and I would say that my family was hit less than lots of families because my father had his own business and was also a town official. And my mother I think filled in teaching in high school on occasion, but not very much. Those were the days when women, married women didn't work very much, but she carried on a home, but my, we were more fortunate than many families because my father had his own business and it was able to continue.

ER: How did you come about deciding to attend Bates? I know you said your mother went there, so did that play a part?

DS: Well, I suppose that was a factor because she went back to reunions and I went back with the family, for Bates reunions and, at various stages. I had a growing interest in Bates. I can still remember going up once when I was probably about ten years old and running around the track to see how that would be. And other occasions, I remember once we, the family stayed in John Bertram Hall and I remember I wasn't as interested in some of the events that were happening for the reunion people, but at that time there was a baseball team in Lewiston playing across the street and I was in John Bertram and I got interested in going across the street to a baseball game. But I got a, met various Bates graduates at her reunions through the years and got to feel kind of interested in Bates at that time. And when the time came to go to college, I decided to go to Bates and never applied to any other college.

ER: Do you, is there anything that you remember that she ever told you about when she was a student at Bates, any stories that she told you about her days?

DS: Oh yes, I think there were probably lots of reminiscences that appeared one time or another, or we met some of her friends from college and they brought forth memories and so forth. I remember, do remember her telling me that she went skiing out on Pole Hill.

ER: Where is that?

DS: Well, Pole Hill was a, it's still there, it was a hill just near the campus and the cross country team used to run out to Pole Hill and around it and back. It was out near where I think Bates had a Thorncrag cabin, too, out that direction, yes.

ER: Can you tell me what Bates was like when you got there, when you, during your time there?

DS: Well, Bates was a small college, as it still is but it was smaller in those days I think when, my freshman year, it had about seven hundred students in the whole college. And I guess my class must have had two fifty, or maybe a few more, I'm not sure on that in the memory. And the campus had a good football team, it had some, a couple particularly strong track men, they had a big track star named Russ [E.] Jellison, J-E-L-L-I-S-O-N, who was, won some national honors I think at that time. And there was also a fellow at Bates named [Belmont W.] Adams who went to the Olympics in 1932 running the quarter mile. And the campus was a little smaller. And I lived in John Bertram Hall my freshman year, and my sophomore year in Parker, which was then all men. And then I became a proctor, was named a proctor for my junior year in Roger Bill, and I had a corner room there with a, which was pretty good, with a study, a little study section and a living room and a bedroom separate in the corner there. And I was, that was my junior year, and my senior year I was a senior proctor in Roger Bill, in the same place. But particularly my senior year I had an extremely pleasant time with a group of freshmen that used to congregate and come in my room after meals and chew the fat for a while before they turned to their books.

ER: What activities did you become involved in during your time at Bates?

DS: Well, I had never in high school been involved in track, except some little individual race or something once in a while. But at Bates I decided to go out for cross country because I didn't think I was big enough or hefty enough at that time to challenge any football players and thought I might do better in track. So I went out for cross-country, which was the first time, the first thing I went out for in sports. And I was interested in a newspaper, the college paper. In high school I had edited the annual senior magazine and had written pieces and, news pieces, so I became a student reporter right away. And I think my first assignments were covering football games, freshman football games because they, even though we only had a small number of students at Bates, they still had a freshman football team and I think that was, those were a couple of my early assignments was freshman football. But I went on with *The Student* throughout my years at Bates and was a news editor later on. I was not editor, a fellow named Nils [A.] Lennartson who was, became the editor of my senior year I guess, and I was a news editor at that point. But I was involved in lots of extracurricular activities. If you look at that *Mirror* that you can have a copy of, it lists a lot of things that I was involved in. Of course my other sports were, I played on the freshman hockey team and then played on the last Bates hockey team. I played my sophomore and junior years on the hockey team, and then Bates decided to, against the will of a lot of the hockey players, to drop hockey and have a basketball team, and so they did drop hockey and my senior year there was no hockey team. So I ran track in the winter and, instead of hockey that year, and all four years I ran track in the spring, ran the two-mile mostly.

ER: Now, so you were a three sport athlete, so was it difficult to balance academics and athletics?

DS: Well, I had to study. My recollection is that it posed problems at times. Less with track and cross-country than hockey. But hockey had to, in those days there was no nice hockey rink like you have at Bates today, and we played hockey in a rink downtown Lewiston, which a local hockey team used. And so we had to walk down with our skates hung over our hockey sticks to practice, and then practice for quite a long while in hockey, and then we had some games in the middle of the week. Not a heavy schedule like hockey teams do now, but we still had to, it took some time if you traveled over to the University of New Hampshire in the late afternoon and played hockey in the evening, and came back to Bates some time after midnight. Well, I was in the track sports, as I mentioned before and, now, follow up if you have anything else you want to ask on that score.

ER: Kind of curious, you said you had a rather light schedule in terms of teams that you . . . .

DS: In terms of what?

ER: Teams that you played, or just number of games that you played during the year? Was that the same for cross country and track?

DS: No, I'd say in cross-country and track we had a pretty full schedule. And we also, in track

and cross-country ran against the University of Maine as well as Colby and Bowdoin, and then we'd go down to, sometimes down to Massachusetts for something. The hockey team, I still remember going down to, playing MIT, and track we went to, cross country, we ran in the New Englands at Franklin Park, which I had one good race there, I was only I don't know how many, they had over a hundred I guess in that, I was seventeenth and, eighteenth I think it was, and Paul [B.] Tubbs, my colleague at running was seventeenth, we were together in that race. But the track team traveled around some, and the cross country teams did but it was, the focus was still a lot on Maine and close colleges, but they ran, the best men in track always would go to some of the New Englands or even the nationals like that fellow Adams that I mentioned, and Russ Jellison who did very well in even national competition.

ER: Now I know you've told me about one memorable cross-country meet in Colby, I'm wondering if you can -?

