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## Dubord, Robert oral history interview

Andrea L'Hommedieu

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## **Interview with Robert Dubord by Andrea L' Hommedieu**

*Summary Sheet and Transcript*

### **Interviewee**

Dubord, Robert

### **Interviewer**

L'Hommedieu, Andrea

### **Date**

May 4, 1999

### **Place**

Waterville, Maine

### **ID Number**

MOH 085

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### **Biographical Note**

Robert "Bob" Dubord was born in Waterville, Maine on November 19, 1925. His father was an attorney and active in the Democratic Party. His mother was a housewife and pianist. His parents were Roman Catholics and attended St. Francis. Robert Dubord attended St. Francis School and then public school in Waterville. After high school, he attended Holy Cross for one year, then attended Ohio University and University of New Hampshire. Dubord joined the service during World War II. He then went to dental school. He practiced as a dentist for 48 years.

### **Scope and Content Note**

Interview includes discussions of: F. Harold Dubord's relationship with Ed Muskie; his parents' political backgrounds; Knights of Columbus; playing saxophone to save money in high school and college; China Lake; parental influences on Richard and Robert Dubord; the 1954 campaign; Waterville political and ethnic make-up in the 1930s; Colby's move from downtown to up on the hill; election between Joe Jabar and Spike Carey; fishing with Don Nicoll; qualities of Ed Muskie; Frank Coffin; Maine's progression from an extremely Republican state to more Democrat with Muskie and Coffin; and playing golf with Muskie.

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## Transcript

**Andrea L’Hommedieu:** . . . . an interview with Robert Dubord on May 4th, 1999 at his home in Waterville, Maine.

**Robert Dubord:** There’s nothing wrong with saying with saying “Dubord” (*Du ‘bord*) but we don’t say that around here. Sorry, I, let’s get that straight in the beginning: Dubord (*‘Du bord*). “Dubord” (*French pronunciation*) would be the correct way but nobody says that around here and we’ve been here all our lives and it’s: “Robert ‘Du bord”. And I get upset if somebody puts a capital “B” on the, in there, so I just want to square that away at the beginning, anyway.

**AL:** Okay, go ahead, and if you could state and spell your full name.

**RD:** Okay: Robert Paul Dubord, D-U-B-O-R-D. And I was born here in Waterville, 1925, November 19th.

**AL:** And what are the names of your parents?

**RD:** F. Harold Dubord and Blanche Letourneau Dubord.

**AL:** And how many children did they have, what are their names and . . . .?

**RD:** Three: my brother Richard, my sister Elisabeth, who was very proud to spell her name with an ‘s’ instead of a ‘z’ and there’s a reason. There’s a political reason for that, too.

**AL:** What’s that?

**RD:** Well, she was named after a, my father was on the Democratic National Committee for years and Miss Marbury from New York state, she was a wealthy socialite and that was the only, the way she spelled her name. And about that time I, my sister’s eight years younger than I am, so she’s twelve years younger than my brother. And I (*unintelligible word*), that was a good deal

for, beside the point I guess, but, (unintelligible word) somebody gave me a book about Elizabeth Arden and the name of the book was Elizabeth and Elisabeth, with a 'z' and an 's'. And she used to own property out here in Belgrade, Elizabeth Arden, and she called it Maine Chance Farm. And then she had her horses down in Kentucky and she had a so-called fat farm out here. And Miss Marbury used to come up there, also. But in the book it said that this Miss Marbury was well -known in New York State as the leader of the lesbian community. So I immediately called my sister and said, "You were named after a lesbian and I thought you'd like to know that right now before you go any farther." She says, "Thanks a lot." So anyway, that's beside the point. And, anyway.

**AL:** So you were the middle child.

**RD:** I was the middle child, yes. I give my sister hell for making me the middle child, but what are you going to do?

**AL:** Well, tell me a little bit more about your parents' occupations.

**RD:** My father was an attorney and he was the first lawyer that Governor Muskie put on the bench. As soon as a vacancy occurred he, I don't think there was any question in his mind that he wanted, he always used to refer to my father as one of his chief mentors and he put him on the Superior Court bench., Then he only kept him on there for about a year, promoted him to Supreme Court as soon as a vacancy occurred and he served on there in the, until he died. In fact he was active retired when he, he served on there I don't know how many years, but quite a few years.

And my mother was a housewife but she was a great piano player and she helped support my father during his college, University of Maine also had a law school and that's where, and the, I guess, he went to B.U. after. But anyway, she played the piano for the silent movies and we all used to make her do that all the time, there was cowboy music and Indian music, "Here come the Indians". You know, they had a, a thing that would say what kind of music they wanted; they'd send a score with a lot of these things. She was a great piano player, and she enjoyed playing that and we enjoyed listening to it, too.

**AL:** What were your parents' religious beliefs?

**RD:** They were Roman Catholics. And they did practice their religion in, we were in a, at that time there was three or four parishes here in town and we were in one of the Franco ones, St. Francis De Sales. And that's, anyway that's we, that's where I went to school, St. Francis School and then I went to public school after that, but, nothing.

**AL:** When you grew up, going to school in Waterville, did you speak French in school or at home?

**RD:** Occasionally. I can still speak French but not too well, but I really have no problem with, I'm fluent in French. But, you know, if you get out of the habit of any language you just, certain words you know you don't, don't fit in there too well.

**AL:** What were your parents' political and social attitudes?

**RD:** My father was very liberal and it seems that, it was always funny the way my father could never understand how my brother could be so friendly with Bob Marden. I mean, not that he was against him, but my father's generation was, you know, if you were a Democrat you didn't socialize with the Republicans either. At the end of the day, any activities you kind of cliqued up and stayed with the Democrats.

And he was very much for the underdogs. But he, about the only time that anything religious came up was the school bus issue for transporting parochial school students. Never had any trouble in Waterville because they just, "Well, get on the bus, we'll take you home." Buses were running around the same areas and the parochial kids would get on and get off the bus, until somebody in Augusta decided that they didn't like that. And there's a group of people that, (I still have that, I still have that somewhere in the house here), the guy's name was Squires I think and he had a, it wasn't the Squire from Waterville, it was somebody who appeared (unintelligible phrase), brought some kind of a suit against Waterville for transporting the students. And it went to the Supreme Court and they resolved something; they got some kind of a compromise there. But he was quite proud of that, I guess. He wasn't, he didn't wear his religion on his sleeve or anything like that but he wasn't about to let that pass, because he felt that the issue of safety of the children was more important than what church they went to, as far as them getting to school.