DS: That's one of my real cross-country stories. This was at Colby in the days when the Colby campus was right on the Kennebec River. Now of course, Colby is in a different place, they decided to have a new location with good reason as this little story maybe indicates. But anyway, this was a dual meet between Bates and Colby, and Colby had two very good runners, one named Herbie Deverber, and the other fellow who was really the ace, I don't have his name on the tip of my tongue at this point, but he I think was the New England champion and did outstanding nationally, he ran in some national races. Maybe I'll think of his name. But at any rate, this meet was at Colby, and we had a team that was not wildly outstanding but some good middle runners, and we went out and left the campus, the track, started on the track and then went out off campus and out running up some hills or someplace, I don't know just where. And these two Colby men were out, well out in front of the Bates fellows and I think Paul Tubbs and I were behind them, but back quite a ways. But anyway, as we got back to the, near the campus, there was a, we were coming up a street and across the railroad, where the railroad track crossed, and Deverber and this ace of Colby went across and then ahead, but we were a little farther behind and a freight train came along and went right across on the street. And it was quite a long freight train, and Tubbs and I came up and the train stopped us. And then three other fellows from our team came along and we were trying to keep warm and keep our feet going, but the train was a long freight train, took some time and the other guys were way ahead of us already. So finally the train, the last car went by. At that point we had five fellows all together so we went on and finished the race, just about in a group together. And we won the meet because the rest of the Colby guys were way back and never got to the train.

ER: Switching gears here a little bit -

DS: What?

ER: Switching gears here, did you find Bates to be academically challenging?

DS: Oh yes, I worked hard at Bates. I studied a lot, very regularly did my homework and took it seriously. And sports took a lot of time, and working for the paper and other things that I did, because I was involved in a lot of other activities, took time but I still had time to study as long as I did it. And I didn't have a car to ride around in and go anyplace and so my life was centered

pretty much on Bates. And, at least in those days, I had roommates that usually were pretty diligent and studied. So I put in my time and I think I worked for it. But . . . .

ER: Were there, was the general consensus that it was a challenging college?

DS: I think so, I mean we probably had a greater range of students almost than you have now. It wasn't, there weren't as many applicants as you have today and it wasn't as competitive in that respect, so there was maybe a greater range from top students to maybe good athletes that got into college. But it seems to me it was quite challenging and I think some good, very good professors in those days, excellent, some that were very good. And so it was I think challenging, and I think the record of graduates in those days was good. More of them in those days may have gone into teaching than they do today, yet of course the Depression period was on when we graduated and a lot of my classmates couldn't get jobs that they might have wanted at that time. In fact, two of my roommates my sophomore year, one got a job with an insurance company and he had majored in chemistry, and the other one also a major in chemistry got a job driving the butcher wagon. But I hasten to add that the one who initially went to the insurance company became a top executive in Liberty Mutual in later years, and the fellow who started, majored in chemistry and started driving a butcher wagon, which used to tour around, deliver meats to people, he ended up as a top, I think a vice president in circulation for *Time* magazine, that was Archie Peabody, yeah. So, it varied.

ER: Now you mentioned that there were good professors. Were there any professors in particular that you remember as being really good or inspiring?

DS: Yes, I had a number I guess. My freshman year I had a math professor who was a wonderful nice guy, and a good teacher. His name was Professor Ramsville [***sic*** George Edwin Ramsdell]. He stands out. And there was an English teacher that I heard a lot about but never had a course from until my junior year I guess and is named Berkelman, Prof. [Robert George "Bobby"] Berkelman, and he was a great professor and really quite demanding. And then in my major field which was English, the head of the department was Professor or Dr. Edwin [Miner] Wright, and I took a number of courses from him and I got, had the privilege of being an honor student and working for, and doing an honor's thesis under his direction and spent my senior year really working on that closely reporting to him periodically, although I had to do all the work.

ER: What was the topic of your senior thesis?

DS: Oh, well, I wrote on Charles Dickens. I have the copy of this right here, and it was "Charles Dickens: a social reformer" and I particularly focused on his concern for reforms in the field of education and child labor and the way children were treated. But I spent my whole senior year on it. Bought a whole, all of Dickens' books and that's put, they're right there in the corner still, and I went all through those and made a card file of notes with references on everything that I thought would be useful on my thesis, and then read criticism, all the books in the library I could find on Dickens and then, on my Christmas vacation that year I went home to Hanover, Mass. and commuted to Boston every day to the Boston Public Library and found all kinds of references there and books that were not at the Bates library, and made notes and it

helped a great deal on some aspects of what I tried to do. And then on my April vacation that year, we didn't graduate until June, I spent the whole vacation writing and wrote most of it in that April vacation, in about two weeks. It was a steady drive, you know.

One other fortunate thing I might have, I guess should mention, that in those days all the senior honors theses were, there was some arrangement at the college to have some typist type them, from some office. And my typist was secretary to President [Clifton Daggett] Gray and she was in Roger Williams Hall where the office of the president was in those days, and she typed my whole thesis, which was a help. And happily I ended up as an honor student and I guess you have a record on that that I got a *magna cum laude*, and ended up also speaking on graduation on the theme of my thesis.

ER: Going back for a moment, when did you become, or decide that English was to be your major?

DS: Oh, I guess it was about maybe my sophomore year, late in my sophomore year. I don't know when I had, when a decision had to be made, because I had two alternative possibilities. One, I thought I might major in chemistry and biology because I thought of medicine as a possibility, a doctor. But I didn't like chemistry, and I didn't do as well in biology as I needed to I thought, so I sort of decided that the things that we had to work on and study for that were not for me. I was more interested in other things. I also got along pretty well in math and thought of majoring in math, but I guess I, I like reading and, books, and so I finally made the decision to major in English and it was sort of round about but it was a good idea I think to consider these other things as I did. And then I ended up with English, which worked out for me.

ER: Now, what were the common or popular social activities that went on at Bates when you were there?

DS: Well, I suppose, besides having a girlfriend and taking her for a walk or to the movies, I suppose the most common thing on campus was the Saturday night dance. And that was in Chase Hall with an orchestra made up of eight students usually, and they were surprisingly good, too. There was one fellow in my class that was the clarinet player and he was tops, and I think I had a letter from him a year or so ago and he's still playing the clarinet some band. But I think there was a great deal of focus on social activities and the dance, and individual relationships with girls that you liked, or fellows that girls liked, and sports. Well, a lot of students were interested in dramatics, they had plays, performances, and there were speakers that came to campus and, but somehow I remember my activities were often involved, or most involved probably in studies, sports, and *The Bates Student*, and then some related things that, there were off campus trips that, the outing club had trips, there were always something on weekends that the outing club was doing and, if you had time. I never got involved very much, went on a few things, but I think I was either in sports or studying so that I didn't do too much of that.

ER: Do you remember any of the outing club trips that you went on?

DS: Well, one I do. It was a mountain climb over in New Hampshire. Not a big mountain, but one of those that you could go up. This must have been early in the year, maybe September,

because most of the, several of the cross country team went and we didn't have any meet that day and what I remember about this is that we climbed the mountain, quite a group, and then the cross country guys said, "Let's run down." And so we ran down the mountain, which wasn't too tough to run down, it wasn't a giant mountain with cliffs. But we ran down and got there well ahead of the rest of them. Well, that was all well and good except for the fact that running downhill as fast as we did, and for quite a long distance, really affected us and we found that our legs were all lame and stiff the next day and the track coach, [C.] Ray Thompson, was appalled that we had gone out and done that sort of thing and thought we couldn't run in the race the next week, or we wouldn't do very well in the race next week. I've forgotten what happened, but I remember this episode. That was just one. I didn't go on many of those trips. I'm trying to think, I don't know of another but I remember that, that one.

ER: Now you mentioned earlier something, you were talking about relationships between boys and girls. Now they couldn't, they weren't, you weren't in the same dorm with the girls, were you?

DS: No, pretty far away. John Bertram was about as far as you could get from the girls who were over in Rand and in houses, and then we ate, the men ate in John Bertram, that was the, the dining room was on the first floor which I think now is all made up in rooms, and the girls ate in Rand Hall all the way across campus. And never the twain shall meet very often, for food. So every once in, once in a while they'd have some joint affair where you could eat with the women, but mostly you were separated for meals. So, that's the way it was at that point, yeah.

ER: Now, Ed Muskie was a classmate of yours. When did you first meet him and how well did you know him while you were at Bates?

DS: Well, I can't remember when I first met him. I do remember that he was in Roger Bill, in the corner room I think, or I don't know whether it was a corner room or not, but for some reason I remember, one of my memories is going over to see him, which I must have met him earlier and went over to have a visit with him and his roommate was a fellow named Charlie Taylor who didn't finish, graduate Bates, he transferred or left the college for whatever reason or another. No, I went over and got a little better acquainted with him, but he was in a different dorm than I was and so I didn't see him as often as you would if you were in the same dorm with him. And then my sophomore year I lived in Parker and my recollection is he was in Parker in the top floor. I think he roomed with a fellow named Joe Biernacki who was in my class and was a football player and if he roomed with him that year, why, I think he continued but I'm not sure that that was his roommate his second year.

But I never had a class with Muskie, in all of Bates years, it's surprising but I, he majored in government and politics and I took a couple of those courses but not as soon as he did. I was, I took the earlier course I guess, maybe my junior year or something like that. So I didn't see him on a regular basis like that, but I was always friendly with him. But he wasn't a pal in the sense that I was with him and lived near him and just run in and out because I was in Roger Bill later. And he studied, too, at, and then he got, well our freshman year we, my class elected an athlete and football player from Presque Isle I think it was as president of the class and I think it had something to do with he was a big guy and a great athlete and outstanding. But he was never

reelected again, and Ed Muskie was elected president of our class I think probably it was both our junior and senior year, and he stood out increasingly as he not only had a great academic record but socially he was very pleasant and liked very much by both men and women, and really began proving himself in those days because he had an excellent record scholastically. But I was not palling with him on any regular basis. I had occasion to be back in Maine after he was, he went to Cornell for his law degree and I went to Columbia and was working down in New Jersey after that, and he went back to Maine. I do remember some trip that I made to Maine I guess, since I had family in Bangor and went back up there once in a while, but I remember meeting him in Waterville. I think he was set up his office in Waterville as a lawyer. This was before he was into politics really. And we had a nice lunch and visit, and that was brief, but I didn't see him for very often in the following years, but we crossed paths once in a while. And I think he was in the Navy, too, and I think once I saw him in New York when he was in the Navy but I can't really recall that incident.

But he was, then he ran for governor and I wrote a piece for the, I was with the *New York Times* by that time. I had worked for the *Newark Evening News* previously, previous to the war and then after the war for a while until I went to the *Times*, but I think I was new, the year. Must have been around '52 but I'm not sure the year he was elected governor. But I remember writing a piece about Muskie, the guy I used to know in college for the *Times*. Not a long piece, just a reminiscent piece that they thought would be interesting to have. But he was a friend all through the years, but we didn't see each other too often.

ER: I'm going to stop the tape here because it needs to be flipped.

End of Side A, Tape One
Side B, Tape One

ER: Now I want to go back a little ways. When, why did you, why and when did you decide to go to Columbia after graduating from Bates?

DS: Well I had gotten interested in the newspaper field, I'd worked for *The Student* that whole period, and even before that in high school I'd written pieces, I'd written sports pieces, and sometimes for the local paper, and I was interested in the newspaper field and got more so, but decided that I really needed to get a better background in the newspaper field and decided to go to Columbia. It was I guess late my senior year and I applied and got admitted in the summer sometime, and one of my classmates, who was I guess the women's editor of *The Student*, Dorothy Staples, S-T-A-P-L-E-S, who later married another classmate, [Professor J.] Roger Freedland, one of my good, better friends at Bates, she also applied to Columbia and she also went down to Columbia Journalism the same year I did. And so she was there, she lived in a, she lived off campus with an aunt that lived in New York, and her boyfriend, Roger Freedland, went from Bates down to Princeton grad school and so he used to come up to visit her and stay with me in the dorm at Columbia. And the dorms at Columbia were big, but they didn't have, necessarily big rooms, I had a single room and a single bed and when he'd come up to New York, why, I'd take the mattress off the bed and put some newspapers on the springs and one of us would sleep on the springs and one on the mattress and he could go and see his girlfriend Dorothy who lived nearby with her aunt. So, does that answer that?