But there's still people who don't, who [do] get upset if they take a bit of public money and give it to a private school, whether it be a parochial school or a Montessori school or something like that, you know. And that was about the only, he was a very busy attorney and he had an office right downtown here. And at one time he had, my grandfather was an old-time lawyer that had studied for the bar and in those days they could, you know, apprentice. And, he's up on the wall right there, on the right hand side. That's my mother's family; and you asked about Gene Letourneau, that's him in the front. He just died last year; he was eighty years old, or ninety, (unintelligible word), so. But my grandfather had an office in, small office off my father's office in down town Waterville.

And then when my brother and Bob Marden formed their partnership, I think that was 1964 if I'm not wrong, and he, he had an office over there but he was just "of counsel", he wasn't active then; he was still on, he was on the bench, just like Bob Marden's father was on the bench, too. But they had quite a powerhouse law firm because they had Catholics and Protestants and Republicans and Democrats in their firm there that, the leading, the two leading banks in town as clients, so. And they, it made a power house firm.

**AL:** Now, was your mother politically involved at all?

**RD:** Yeah, she had a, I remember one thing she did and I don't know exactly how it was but, she had a project of a "Mile of Dimes", or something like that. She had people sending in, President Roosevelt's third term I think, campaign, and she headed up this thing and raised quite a bit of money for President Roosevelt's reelection. And she enjoyed going to all the conventions with him. We had the Democratic National Committee, there was no, no one

making any money but you get, I'm sure they must have gotten travel money and stuff like that. But she went to most of the conventions with him.

**AL:** Were politics ever discussed at the dinner table when you were growing up?

**RD:** Not particularly. My father was, as I said he was so, such a staunch Democrat that he had, he'd, he'd say stuff like, you know, if we ever had an election where the Republicans won an overwhelming victory or something, he'd say, "Well, it serves them right, there'll be a lot of bankruptcies and and that will all be money for lawyers," you know, how, he had a lot of bankruptcy cases. He got more mellow as he got older, but basically he was a, you know, always saw the Democratic side of it.

And he was fun to talk to when he, you know, all these people would come up to . . . . In those days political rallies were, there wasn't any television so they'd have a rally. And they'd try to get a celebrity, like they had Gene Tunney came out to Smithfield at the grange hall or whatever it was. And they had a field day out there, and he was just through being heavyweight champion and it was, we got some great pictures of Governor Brann and Gene Tunney and Jim Farley. And he had that, my father had this copy of a letter on the wall, a framed letter from Jim Farley predicting that Roosevelt would win all but Maine and Vermont. He had it, it was dated and had the, he was correct, those were the only two states that [Alfred M.] Landon carried. But we didn't get in any big political discussions at the table, or anything like that (unintelligible phrase). But, no, there's no question to where his heart lay, you know.

**AL:** What were your parents' relationships with different groups in the community, ethnic and economic and family?

**RD:** Well, nothing unusual there I don't think. My father was in the, a number of civic organizations. And I think he was in Knights of Columbus, although I don't think he ever went, but, and you know, they used to usually get into all these things. As I said, you know, I can't think of anything specific there.

**AL:** Well how do you feel that your family affected you as you grew up?

**RD:** Well, I knew that, I got pretty liberal myself, you know, and as you get older they say, "You get less liberal and more ugly," I guess, or something, I don't know. But I'm still liberal and there was lots of good family influences. I wasn't a renegade, I didn't do anything; I just stayed with the closely straight and narrow as far as I know.

**AL:** What were some of the other influences on you growing up, other than your parents? Did the schools you went to, or your friends or other adults in the community that you connected with influence you at all, do you feel?

**RD:** Well in some ways. Like when it came to go to college my father had been to Colby, had graduated from Colby. But I had, just because you're in your home town, you know, you just don't feel like going to, you've got to go somewhere else, you know? My brother had been to Holy Cross and I got a chance to go so I went. But I only went there for a year because I got into

these Army programs and I transferred to other schools. But I can't think of any, you know, in college it was war time, and so everything was, well, you didn't have much time for socializing.

I mean, I got, this almost probably sounds like I'm, I'm not bragging but the time that I (*unintelligible phrase*), I graduated from high school in June of '43 but I'd already left. They let us go to college in February to try to get more time before you got drafted., If you were in good standing and it wasn't hard, (*unintelligible word*) that if your folks could afford to send you to college in those days, you went. You didn't have to take SATs and all this stuff and I, as I said, I got five semesters of college, and I'll explain that, and from February of '43 to October '44 I had five semesters of college and no vacation essentially.

And I went into the service then, then I came out of the service and went to dental school, and I was, for a few days there, in dental school, I was eighteen years old. Then I became nineteen in about a month, then I graduated from the in the accelerated program also. I did three and a half years instead of four, so I graduated in February of '48 from dental school. And, but I wasn't the youngest one in my class; there were probably a dozen younger than I, so that was not unusual. Some of the semesters that the Army sent you to were only twelve weeks. I went to a Holy Cross semester; that was normal at the time, that's sixteen-week semesters. I went to Ohio University and University of New Hampshire and then down to dental school. But I got enough credits to get in; I made it somehow.

**AL:** And you became a dentist and that was your profession?

**BD:** Yeah, yeah, practiced for forty-eight years, and a couple years in the Air Force. I'd been in the Army in, during WWII; was just there for a short time.

**AL:** Now, your brother Dick chose law as a career and you chose dentistry. What led you to different career directions?

**BD:** I really don't know. I do remember that, you know . . . . Nowadays there's so many . . . . Every kid's got a mouth full of braces on them. But it was unusual in those days. It would've been the orthodontist to begin with. And my brother didn't have his teeth straightened, my mother was a fanatic about teeth, and she had took me to the orthodontist. I never did get finished because I went off to college and the guy took my braces off and they weren't done yet. But I, I mean I was better than I was. But that got me interested in dentistry.

But when I got to, into dentistry, being an orthodontist didn't appeal to me at all. But that's where the bread is, where the, you know, I'm satisfied to be in general practice. No, I had, my brother and I both graduated from professional school about the same time. I was out before; of course he got, he was in the service for a long time, was over in the China-Burma-India theater. And he, he already, yeah, that's right, he graduated and then I graduated from dental school about the same time he graduated from law school.

**AL:** Could you give me some recollections of your family?

**BD:** Yeah, I'm thinking now, you were talking about, you want to hear about, did we have any



family problems growing up, or? I don't really know about that, but we used to say, you know, we, see we lived right down here not too far, across the river from about this same direction right here. And we always used to joke, I've always made jokes about us, I said we were "the first Frenchmen to live north of Remington Street". Remington Street's about where the police academy is, it's in that area and mostly, you know, the Franco-Americans end up living, so-called, "down on the plains". And it was always said disparagingly, you know: "Oh my God, that girl comes from down on the plains", and, you know, "trash".

And some of the Francos lived up at on the north end, going towards Fairfield but most of them concentrated down on the plains. They called it that because the terrain was flat, after you get out, go by the downtown and you go down that old hill, everything's flat down, going all the way down to the city sewage district down there. And then the, it's a lot of houses close together and some of it so-called "company houses" put up by the, you know, industries.