ER: Now, Columbia, that was just a year, is that correct?

DS: Yes, a year, a year for a master of science.

ER: And then after that what did you do?

DS: Well in, this, these were hard times for the country and jobs, and one of my memories certainly of Columbia was New York, and I was, since I had had this focus at Bates on some hard times and problems of people in England I was still interested in that and I used to prowl around in New York and see a lot of New York that some people wouldn't see. I would go to, went down to the East side and downtown, I remember a place called Rivington Street where a lot of the poor guys out of jobs and work lingered and there were little churches or places down there where someone could go and sleep, and I did some stories about some of them while I was at Columbia. But I was there just a year. What was your question though that you wanted there?

ER: What did you, you ended up, I understand you ended up working for the *Newark Evening News* after?

DS: Oh yes, well, what I was leading up to was that it was during my year at Columbia, sometime in late spring I guess, that the editor of the *Newark Evening News* came over at the invitation of the dean to, and gave a speech, a talk about the newspaper business and his paper. This was something that happened periodically, they'd invite prominent journalists or editors to come. Well, this was when I was thinking about where I might like to work and I had been up to the *Boston Globe*, and the *Worcester Telegram Gazette* during I guess my spring vacation.

But then I heard this speech and the *Newark News* sounded like quite a good paper to work for. It was the biggest, most respected paper in New Jersey at the time, and it no longer exists, it was sold and expired. But anyway, he impressed me with his talk at Columbia about the *Newark Evening News* and the operation over there, and out of the whole class I was the only one, I guess, that reacted that way. Anyway, I went over and asked for a job, and I had a nice visit with him and said that I was looking for a job, and he said he really didn't have any at that point, and didn't sound so good. Then he said, "Unless you want to be a copy boy or something." And I said, "Well I just got my, am about to get my master's degree and I've worked all this year with the idea I wanted to get a job writing and reporting." And so I said, "I don't really want to start as a copy boy." And so I left and went back to Columbia and I went in and talked to the dean about it and I said, "It looks like a good paper." And he said, "Yes, it's a good paper and would be a good place to work." He said, "Why don't you take that job if they have it."

So I went back, he agreed to see me again, I went back and he had a talk with me and I said I'd take a job as a copy boy if it was still available. And he said, "Well, go out and see the city editor out there." So I went out, he sent me out and introduced me to the city editor, his name was Art Sylvester, who later became a Washington correspondent for the paper, and I talked to him and maybe a couple of other people there. But then they said, "Okay, you can start right now." So I, I didn't have a chance to go back to Columbia, I started running copy around and doing little errands and so forth. But I wasn't through with Columbia, I had a couple of weeks

still. But they said, "Go to work." And so I said, "Okay." So I started at, I think my big salary was eighteen dollars a week. And so I went back to Columbia and told them I had a job, and I was one of the first students in the class to have a job like that and to be working at a big job. And so I commuted, I went to class and commuted back and forth to Newark so that at times when I could carry on the job in Newark, and it was near the end of the semester, and so I was, managed to get by at Columbia for the rest of the time.

But that's how I started, and I worked as a copy boy for about six weeks or so, and then they had a, some job in the women's department that they wanted somebody who could type and write something. And they moved me in the women's department and they had one of these columns of advice for people who write in letters, I had to answer some of those. And meanwhile I, there was a lunchroom there that we could go to and I had lunch up there and met various newspaper people from the office, and got acquainted with a fellow named Henry Coyd who was suburban editor at that point, and he seemed like a nice guy and he was very nice to me and seemed interested in me, and so I would see him periodically and by the, by September he said he had an opening for a reporter in the suburbs, and so I started reporting, working out of a Montclair office of the *News*, which had offices all over the state really, and had about ten reporters in that Montclair office, and I started out covering two towns, outlying towns. It was one named Caldwell, or West Caldwell and Caldwell Township, and Verona. I guess I didn't start with Verona, but the others. So I started covering police, every morning at police headquarters in these places, and I covered all the meetings of the town councils and the board of education and anything else that came along. And that's how I started, and went on with the *Newark News* from there and later became head of the Montclair bureau of the *News*, and then the war came along and I went into the Navy.

ER: How did you end up entering into the Navy during the war, how did that -?

DS: Well, with the war impending, and they were drafting men for the service right and left, so it was a question of whether you waited to be drafted or made a move yourself if you had a choice. And I thought that, this was all before the war, in the summer of '41, fall, summer and fall of '41 with things looking pretty grim. And so I applied for, I decided I'd like the Navy, preferred the Navy to being an Army guy, and so I applied for a commission which you could do in the Navy, and that is to be an officer. And I was, had interviews that seemed to be pointed toward Naval intelligence, with my background and their interest in it. So I had to be really checked out with a long investigation, because anybody going into Naval intelligence they wanted to be sure of his integrity and honesty and loyalty and all those things, and this involved a long investigation, which started in the fall. And Pearl Harbor came and I was, they hadn't finished this, and I can't remember the precise date, but I got a call from the Navy saying they weren't through my investigation but they wanted me to come to work in Naval intelligence right away. And so I said, "Well I'm not commissioned as an officer." Well, they said, "No, we want you to come." They were, this investigation was, had gone on but wasn't all done.

So I reported to the Navy over in New York, Naval intelligence, and started working in civilian clothes, and still without a commission. And they finished my investigation, I can't remember how long it was, one day they told me they would swear me in as a Naval officer and I was sworn in as a Naval officer and they told me to get a uniform, which I did. Then they told me I

couldn't wear the uniform while I was doing investigation work, so I was in the peculiar position, along with others there, of wearing a uniform in the evening but coming to work in a uniform and then changing into civvy clothes for doing investigation work throughout the day. Because we were investigating all kinds of things, whether it be prospective officers or people for important jobs, or some of the work was undercover work, concerned about possible spies and so forth. And there were some things, because we did some secret work, wire tapping and so forth. But anyway, I was sworn in and had to, that's all it, I had to do. I was in the Navy. And they said, "Wear the uniform at the evening and if people ask you what you do," they didn't want us to tell what we were doing, so I, they asked me what I did in the Navy and I said, "Oh, I worked downtown in an office and I count the ships coming up the harbor." Another guy across the desk counts those going out or something, and they'd know I was filling them with baloney, but that stopped my querying so I didn't have to answer too many questions.