I have to say something. One of my own sons who's an attorney now, I said, he says to me, one day he comes home from school he says, "Some dumb Frenchman from down on the plains . . . . " And I said "Hey," I said, "we came from so far down the plains," I said. And I told him where we came from and he knew that but he just forgot. I says, "Don't call somebody a dumb Frenchman from down on the plains because we lived beyond Grove Street." Which is down by the cemetery, you know where the cemetery is here? Well, it's just beyond that and the old Dubord house, it's still there. My uncle sold it a few years ago but, and he's since died, but that's where most of us lived.

And my jokes about living on Bailey Street, you know, that was a so-called ritzy neighborhood and the Laverdieres moved there, too; Laverdiere's Drug Store. And I always used to say we were the first ones to live north of Remington Street, closely followed by the Laverdieres. And it was a good street to live on, to grow up. My brother going away, he went away to college and when I was in, I was four years younger so I was still, like in ninth grade or whatever, eighth grade when he went off. And so I didn't spend too much time with him in that age span because he was . . . . Oh, we both played in dance bands around here. He was a good musician and he's kept up his music. He played with Bob Marden and those guys, they had a little Dixieland band.

**AL:** Oh, did they?

**BD:** Yeah, and they were called "The Elders", and there was a, they were a lot of fun to listen to and they played a lot of benefit stuff for . . . . Bob's had a stroke too and he can't, I had a stroke last year but, he can't use his trombone any more, and he was really good at it. And Bob was just a couple years behind me in high school, well, he's almost as old as I am, but.

I, (*unintelligible phrase*) having an older brother in the, in show business. I can remember one night when my, I was in dental school. We drove all the way from Smithsfield to South China and this guy, the guy that ran the band, he wasn't a musician himself but he was a conniving guy. He was all right, but, Danny Danforth, and he gave me a dollar, you know, and that was a lot of money then. He'd say "Did a good job tonight kid, we'll let you sit in some more with us." But it got so pretty soon I was doing my share and we came back from, we'd gone to a USO dance in Bath and my brother was a senior in college then and we're driving back and he says, "Did he

pay you tonight?" And I says, "Yeah, he gave me a dollar." He says, "You dumb shit." He'd spoke to him and said, "Start paying my brother same as everybody else or I'm quitting." And he needed him because he was the lead tenor sax player. And so that was an advantage of having a brother that could watch over you. Because, it's only piddling money now but it was really good money then.

They'd play these dances out in South China, the lake, you know, and downtown here at the Union Hall and, it was, it was fun. And when I got to college I got in a dance band down there because I was still, the people there they knew my brother and they took me in there. I was just a, played fourth sax, third alto or fourth tenor, whatever, but it was, you know, it was good. Make a little money.

**AL:** Did you, I know a lot of people in this area had camps on the lake. Did your family have a camp?

**BD:** Yeah, Smithfield.

**AL:** In Smithfield?

**BD:** North Pond.

**AL:** Did you continue as you were older to go have . . . .

**BD:** I did up to a point. Then they went out to China Lake which is easier to get to. It's only eight miles up to China, or ten, as opposed to fifteen, not that that's a big difference. Most everybody in town here owns or goes to a summer home somewhere. And it's not, you don't have to be a professional to own a summer home because a lot of people, you know, get up there. And my son lives year round on Three Mile Pond. That's out towards Route 3 going towards Augusta.

**AL:** Ed Muskie had a camp on China Lake as well.

**BD:** Yeah, yeah, that was a good lake, still is. And it's still got fish in it too. We had, it was just like everything else that, a lot of lakes. I mean, my folks, as part of this "keeping it in the neighborhood", they lived down on Gray Street here in Waterville, which is just an ordinary street down on the plains. And my grandfather had built a house there I guess, my mother's parents. And out to Smithfield the same people had a camp next door that lived next door on Gray Street, the Poulins. Judge Poulin was a municipal court judge here in Waterville, and he's dead now also. And they played poker every, two, three times a week. I grew up learning how to play poker and learning how to say, "Mix me a drink." But we played poker and everybody in the family has got, but within the families they'd get mad at each other you know. "I'm behind; I'm fifteen dollars behind", you know.

**AL:** Could you tell me a little bit more about your father Harold's role in the Democratic Party?

**BD:** Well he's an elder statesman. He ran for everything and we'd think he was going to win

because, you know, he'd just talk to people and people would come up and say, he'd be standing with someone and they'd say, "Look real good, Harold." And you know, go up to the Albert Hotel here in town which has been torn down years ago, and . . . , He was running for governor and everybody, all these people, well wishers would say, "You're going to win." And, he made some inroads but, election night people were coming over, and the people would come up to me and say, "Oh, you're going to be in the Blaine House," and "You'll be going to school down there" and all that stuff. Well, about ten o'clock those first returns would come in and they'd just stand there with blackboards and everything . . . . First returns, they, "Dubord ten thousand, Barrows twenty thousand." You know it was just (*unintelligible phrase*) and then somebody'd say, "You're going home now, it's time for you to go to bed, you've got to go to school in the morning."

And, oh I got used to that, the, there were a lot of, he had a lot of political power for helping other people but not for himself. And it was, took Muskie to get him on the bench. And one time he thought he was going to get a District Court judgeship but he didn't get it. And Severin Beliveau explained that to me not too long ago. And I'd never met Severin as a matter of fact, but he was at Ruth Joseph's house. And he has a story, I didn't argue with him but I, why his father got named, and my father didn't and all that stuff. But anyway, they both ended up on the Supreme Court so they both got their wishes , anyway, but not at the same time.

**AL:** Severin's father was Albert Beliveau, right?

**BD:** Yeah, right, yeah. I saw a picture of, uh, him in the sports section during the basketball season shortly after I'd met Severin, and it was a basketball picture from the KJ [Kennebec Journal] showing this guy getting a rebound. And his face really was, Connor Beliveau, and I'm pretty sure it had to be his son because he looked just like him and, he's tall, and his first name was Connor, Connor Beliveau. And I think Severin's wife is Irish, I'm not sure so, but he plays for one of those schools there, you know, between Waterville, Augusta, and Winthrop, I forget, you know, whatever those towns are.

His other son goes to Colby, I think, or one of his sons, Beliveau's sons. I didn't go to Colby; I was, that I, you asked me about growing up around here, sometimes I used to think, "Well it would have been nice to have gone to Colby to (*unintelligible phrase*)." I never got, and I'm not bitter about this but I never got, practically never got any clients or patients come down from Colby or sent to me from Colby. They were sent to their own alumni which is, hmmm, alright. Did you go to Farmington, or?

**AL:** To college?

**BD:** Yes.

**AL:** University of Maine Orono, and then graduate school in Kentucky.

**BD:** Where?

**AL:** University of Kentucky, Lexington.

**BD:** Yeah, I went to, what the hell's the name of the stables there, the, they're junior league and they're, anyway. And there, there's that horse show. My daughter went to the University of Kentucky for one semester. She's a dental hygienist in Boston, or in New Hampshire. But she thought she might want to go on to dental school. And she went to one semester; after getting out of dental hygiene school she went to Lexington. I drove her down there. Beautiful place. What the hell's the name of that . . . ?

**AL:** The Kentucky Derby?

**BD:** No the other, the Green, I don't know, it doesn't matter. But it was fun, it was a nice place.

**AL:** What do you feel that your, was your father's biggest influence on you and Dick?

**BD:** Well, he set a good example. He wasn't a great one for giving lectures to us or anything like that. And I think my brother was more apt to get in trouble than I was. Makes me sound like a goody two-shoes, but I didn't get into any trouble. Got thrown out of the band once, my senior year. But that was only a sus-, I was only suspended for one week; that was just some foolishness. I was president of the band and I, we'd lost a football game and I didn't want to march back. I said, "Let's get out of here." And then the band director, he got us on Monday in Hyde's High School and suspended all of us. Bob Marden was one of them, I was, and we felt like, we felt like delinquents, you know. What else have you got here?

**AL:** How was your mother an influence on you and Dick?

**BD:** Well, she just made sure we stayed on the straight and narrow I guess, I don't know.

**AL:** Can you talk to me a little bit more about your brother Dick's relationship with his law partner Robert Marden?

**BD:** They, when they formed that new partnership, of course I was, it was a little confusing for me, but I never got too worried about it and it's worked out well. They put all kinds of stuff into that building; my father and brother and I bought the building. And I, I had a little office downtown and they didn't. And they had a chance to buy this building and it needed a lot of work. And we never put anything on paper, you know. So about three or four years ago they finally, we got it together. It took me a long time to get it straightened out; had a value put on it and then they paid me off. I've got a couple more years to be paid off; you have monthly payments which is, it's a good deal. But they, nobody in my, they didn't put any money in my office yet, (*unintelligible phrase*). It's going to be a national shrine.

It was a good place but they, he and Bob, I don't know how often they saw each other but they had real good relations. And Al Bernier wanting to get, Al Bernier started in with my father and my brother back at the old office on Main Street downtown. And Al is retired now; he was a former mayor here. You almost had to be a mayor if you wanted to work for (*name*) because Don Marden's been mayor and Bruce Chandler was, he's long since gone but; my brother and Al Bernier. David Bernier had been mayor and Don Marden has been; Don Marden has been

mayor. I'm the only black sheep down there. But you know, I used to tell people, when they'd say, "Are you in that building with them lawyers?" "Yes", I said, "I'm the only one earning an honest living in there." I enjoyed being there.

**AL:** Were you friends with Bob and Scoop Marden too?

**BD:** Oh yeah, yeah.

**AL:** You mentioned you were in the band with them in school.

**BD:** Well, you know, high school, two years difference is a lot, but yes I knew them well. And we used to, we had a little band and we'd practice over at . . . Mrs. Marden was awfully good to us; we must have driven her crazy at times, let us rehearse in her house.

**AL:** Can you tell me a little bit about your brother's personality, kind of give me a description?

**BD:** Yeah, he's, of course he really was outgoing when he wanted to be. But we'd go somewhere and if he didn't feel like socializing tonight, he'd pick a corner and walk over with a magazine and sit on that chair. And, having a, everybody's carousing or having a good time and if he didn't feel like talking, he didn't talk. But we got Fred Petra, I don't know if you know who Fred is.

**AL:** How do, what's the last name?

**BD:** P-E-T-R-A. He didn't particularly know Muskie, you know, but he was a real good musician here in town, but, an insurance executive and he's retired from music, but) he could have gone off and been a professional musician. But he, they were having a cocktail party out in the country club and we got this invitation, you know, to attend. It was pretty fancy. We got a printed invitation that says, "Floor show," (*unintelligible phrase*). And I said, "I wonder what that's all about?" Well he called me up and, Carl Williams said, "What don't you and your brother do a bit?" I said, "What do you mean, 'do a bit'?" I says, "We're not stand up comics." "You'll come up with something," he says. And we did, we had a good time.

I couldn't get together with him. Even though he was right on top of my office, downstairs under me, I couldn't . . . I dreamed up a, two or three set jokes and I had a theme, it was interviews with well-known people of our time. And it was, it was the, I decided he was going to be a, I forget the first name (*unintelligible word*) but, Stalin, Ralph Stalin (*unintelligible phrase*) interviewed him (*unintelligible phrase*). But I didn't get to see him until that very afternoon of the cocktail party. I went out to his camp and he was down working on the boat or something. I said, "Jeez you were supposed to . . .," I said. "I haven't had time to," he says. "What are we going to do? And I said, oh, we're going to do this and that and that. I just said, "We're going to interview you and . . .," okay. He was great at winging it, you know? I mean, I, that night they had a big crowd out there and we didn't have a microphone. But, it was going good when I could see that I forgot some of the very important things. And he was doing this pseudo Russian accent; he says, "What about Bob Marden and the Eagle Scouts?" I thought, "Ooh, God." That was one of my (*unintelligible phrase*), there were so many set gags and, but he remembered it

and I didn't, you know. But if he could, I could get him goin', I could just sit back.

But I, he needed me because I, for ideas, I could come up with stuff. And we've done that more than once and, maybe about, most of the time just a . . . . That was the only time that we were, it was planned. Other times someone would say, we'd be at a cocktail party New Year's Eve or something and it would dwindle down to just a few couples left and they would say to these other people, "You shouldn't have left when you did because the Dubord boys really started acting out." And then, you know, you had to get them going, you know. He was a pretty good singer too, I mean they were mostly to be a club (*unintelligible word*) singer you know, in the great . . . ., He did great Louis Armstrong imitations. And, so, oh yeah, that's something I was going to tell you about. (*Unintelligible phrase*).

Far as Ed and Jane and their family, I didn't really chum around with them too much. But he, like he'd go over at night when the, gave him, had a ride home from the Lion's Club one night. And he was running for governor then, and he come up to me and he asked me, "Would you just ride down the street?" He asked me about fluoridation and I gave him a real good rundown on it. He wanted to know about it because he was afraid it was going to be coming up in the . . . . He'd already been, had some, oh, he'd already been elected then and it was between the election and the inauguration. And we just sat in my car outside my apartment down there and I bent his ear about it. I felt that I was doing a good job explaining it to him, where he was going to be the governor and all that stuff. And then he wanted to get his ear bent by Gus Garcelon who was a Republican dentist, a very good dentist from Augusta. But, used to drive me up, he used to, whichever way the wind was blowing he'd go for it.