But I did have the, one amusing thing, I was out at a subway stop and, in my civvies, on an investigation. A guy came up behind me, you know how you can come up and your knee, give your knees to him. And this was a fellow that I had formerly worked with at the *Newark News* who discovered me there and he thought I was in the Navy because I'd been reported to be in the Navy, and he said, "What the dickens are you doing here in your civvy clothes here now." Well, I had to explain with another little circuitous answer but I got caught, he's the only time I got caught by anybody I knew in my civvies after I was supposed to be, and was, wearing my Navy uniform at night and everything I did otherwise. Well, that's that part of it.

ER: Now, eventually you ended up on a ship in the Pacific. How did you go from working in an office to -?

DS: Well, I worked in the Naval intelligence in the city of New York, and then was transferred to an office in New Jersey where I did continue the same type of investigation. Did some students at Princeton, some of the applicants who went through Princeton, I had to contact Princeton professors and doctors and so forth about some of them. But then out of the blue I got orders to come to Washington and they had discovered my background, somebody had, in the newspaper field and writing, and they had a section in Bureau personnel which is located across the river from Washington in Virginia, and they wanted some writers. And I was one of them that they called, and I got orders to go to Washington and I was assigned writing manuals for enlisted men, training manuals, and I was assigned a couple of these to write. And they're quite a lot of work, I'll show you a couple of them downstairs. I wrote one on, let's see, one on, well I wrote two of these books, one on mechanics and one on airplane structures, and I had to go to the engineering section of the Navy in Washington and talk to some engineers about things and background and try to write these training manuals in a fairly understandable style that would be readable for enlisted men coming up and trying to get the background that they needed. So I wrote a couple of those.

But then I was at the Bureau of Naval Personnel and my friend Roger Freedland, who also went to Bates, and by that time was teaching at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, he'd been professor at Penn State and then been, got a job at Annapolis, but anyway he had gone into the Navy, he was a professor as a civilian there, but he had entered the Navy. And so he used to, he had some assignment in Washington during the week and he used to stay with me in my room there, he had

his wife and a baby who were over in Annapolis and he'd go back weekends. But anyway, we talked about what we were doing and there used to be a saying down there, it was, can't remember that, but if you stayed in Washington long enough, why, you developed a great bottom from sitting in a chair. And we decided that we didn't want to stay in Washington forever and through, and we both applied for, to go to a training school in Rhode Island in air combat intelligence, and Roger got into that earlier than I did because I was writing this book and I had to finish it. But he got in and went up to Rhode Island, and a couple of months later I did.

So I got out of this job in Washington and went up to Rhode Island for this training program up there on combat intelligence and I went a couple of months, and then there was another program that I went into after that for a period of six or eight weeks, and then I got assigned to go to Washington, or go to Norfolk, Virginia and I then had to go back to, and there I was assigned to a fighter squadron as a air combat intelligence officer for this fighter squadron. And the squadron was based in Atlantic City, the air base there, or just outside the city. So I was sent up there, and this was an air group just being formed and there were pilots coming in from various training programs, joining this squadron. And so we spent a few weeks there and then were assigned to come up for our summer of training at Sanford, Maine. And because I was a former Mainiac to a degree and knew something about this, why, I thought it would be good for guys if they were up at Sanford that they could maybe live off campus, so to speak, it might be fun. But anyway, they sent up, some of the pilots flew up and looked over the situation and we came up in June I think, this was '44, and spent the summer at Sanford. I was flying every day, and a lot of us, the married guys all lived up near Sanford on a lake someplace with their wives, they were still with their wives, and single guys rented houses down in Ogunquit. I had a house down there with four or five other guys, and we had a great summer because we had to be at the base every morning at seven and they'd fly, and I did my various things, briefing pilots and making sure they had all the information that they should. And then we had evenings and weekends were pretty good that summer because we knew that was going to be our last summer of that kind of activity.

So we were there all summer and then had a little break, and shipped out of San Diego in September and went to Pearl and then were assigned to go to Maui, the island of Maui where we spent all fall and the first part of the winter at Maui, all in training, flying every day. And then in, I guess it was late January or February we were assigned to ship at Pearl and gathered there, and we had a torpedo bombing squad that was part of our air group, and they'd been training, too, and we were joined at Maui and then went up and went aboard the Bataan and went out to the Pacific. And that's when we really got into the fray because that was a pretty tough period, the Okinawa Operation, all the trips up to Japan prior to the operation. And we lost, our skipper was shot down in the first operation up at, up off Kyushu in Japan, and we were, our ship was beside the Franklin which got clouted by bombs and Japanese planes and several hundred fellows killed on that, and the ship was practically destroyed but stayed afloat and was eventually able to get back. I have a, showed you a picture of that I guess. So then we were out there until the end of the war and were off Tokyo with planes in the air flying when we got the word that, flying to attack, when they had the final word that there was a peace, and went back.

ER: Now, were you flying, or were you on the ship?

DS: I was on the ship. My job was in briefing the pilots on all kinds of intelligence information that we had and, before they went out, and make sure that they had the right signals to use, and if anybody was in trouble to, how to take care of him. Try to keep them informed on everything we could, and then after they came back I had to interrogate them and ask them what happened. If they were shot at, or shot down somebody, report it. And so then I made voluminous notes, and then I had to write a report on every action that was taken, quite detailed report, everything you could get from interviewing the pilots on the way. And of course we were under attack periodically down there off Okinawa or when we were up in Japan, and had planes that missed us and hit some of the, we had carriers hit right beside us, and our carrier was a little smaller, we always said ours, they shot, tried to hit the big ones first. But one, I have one picture in that book that shows a plane just missing us, going into the water. So it was no field day during that period. But we had a good group, but we lost quite a few guys. But we still get together. I still have, just recently had a letter from Seattle from a guy in, was in the air group, who is arranging for our next reunion next fall in Seattle. I don't know if we'll go to this one, I've been to a whole bunch of them in the last fifteen years, or twenty years I guess, we've had reunions every year, every two years, yeah.