I get mad even now, thinking of Gus Garcelon and the National Rifle Association. He was a vice president of the National organization; subsequently he became president of the National Rifle Association. And I've never forgotten that, there was another guy there with me, another dentist from Bangor, he says, "I saw that too." When JFK got assassinated – this flashback: We were staying at the Jefferson Hotel, which is Martin's Manor (*name*) and he was bemoaning. He says, "The only way we're going to get rid of that son-of-a-bitch is for somebody to shoot him." And I've never forgotten that. But you can't just come out and say something like that because, somebody would say, "You're besmirching his memory." But, he was a good guy, and a very excellent dentist, but he would, which ever way would suit him he would go, he'd go along with that.

And, Waterville politics was always fun. I hope they don't change any- . . . . They had a meeting the other day, I didn't go to it, but, about, regards the city charter. But you know, you could go to these caucuses. One morning my brother called me up, he says, "Get down to Ward seven in a hurry." I was living in ward seven at that time, down in south end. He says, "They're having trouble with . . . .", And I said, "Who?" He says, "Well, I see Uncle Carl down there.", (Carl Dubord),. And I says, "Well, who's on the, what faction?" It's a Democratic fight, you know. And I walked in there and (*unintelligible word*) there was, I stood with (*unintelligible word*) this guy and he, turned out he was a turncoat. I didn't know it, you know, but, I come out all right but.

Because you could in those days, if you got enough people to go to a caucus you could change

the whole thing around; still can do that. That's the trouble with this ward three that we live in here now, goes up to Colby. If they wanted to come down here and bring enough people down and register them, they . . . laws on registration are too liberal as far as I'm concerned. My wife, my wife is, for many years was chairman of the board of voter registration here. And they used to tick her off when they'd come down from Colby and say they wanted to vote. And she'd say, "Well, didn't you think of registering back in Marblehead?" Or whatever. They said, "No." And they would be all arrogant, and she'd come in and say, "I'm so goddamn mad at those Colby kids." And they were basically liberal but they wanted people to wait out on them you know?

I can't think of anything else. You asked about my uncle Gene [Letourneau]; well, he's had a, he had enough honors the last year, last two years before he died. He lived to be ninety years old and in pretty good health until the last few months. And he was a, he was the youngest in that family and my mother was the oldest. And he, hunted and he fished, (they're the world's greatest occupations, fishing and hunting), and wrote about it.

**AL:** I'm going to stop right there so I can turn the tape over.

*End of Side One*  
*Side Two*

**AL:** We are now on side B of the interview with Bob Dubord on May 4th, 1999 at his home in Waterville, Maine. You were just talking about your uncle, Gene Letourneau. Could you tell me a little more about his career?

**BD:** Yeah, he was a favorite of Mr. Gannett who started the Gannett newspapers up here and he told him he could write about hunting and fishing. And he said, he used to say he had the easiest job in the world because people would write him letters or call him up and give him in five minutes, give him enough material for two or three columns. And, but he was also the night editor.

Oh, he was a real news man. I remember the night, the night that, the best story about him that I know of, as far as being a news man, was when Governor Clauson died suddenly. And Gene came back from one of his . . . Incidentally, this used to get my sister-in-law upset because my brother and I would call our uncles by their first name, it was the family tradition. And Gene came back from 'coon hunting or something which they do in the middle of the night, and he came into the *Sentinel* office and somebody said, "You know, Gene, Governor Clauson has died." And he says, "What?" They showed him the teletype of it. They said, "What are we going to do?" It was, the paper was already, some of it had already been printed. And Gene says, "Well we've got to make the paper over." And he was just the night editor. Matter of fact he wasn't even night editor then, he was just that special sports writer. And the guy says, one of the guys says, "We can't do that," he says, "It'll cost too much money." And Gene says, "If you're worried about it," he says, "you put it on my bill." And they were the only newspaper in Maine that had the story of Governor Clauson dying. The other papers got it the next day and he had enough, they had enough material in their morgue to, you know, make up a . . . But he, that's a, he just took over the thing.

And he always had his camera with him; took a picture of a fire coming back from another 'coon hunting deal, up in Solon. He found a farmhouse ablaze and he got a great picture of that, and in fact he got some kind of an award for that. His wife Lucille worked for my father as a legal secretary for quite a few years. And Russ's, his son Fred, named after my grandfather Alfred, is, just retired last month after a long career as an ob/gyn, and much beloved. He hated to retire but they told him he should and he did, he has retired. He lives out in Sydney; he's a great piano player. So there's plenty of piano players in the family.

**AL:** The musical talent continues.

**BD:** Yeah, yeah. They had another sister Jean Ann, Aunt Julie, Julie Dupont, she lives here in town. She's alright, but there's nothing special pertaining to this.

**AL:** Do you remember the '54 campaign at all?

**BD:** Oh yes.

**AL:** Could you tell me about it? What was it like, what did people do, what were the little things that people did around town to kind of organize and support Ed Muskie's campaign?

**BD:** I don't know but television came in at that time. And that, I'm glad you said that because I told this to Ed, oh years ago. He was on television and apparently they had run out of, they had used up all the time, no, they still, they used up all the material but they had time left. And somebody just told him the "wing it" sign and he started talking about his philosophy of government and that people should come out to vote and so forth. And he was down at a studio in Poland Spring and I told him, "You know Ed, that night you talked? If you would have asked me, asked us, get your shoes off and walk barefoot to Poland Springs, I would have." He really was a great communicator and the only ones I ever felt that way about were Adlai Stevenson and Mario Cuomo and Ed Muskie. They really, those guys can really, television was, they were made for television those guys. Unreal.

**AL:** So you think he had a great advantage that television was there when he came on the scene?

**BD:** Oh yeah, absolutely.

**AL:** What were your father's and your brother's roles in that campaign?

**BD:** My father was dead; nothing to do with it. He was, by that time, my father, let's see, '64, my father died in '64 so he did get to see the triumphs but he didn't, he wasn't around that long. And, but my brother went around with Ed and to these, and he showed me one time that, on the . . . That was when he was running for Vice President; that was interesting. They'd get on a plane and then somebody would pass him this thing they have to read. They have an hour; they're going to land in Cincinnati or something like that. They'd say, "Now when you get off the plane", It was all spelled out, it was a, "you will be greeted by Fred Smith, Charlie Brown and



Mabel Newman; now you can greet Mabel and Fred but keep away from the other guy. Just give him, because he's under indictment right now." And it had all that stuff so they wouldn't suck up to the wrong person. It was fascinating how they had that all organized. Especially nowadays, they dig up so much dirt on anybody because, because they'd probably say, "Oh, Muskie embraces Charlie Brown," you know, or whatever, someone that's not well-liked. And, but he did that. I can't think of anything specific other than that.

**AL:** What do you see the trend in politics going towards from that time period to this one?

**BD:** Well, I sort of think they have to rely on TV so much. But of course you can't get people to turn out for a rally outdoors in the deep-fried chicken or whatever. I'm not, I think we miss that part. If you just have to snap on TV because you're going to get somebody that can really, really is a good huckster can, you know, like an evangelist or something like that. So I really don't know, but that trend is getting impersonal.

I like to s-, I don't, haven't made up my mind but I'm not that thrilled about Vice President Gore. But I'd, I would support him but I'd like to see somebody like Bradley get the nomination. Chances are he won't get it but there's two years to go almost and there's all kinds of stuff can happen. And, I think Mrs. Dole is too, she looks a little she knows it all but I mean, that's; I'm prejudiced on some of these things and I know that. I think, I like McCain for the Republicans, but he's almost like a Democrat; that's why I like him I guess. And I always liked Cuomo but he didn't seem to have the fire in his belly that, to go after these things.

**AL:** Maybe we could switch gears and you could tell me a little bit about the Waterville community when you were growing up, in terms of what were the major industries, what was the ethnic make-up?

**BD:** Well it was about the same as it is now but the Francos were working in the mills and the; working in the paper mill or pulp mills they used to call it, and the Wyandotte, which is defunct now and Lockwood which is down by the bridge going to Winslow, that employed quite a few people. And that went out about the time when my brother had been mayor only about six months and they dropped the bomb and moved out. But, they all moved to South Carolina or someplace like that.

And this whole area here was all the field out here; this is called Mayflower (*name*) Hill area. And matter of fact over about one street there was a pretty good -sized hill I used to go and slide in when I was a kid, Pray's (*name*) Hill, and I guess my nephew Bill lives right about directly across the river, he lives on Burleigh Street. And, so there was no houses out here; there were farms. And I always said, I always used to say, "I'll never live on Mayflower Hill," and I ended up doing that. But I, well at least I got on a street that has some trees. It was all fields out here, and they used to have circuses out here, too, you know, the circus used to come right down there. And Waterville High School just down at the end of the street here, about over there (pointing), but that's not where it was then. It was downtown back in here where the junior high is, or where it was. And I can't think of any great drastic changes. Colby, of course Colby moved from downtown out to here and that's about . . . .

**AL:** What year was that, when Colby moved?

**BD:** Well, the chapel and the library were out there, when I graduated from high school in '43, they already had those two main buildings out there. And they started moving, and it took a few years before they moved out from downtown. And I think that, I don't know if my father got full credit for that, but he had always said that they wanted, he got wind they were trying, thinking of moving to Augusta; somebody was moving to give them some land down there. And he got on the ball and they deeded this land over to Colby, kept Colby here which is certainly is a great thing.

But he was, he got, he was prejudiced in some ways. I remember when they built the I-95 around the, that loop right there; he used to tell me about, of course I didn't go to Colby (*unintelligible phrase*) . . . ., "Well", he says, "they're going to, isn't that awful," he says, "They're going to run that road right by Colby." I said, "What's wrong with that?" And well he couldn't understand why I didn't jump on right off, you know, but he got over it. And it didn't hurt the campus any.

But, he used to . . . . But you was talking about certain of the political experiences (*unintelligible word*). One other time not too many years ago he said to me, wanted to know if I had voted for the Beale's Island Bridge, put a bridge across to Beale's Island. I said, "No I didn't." He says, "Why not?" I said, "Well, if they want to live on an island, let them live on an island, screw 'them," you know? And he said, "Well they're all Democrats over there." So I (*unintelligible phrase*) I didn't know that. He was, thought they should have a bridge if they wanted. They did build it anyway, but he based his decisions on how they voted.

**AL:** And ethnically speaking, what was the make up of Waterville? I know that there was a small Lebanese community.

**BD:** Well there's still a good -sized Lebanese community.

**AL:** Has it grown over the years?

**BD:** I don't think so. They have their own church, Maronite Catholic church, but they've dwindled I think. They, well, just like, you know, they're used to just marry their own, in their own community and now they've been dwindling a little bit at a time. And they had, they have this (*unintelligible word*) community, one community, one a Republican Party and a Democratic Party; they spread themselves around.

And I think that you know (*unintelligible phrase*), one name you had down there was Spike Carey. Spike was a hell of a politician, you know. When he ran for the state senate about, first, four years ago I guess, there was a primary and Joe Jabar ran against him. And most everybody that I hang around with thought that Joe Jabar was going to beat him easily, I mean, in the primary. Then I went to a wedding up to Colby that, two days before the election. And this guy next to me he says, "Have you heard of anybody that's going to vote for Spike Carey?" He says, "Because I haven't heard of anybody." I says, "I'm voting for Spike Carey and he's going to win." He says, "What do you mean?" I says, "I'm telling you, he's going to win." I says, "He's

got more IOUs out there. And he never failed to, if you called him up down in Augusta and you wanted something, he took care of you.” Anyway, a couple days later he wiped out Joe Jabar. Joe was quite crushed by this, although he since has recuperated, he’s got a good future too. But he needed to be knocked down a little bit.

**AL:** Now he’s Democrat as well, yeah.

**BD:** Yeah. That was a great primary fight. Oh, Erlon Nadeau, you had another name down there. Erlon was an old time politician, had a little barber shop down off of Water Street. , Water Street goes along the river down there, way down by the, towards the cemetery. And Erlon was a, well, somewhat uncouth but smart, you know, he really knew his stuff. He could run an election and really produce, you know; you need people like that. And I think you’re going to see less and less people like that.

Al Ouellette died last week, he’s, or two weeks ago, he was a chairman of Ward five, I think, and he was a great politician, too. And he had a little place out there on the way to the country club, out near the entrance to the interstate. And he was, those guys would turn out, you know.

Matter of fact it’s, I think, when my brother ran for governor he lost in the primaries because he, I think he concentrated . . . . I mean, I didn’t have anything to say about it. He concentrated too much on other places; he didn’t concentrate enough on Waterville. There’s a lot of Democrats enrolled in Waterville; he didn’t do all that well here in Waterville. He won, but he didn’t get enough votes to overcome the other places. He lost the primary by about five hundred votes. I don’t know what the total vote was, but.

**AL:** So Erlon Nadeau was someone who helped with campaigns?

**BD:** Yeah.

**AL:** He never ran for office himself?

**BD:** No, he was a, overseer of the poor here in Waterville and he never really was (grabbing?) for an office, or anything. He was a, I mean, let’s say if you talk to Erlon you’d say, “Well, he’s kind of crude,” but he was very smart.

**AL:** What was your brother’s relationship with Frank Coffin?

**BD:** Oh, Frank, he always said the same thing I said after . . . . Of course I, I said that’s, I think, “I think Frank Coffin’s the smartest man I ever met,” you know, to know on a personal level. I think that he is responsible for renewing this Democratic Party in Maine. People give credit to Muskie and I’m glad they do, but Frank Coffin really turned the thing around.