ER: So did you ever get to go up in a plane?

DS: Yes, oh, I've been, oh in training days I flew and, up at, off Tokyo after the war ended with our planes going in the next day, so our planes flew into, over Tokyo, and there were prison of war camps around in various places, and soon as they heard that there was peace, the prisoners anyway, I don't know how they learned, but some of these camps had big white markings on the roof they put in after they were allowed to, apparently, PW. Yeah, I flew with a, in a torpedo bomber and the planes that my group, my fighter group, were single, just for single pilots, but the torpedo planes had room for a gunnery officer and so forth and I went in one of those planes, took off from a carrier and flew over Tokyo and up north of Tokyo to a prisoner of war camp. I have a picture in that book of one of those with the guys out. And we flew over and dropped bags of various things that we thought they might need, I mean, cigarettes, and smokes and some food that we thought they could, might not have had, and a variety of maybe some Red Cross materials or something that, anything that we thought they might need at that point. And for two or three days there, our planes flew over and dropped these things at prisoner of war camps, but we were still on our ship. But our guys had been through a lot and so we were relieved within a couple of weeks and transferred to another ship, another carrier that was going back to the U.S.A. and we went back and landed in San Francisco by September I guess.

ER: So following the end of the war, did you go back to the *Newark Evening News*?

DS: Well I thought, I thought originally I might try something else so I had a pause after, see, I didn't get out of the Navy right away. After I got back and had a respite at home, I was sent to Florida and, a Naval air station down there. And I was still in, I couldn't get out of the Navy, and married guys got points and I wasn't married then, so I'd been in from the start but I didn't have enough points to get out right away. So I had to go down there and I spent, well I don't know, it must have been for, October to end of March I guess, so I spent that time down there in Florida. And then came back after I got out. By that time I was a lieutenant and one of my friends, Bill

Street, who was a lieutenant, he was down there with me, and he decided he'd like to be a lieutenant commander. And they, the time you served was what counted in those days, and he stayed in another month or so and became a lieutenant commander. And I was a lieutenant and I decided to get out and not become a lieutenant commander, but he became one. But I took a respite after I got home and had a little time, and then decided I would consider some other possibilities. And so I wrote letters and set up interviews in New York with various things that I thought I might be interested in, magazines and, but I always had the *Newark News* I could go back to. And all the guys in the Navy and Army were out looking for jobs and taking jobs, so it was very competitive. Anyway, I decided that I'd go back to the *News* and I never got anything else that was as promising as to go back there, and so I did; and stayed there until I went to the *New York Times*.

ER: How did that move come about?

DS: Well, after I went back to the *Newark News*, the dean at, or whatever, the assistant dean called me at Columbia and asked me if I would be interested in coming up there and teaching. They had a program up there where they had active newspaper people and radio and TV people that would teach a course in whatever their subject area was. And by the time he called, this was in 1950 I guess or so, I'd been covering a lot of labor and news things for the paper, working out of the main office after the war. And so he asked me if I would come over to Columbia and teach a course in reporting, and I agreed to do that and it became a one day thing, one day a week, and I could fit it into the *Times*, I worked on weekends and have a day off in the week so I could do it. So I did that for three or four years I guess.

And one of my colleagues there in this news reporting group was a city editor of the *New York Times*, a big rotund, red-faced guy, round, and very nice guy named Frank Adams. And so I worked with him some and we had the group working together and I talked a lot about labor reporting because I was doing labor reporting for the *Newark News* by that time. And then, I never asked him for a job, and he never asked me for any, about it. But then one day he called me up and said he'd like to have me come to work for the *Times*, and I gave it due consideration and talked to the editor of the *News* who said he would like to keep me and had a better job writing editorials there that maybe I could have. But I said I thought I'd go to the *Times*, so I did, left the *News*, resigned, and went to the *Times.* That was in '53.

ER: Now, you moved out to Michigan at some point. Was that right around -?

DS: What?

ER: You moved to Michigan at some point right around then?

DS: Well, I worked at, worked for the *Times* in New York covering labor, a lot of labor disputes at the time I went there, particularly in the, on the waterfront, some pretty wild times. And there were two or three of us covering things on that. And I covered that and other labor stories for a couple of years, from '53 I guess to '55. And then the *Times* asked me to go out and head the Detroit bureau of the *Times*, which meant being responsible for covering things through Michigan and Ohio and Indiana and other places they might send me. And, anyway, I took the

job and worked two years in New York and then went out there to Michigan in ‘55 and the family, we sold our house in Morristown, New Jersey and Shirley came out, I went out ahead and I was out there in January I guess, and then she came out in March. We bought a house out there and established ourselves in Michigan.

ER: And how long were you out there?

DS: We were out there for eight years. Came back ‘63 I guess.

ER: I’m going to stop the tape because it’s almost done.

End of Side B, Tape One
Side A, Tape Two

DS: . . . a lot of things happened in that thirty years that we relating to news and family and . . .

ER: This is Tape Two, this is May 19th, 2001, this is Tape Two of an interview I am doing, Erik Remsen, with Damon Stetson. When did, so you had been covering labor since you started being, reporting?

DS: No, my early days in the *Newark News* I covered town politics and any kind of news, crime, various kind of news. And that was all before the war, and after the war I worked in the copy desk at the *Newark News* for a period when I first went back, but then went back to reporting. And at that point began to cover labor. It was quite an active period in the, ‘46, ‘47, ‘48, ‘49 in the labor field with strikes and major negotiations and Walter Reuther active in Michigan in the auto industry, and problems in Pittsburgh with steel, and problems in New York with labor, so there was a lot going on at that period, and a lot in New Jersey, too. Had a major telephone strike in New Jersey that stopped all telephones for a while. That was a, that I covered, and strikes of longshoremen in New York that were kind of drastic in various ways. And so I got going in that field.

ER: Now was labor, was that interesting for you to cover, did you find that interesting to report on?