**AL:** The combination of the two of them was very strong?

**BD:** Yeah.

**AL:** What about Dick McMahon? Do you have any memories?

**BD:** I haven't got any, too many recollections of Dick. He was very smart and he knew the mathematics of that . . . (unintelligible phrase) When Muskie got reelected governor, that's the only time I went to the Blaine House. I went down and, it was obvious that Muskie was going to win by a big amount early in the evening and, but it didn't look that good for Frank Coffin. And Dick McMahon was sitting near the telephone in the Blaine House; he had his pencil and was taking in certain returns and he didn't, I couldn't tell by, he had an inscrutable face. And I said, "Doesn't look too good for Frank Coffin." He says, "Are you kidding? He's going to win by . . . ." whatever he said, fifteen thousand, which he did. Yeah, I mean, he did, whatever he said was right on the nose. I said, "Well," I said, "he's behind." He says, "That don't mean a thing (unintelligible phrase)," he says, "you wait until Biddeford comes in." So the third ward came in with Biddeford; it was some ungodly number like, what was the other guy's name, Reed, he was running against Reed I guess, James Reed, the judge. "Reed," he says, "seventeen." He says, "Coffin, three thousand and forty-two." It was an unbelievable difference, you know. He says, and that just, that's the night Bette Davis, I had my picture taken with Bette Davis that night, big deal. It came out in *U.S. News and World Report*. We're standing, somebody says, "Step over, come over here, stand in front of the fireplace like this." And he took our picture because she was, she got interested in the campaign.

**AL:** Tell me a little bit about George Mitchell. You must have had contact with him over the years.

**BD:** Not much.

**AL:** No?

**BD:** Let's put it . . . . I'm seventy-three years old now so I, I'm one of those old stories. I think he's great, I think George Mitchell is another great communicator. I'm sorry that he got out of office, but we haven't heard the end of him. But I can't, of course a lot of his relatives are still here in town. I saw his sister up the golf course Saturday, Barbara [Mitchell Atkins].

**AL:** There's one person I'm having a hard time getting some information on. Do you remember Don Nicoll back in that time? Or since? Have you seen him develop over the years?

**BD:** Well, I went fishing with him one time, went out to – (*aside*) here comes my wife. She's got her Jasper farmer hat, her hat brim; she's probably going to tell you she's quitting golf now. Usually when she starts in like that. She's from Fort Kent, she was doing, she wasn't politically act-) Yeah, he, he said, they'd meet us at . . . . He wasn't that, particularly a fisherman at that time. My brother called me up and says, "You want to go to," (it was Memorial Day weekend), he says, "you want to . . ." You know, he said we're going to use Gordon (Gordon Wood is a friend of ours, he's dead now, but he had a nice big cruiser up there in Moosehead, he kept there). And he says, "Well Don Nicoll wants to come out fishing with us," and he says, so we went up.

It was a beautiful day for May, it was like yesterday; it was eighty degrees and flat calm. We

never caught, we only got one bite the whole day cruising all the way the hell up to Northeast Carry and back. And, but I had never met Don at that time. When I, he, he, he knew people that went to Colby as I do, but, local people here. But he, he said, "I'm going to the filling station in Greenville right there by the line." And he says, "You got to go to the bathroom?" And I said, "No," I says, "the 8:15 has already come in." So he thought that was funny, because he also, he says, "I'm very regular that way myself." He wrote me a letter from Washington saying how much he enjoyed being here, and, "I've spoken to the Atomic Energy Commission about a clean bomb for the 8:15." And I thought it was a funny thing for him to say. I mean, he, we fished all day and then we just, basically mostly just talked.

And he had, we ended up making clichés of, he was getting ready to help a congressman with a Memorial Day speech, it was either Gardiner or Randolph, I forget what it was. But, we had all these clichés, it was . . . . "Then and only then will you know the true meaning of Memorial Day." We had all these, we just kept fracturing each other. And I said, "Don't forget to compliment the band." And he, so he got going and said, "This is a great band you people have here, the people of Gardiner have every right to be proud of this wonderful group of musicians." And then he said, "What's that? Oh, I've just been advised that the band is from Randolph." We had a few laughs.

And I saw him, ((*sirens*) there goes Rescue), saw him a few days later at, not a few days later, I saw him the day we went down to that Dartmouth basketball game. And we saw him at that restaurant in there, just before the Portland Country Club. He was there for the Sunday brunch. And we, I hadn't seen him for, I hadn't seen him with his beard; has he got it, still got it?

**AL:** Yeah.

**BD:** And he came over to my table, he says, "You probably don't recognize me," he says, "I'm Don Nicoll." I said, "Well, of course I can see that now but I wouldn't have recognized you." So I, that's the last time I saw him, that was about two, three years ago.

**Mrs. Dubord:** It's been quite a while.

**BD:** So give him my best when you see him.

**AL:** I sure will. He's in Washington this week. What do you think Senator Muskie's major qualities were?

**BD:** Sincerity. And he had that Lincolnesque look about him, you know?

**Mrs. Dubord:** If you didn't know him he was a little scary. He could be a little scary.

**AL:** A little scary. Imposing?

**Mrs. Dubord:** Yeah, I mean he came on, hard to explain, friendly, not scary to the point of being, think he's going to abuse you. But you'd best be on your best behavior. And you'd better act smart because he is smart and he can see right through you if you . . . . That, I always

thought of Ed that way. And then you got to know him, you know, he was just a big pussy cat.

**BD:** She entered a, he came down after the . . . . Right after he'd been elected he came to the American Legion in Waterville, and my father was chairman of the parade committee or something like that, or the judging committee., And, then afterwards, after the dinner at the Legion my father invited him, him and the governor of New Brunswick to come down and play cribbage down at my father's house on Silver Street. And so, how did it go, one of the, somebody said . . . .

**Mrs. D:** Your father said, you're talking about Muskie and Muskatuiis? Your father said something about, "How about a drink?" And they all, you know, they'll have a drink and his father said, "I'll have a . . . ."

**BD:** Brandy, probably.

**Mrs. D:** Well, whatever, or mart-, and I guess Ed said a martini, something like that and so . . . .

**BD:** She was only in her twenties, you know.

**Mrs. D:** I wasn't very (*unintelligible word*) at that stage of the game. Not in, I wasn't a bartender. So I went out and Bob's father had every imaginable bottle of booze out there. So Ed said he wanted a martini so I, instead of taking gin I took vodka and I put ice and vermouth in it and gave it to him. And he took one sip of that and, "Well what's in it? What am I drinking?" So we, I called it a "Muskitini", or something different. So vodka and vermouth, we call that a Muskitini. I threw it away, needless to say, and made him a martini with the gin, but we had more laughs out of that . . . ., (*unintelligible word*) "It's a Muskitini, special for you Ed."