DS: Yes, it was one of the critical things that was going on in the country at the time was really during the period that I got into it and covered it for a long period. It had a serious effect on the nation and some individual situations, strikes and negotiations, had major impact on areas that they were in. For instance, the strike of the transportation industry in New York paralyzed New York, and you couldn’t get, when you can’t get to work in New York that’s tough for everybody. And there were strikes in garbage collectors, and that was one of New York’s great and sad problems when nobody picked up their garbage and bags piled up in piles on the streets and things like that. So, yeah, I was involved a long period there and a lot of negotiations. Now, of course I covered the negotiations leading up to these settlements or strikes, and I dealt with management as well as labor, I wasn’t just covering labor things, I was covering management’s role in the settlements that came. Like in these, some of these major auto negotiations in Detroit that I covered had a widespread effect on auto plants all over the country, and on the cost of cars

and all such things. So I was covering not just labor, I was covering management and their approach to these things.

ER: Is there any sort of connection between your thesis at Bates being on social reformation, and then covering labor in your later years?

DS: Well, it's hard to, for me to say absolutely that this thesis at Bates did. On the other hand as I look back and think back, the whole basis of my thesis at Bates was about working conditions and poverty and some possible solutions for some of the problems of society, and I'm sure that this must have had an impact on me, having spent a year of concentrated effort and study in that connection. But then, too, this was a period in United States history, in the history of industry and labor relations, where an awful lot was happening. And the AF of L, American Federation of Labor, had been in existence for a long time, but the Congress of Industrial Organizations came into being in the thirties and was headed at one point by Philip Murray of the steel workers, and later Reuther, and these were major developments in labor relations. So then of course the war came, and after the war there were all kinds of problems that grew up. Labor unions played quite a role through the late, well certainly from '36 on, but then through the forties and fifties and into the sixties. It seems to me that in some areas it's somewhat receded in recent years, especially amidst prosperity when workers as well as bosses are doing, have been doing well. But the period that I was covering labor was an especially exciting period and rather important and somewhat drastic period in labor management relations.

ER: Now, at some point you had a short stint covering, or following Ed Muskie during his vice presidential campaign. Can you just talk a bit about that?

DS: Well, I didn't cover politics as such on any regular basis for the *Times*, but inevitably over the years I covered a lot of political things. But when Muskie ran for governor of Maine and was elected, it was known at the *New York Times* that I had been a classmate of his and knew him, and at that point they asked me to write a sort of a reminiscent story about him as a guy that I had known. So I did that. Then in the campaign that he, when he ran for vice president, why, again, they recalled that I knew him and they, so they assigned me to take a long campaign trip with him and do some straight reporting stories, which I did.

And this trip, I don't know, as I recall it, I don't remember all the stops, but we went out to Chicago I think and the mid west, and then back south, and up into, I think into Boston and New England, and back into New York. I don't know all the stops, but my, it was a swing. And interestingly there was a Bates fellow who worked, had worked for the AP out of Portland that was on this trip, and his name I've forgotten but it's on the back of that picture that you have of Muskie and me and this fellow, who was covering for the AP.

And Betty Winston [Scott], who was a friend of Muskie's through the years, and also of Mrs. Muskie, and she traveled on this same trip and others with Mrs. Muskie as sort of a friend and helper with her. And of course I had known Ed through the years, although I hadn't had this intimate contact with him through the period when we were completely separated.

But, so we had this trip and I was a reporter on the trip as other reporters were, and we had our

picture taken with him there, someplace along the way. Somebody knew we were all Bates people and lined us up, and so that was an interesting thing to do and I enjoyed the trip. But I had to write just as objectively as ever. But I don't have a lot of those clips, but I had a few. I think I got a couple downstairs now that I can give you.

ER: Would you say he was still the same sort of person?

DS: What?

ER: Would you say that he was still the same sort of person that you had known when he was at Bates?

DS: Yeah, he was, he was, in my estimation he was friendly, and I thought went over pretty well with audiences. Of course a lot of them were sympathetic to him. Audiences are in campaigns that come to the candidate they like. But yeah, my relationship with him and his activities and behavior when I've been around has always been very good. And he had an episode there in that campaign [*sic*] [presidential campaign] when he was criticized up in New Hampshire for crying, and I can't believe that that was anything important but it became a symbol sometimes to people. But in my experience with him, why, I didn't have that, I wasn't on that episode.

ER: What was it like to be on the campaign trail at that time? Maybe not just with Muskie, but if you were on, if you covered any other campaigns, what was that experience like? Because I think maybe it's, it was different back then than perhaps it is, than it is now.

DS: Let's see, I got into politics periodically for, but was not doing it regularly. I remember, I just recalled, I recall, I helped cover the convention of the progressive party in, must have been '47 or '48 when Henry Wallace was running for president. And I remember covering, help covering the convention in I think it was Philadelphia, so that was one thing that I got in on.

And there would be incidental contacts with politicians at labor conventions and things that I covered, and they were always having a candidate that they were sympathetic to speak in labor conventions. Then I covered, while I was in Michigan, I covered a lot of politics there, local politics and state politics when Soapy Williams was governor. And the governor used to have a house that, a vacation house up in Mackinaw Island in northern Michigan, and so I would go up there sometimes for something political, where they had political meetings up there or other things. And I have, I'm not sure if I gave you a picture of one occasion up there when Harry Truman was up there. That was up at Mackinaw Island and the Democrats were having a convention, a gathering up there and Harry came up and spoke, and that was in the Soapy Williams days. I covered a lot of Michigan politics because they had some real problems financially in Michigan while I was there and so I spent a lot of time out in, out covering the legislature and some of the developments in that period when Michigan was sort of a focus of some of the problems of some states in the country. And so that was, I wasn't doing just labor when I was in Michigan, I was doing all kinds of things besides labor, and a lot of politics. I used to get down to Ohio and see the governor down there, whoever was governor at the time, and do stories down there. And traveled for a period with Senator [Birch Evan] Bayh [,Jr] from

Indiana when he was campaigning to be senator, traveled through Indiana with him.

And when Kennedy was getting ready to run for president, he came out to the Midwest when I was a correspondent in Detroit, and, to make one of these advance trips around before he was really nominated, and he had his own plane. And Bobby Kennedy was on this trip, he was, no, it was the present senator, Ted, Ted Kennedy was on this trip as sort of a handy man and I still remember, this was a relatively small plane with a group of maybe ten or twelve reporters along, and Kennedy and his, well Ted. Anyway, we went all over Ohio, we used to fly here, land, have a political meeting, Kennedy spoke, and we flew down into West Virginia and got out of the plane in West Virginia and traveled by car up into southeastern Ohio to Ohio University. Not Ohio State, but there's an Ohio University down in that corner, and for a speech. I remember riding in the front seat of a car with Ted Kennedy that he squeezed in, but he was the handy man then, trying to keep reporters happy and run the errands. And that was one occasion. And I traveled with Kennedy when he was, later when he was running for the, actually running for the nomination when he was campaigning in Wisconsin. And his wife [Jacqueline Kennedy] was along on this trip, and we flew up all around Wisconsin where he was campaigning and making speeches.

I still remember being up, this was in the winter, I still remember being up in some place in northern Wisconsin when time was such that I had to call the office and I got in a telephone booth where the snow was about two feet deep outside, and I had to struggle to get the door open. And I got in the telephone booth because I had to phone in by telephone, stories, and I got in the booth, but the bus that we were traveling with left me in the snow in this telephone booth while I was phoning. They were trying to get someplace on time, so there I was marooned out there. But some of the other newspaper men knew I was there and what I was doing and eventually somebody came and picked me up and I rejoined the group. But this was a trip through Wisconsin, and then we finally ended up in the capitol and had a pleasant evening, the reporters who had been on this trip, with the governor, what was his name, governor of Wisconsin, [Gaylord Anton Nelson] and he had Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy as guests and invited the newspaper group that had been traveling with him. So this was an evening when we could sort of fraternize with Kennedy, and one of the reporters I remember just wanted to talk to Mrs. Kennedy all the time. But, so these were some of the experiences completely away from labor reporting, and some of them were quite good.

ER: Speaking of experiences that, newspaper experiences that weren't related to labor unions or labor, one of the materials that you, one of the clippings that you have given me was on desegregation in the south, a large piece the *New York Times* did, and can you sort of, how did it come about that you ended up doing this project, and what was it like?

DS: Well, this was, this was in the years of, critical years about what was going to happen. And the *Times* decided to do a major reporting job on the situation around the south, and they had picked a whole group of reporters to do this with each of us covering about two states, and the national correspondent. I was called the national correspondent, national correspondent from the west coast came, and there was Jerry King who was, I guess he was out in the Iowa area someplace out there for the *Times,* and another fellow from San Francisco, Clad Hill from Los Angeles, and some reporters from the New York office, and, two I guess, or several from, who

reported from the south, Atlanta or someplace else. Anyway, this full group were assigned to do stories and assess the situation on what was going to happen after the, as far as desegregation of schools was concerned. And we met in New York and got a briefing, and then we went to Tennessee and got some more background information. And then we fanned out all over the south, each one, each of us had a couple of states that we went into. And my assignment was Arkansas and Texas, and so I went to, down to Little Rock, and there I had a curious experience because I was going all over the state and I talked to people, I talked to blacks and I talked to opposition people to desegregation and, but I wanted to talk to the governor and so I went to the State House and asked to see the governor and they worked it so I could have an interview with him. And so they, I went in to see the governor, and I have to say I've forgotten his name at the moment, anyway, I went in to see him and told him why I was in Arkansas and I wanted to check on his views in connection with desegregation and I sort of explained myself and leaned back for his response, and he said, "I don't want to talk about it." And I said, "Well, will you answer any questions?" "No." He wouldn't answer any questions and, just nothing. And I said, "Well, if I submit some questions to you would you consider responding in writing to some of those?" And he said he might. Well that was that episode, I'll have to get his name. I don't know why that's just gone from me.

Anyway, I went out about my job of reporting, traveled all over the state. I mean, I went out in the west in the farm country, plantation country along the Mississippi, and small towns down in the southern part of the state, and up in the northern by the University of Arkansas which is a completely different world from some of the other parts of the state. And I talked to Blacks and I talked to community leaders and ministers and school superintendents and everything. And I told the governor that I might come back to him if he answered some questions, and I was out for about a week and I checked periodically with the governor's office. Finally they told me that he would answer my questions that I had submitted, and set up a time for me to come back. And so I came back to the State House in Little Rock, went in to see him again. And when I went in this time, he had his whole cabinet sitting around, but he said he had answered my questions and gave me written answers to my various questions, and then he added, "And I've just given this to our local paper." Well, that was not cheerful news for me because I was working to write an extended piece that wasn't going to appear for three or four weeks. So I had that to face, so I, he didn't want to talk to me very, very much except that he'd answered these questions, so I retired to my hotel room and called the *Times* and said I had this and that he was giving it to the local paper and that I thought I'd better write on it. So I wrote a story for the *Times* right away and filed it so it would appear on the same day that this local paper was going to come out with it, and they published that story. But, then I went on and did the rest around Arkansas and then went to Texas and went all over Texas, too. I mean I traveled from the town nearest Arkansas, which I went into first, all the way out to the far west, some of the, couple of cities, Abilene and some others out there. You're familiar with that territory.

Well, then I went back to New York, we all went back to New York from, all the people who had been out, and wrote this set of stories which I think I gave you the set with my two stories on Arkansas and Texas and all the others, and I think I gave you, there was an ad wasn't there, showing the pictures of the people who did this, yeah. So you have that, and this is a bit of personal background on my experience on that, that was my experience with Orville [*sic*] [Orval], well Orville [*sic*] [Orval] was his first name, the governor's name. I don't know why

that name has left me so, it's a, I got the first name. I'll have to give you, look that up I guess. Well, it would show in, I guess it would show in that story. Orville, Orville, Orville [*sic*] [Orval Eugene Faubus] something. He was also the governor that, he was still governor when they had a major development in desegregation down there at the schools and, but I was there with him before this all happened. And that other I didn't cover, that was, I was up in Michigan I guess when that happened, that was a happening event down there where they, some of the blacks went to school down there and got kicked out. And I don't know details, I have to look up that, but it's not pertinent to my situation. Okay.

End of Interview