**BD:** Andrea's from Mt. Blue, Farmington, anyway. I'm the only guy ever to get lost in Chesterville.

**AL:** Lost in Chesterville?

**BD:** Yeah. It's not easy. Dr. Macklin is a medical doctor, he just retired last week. He called me up one day, he says, "You want to go to," it was the beginning of the basketball season, he says, "You want to go up Waterville-Mt. Blue game?" And I said, "Not really," I said. "But come on," he says, "we . . . ." And I says, "all right." So we took off and he was driving and we got into New Sharon and he says, "You know the back way in to, through Chesterville?" And I says, "Yeah" I said, and he drove. We got lost. We stopped at the fire station, it was a night game and (*unintelligible word*) gave us the directions. We forgot to take, the wrong, took a wrong turn, we ended up right behind (*unintelligible word*) back to the fire station. We finally, we got there; we missed the whole first period.

**Mrs. D:** The next time, we went with you coming out of Mt. Blue you said, "We know how to get, take the shortcut." There again we drove and drove and drove and we finally came back to Mt. Blue . . . .

**BD:** We came back on the road to Rumford.

**Mrs. D:** (*Unintelligible phrase - both speaking at once*) we were still on the road to Mt. Blue; we'd been half an hour on the road and we were back to Mt. Blue. And that, that, we missed Chesterville then too.

**BD:** I'm not going to do that again.

**Mrs. D:** Now we take the regular road. Oh, well we know how to do it now.

**BD:** I'm just a country boy.

**AL:** And you said your first name was?

**Mrs. D:** Bea, Beatrice.

**AL:** Beatrice?

**Mrs. D:** Yeah. Oh, we had some good times with Ed. It was exciting when we went, out to the governor's mansion, and when he ran for Vice President . . . .

**BD:** (*Unintelligible phrase*), one time we go over there to Moosehead; didn't we go one time . . .

**Mrs. D:** Yeah, up to Forest Park?

**BD:** Yeah.

**Mrs. D:** Yeah, he and Jane. We didn't take that many trips with them but we saw them a lot and when he was in politics. I mean, during the elections we saw more of them because we were, he was around more. And we were neighbors for a while when the kids were little.

**AL:** So you, did you know them when they were first starting out in Waterville?

**Mrs. D:** Yeah, yeah. Yeah, she's a local girl. She was a, her brother was one of our best friends way back then.

**AL:** Now was her, which brother?

**Mrs. D:** He's dead now. Jack, Jack Gray.

**BD:** Jack Gray, Jackson Gray.

**Mrs. D:** Yeah he, he had a tough start. But he soon overcame that.

**AL:** Do you remember any events or circumstances that illustrated his character or personality

or ability?

**Mrs. D:** Specific things?

**AL:** Maybe a, yeah, specific incident or event?

**Mrs. D:** Well, you know, it's all just a big blur now but, when the state was so Republican. And of course his father was one of the state's leading Democrats at the time, or he was the "Mr. Democrat" at the time. And that's what we used to see, he and Governor Clauson and Ed Muskie; they were always, they were the, really the three. And Richard, your brother Richard and . . . .

**BD:** Clauson jumped on the bandwagon when it was rolling; that is the, used to irritate my folks, but (*unintelligible phrase*). You don't want to talk about that too much, but when he suddenly got a chance, he rode in because of what Muskie had started. And he got to be, they had to go over and beg him to run and he wouldn't, he wasn't really excited to (*unintelligible phrase*), you know?

**Mrs. D:** Everything was, at that time everything . . . . The Democrats was a losing cause, I mean, you had to beg people to run until Ed came along. And then that sparked things and then his father and then Governor Clauson got the thing going. And then, oh what's his name, Judge, he's a judge now, federal judge, Coffin. What's his first name?

**AL:** Frank.

**BD:** Frank.

**Mrs. D:** Frank, then Frank was involved in all that.

**BD:** I thought that Frank was the smartest guy in the whole gang.

**Mrs. D:** Yes, he was. Maybe the smartest one, not any smarter than Ed I don't think. , But it became a very small group of people who really got the Democrat party going again, and Ed was at the middle of it. He was a speaker and he was statuesque and he stood out and he . . . . Like Abraham Lincoln I guess, but I mean he just, once he got going, I mean, it was like a snowball. I mean every place he went people liked him and then he was good and that's why the Democrats went as far as they did. So just a small nucleus of people that did it. There weren't, they were right here in Waterville, too. I mean they weren't around all over the state, I mean; this is where the nucleus of the power was. Or the workers, I shouldn't say the, they did get power eventually. Don Nicoll, Richard, your brother, there weren't that many at that time.

**BD:** No, that's true.

**Mrs. D:** It was a Republican state way back, and they worked hard. But I think basically it was Ed who was the one that projected more; is that the right word to say for that?



**BD:** Yeah.

**Mrs. D:** I mean, he, he, people listened when he spoke I think, more than anything else. He was bigger than anybody else and he had, commanded the English language beautifully and he just, people had confidence in him.

**AL:** Was he persuasive?

**Mrs. D:** Yeah, but in a mild way, unless he really, I mean he had a tenden-, if he got upset though, I guess that wasn't all that pretty. Well, apparently he got upset in New Hampshire, which, you know . . . .

**BD:** Well they say that my brother could calm him down. And we also helped unwind him the day after he lost the Vice Presidential contest. I was downstairs; my brother was upstairs, he says, "You want to go golfing?" He says, "We're going to try and unwind Ed this morning." And we went; it was Wednesday and I, he knew I didn't work in the afternoon, so I went out and I met them out to the country club. Ed had the Secret Service, well that was an experience for us because these guys are riding around with the Secret Service guys and, with walkie talkies and . . .

**Mrs. D:** And beer.

**BD:** Yeah, they brought out some Jim Beam or whatever it was, on the fourth tee, and here they came driving through the woods. And, with Jim Beam and glasses and ice cubes, it wasn't paper cups, it was glasses, and it was a pretty good day.

**Mrs. D:** It was different, you had a Vice Presidential candidate on the golf course even if he had lost.

**BD:** One of the Secret Service guys was keeping score. After a while, well anyway, he says, "What'd you get senator? I says, "Oh, give him another par, he's not playing that well," but I said, "put down another par for the senator."

**AL:** How was Ed Muskie's golf game?

**Mrs. D:** He never had time really.

**BD:** He had a temper out there, too.

**Mrs. D:** Yeah, he was a nice guy, super guy.

**AL:** Are there others in this community that maybe I've missed in doing the research that would be good sources for this project?

**BD:** So many of them are dead that it's kind of, you know. Paul Dundas, but he's been dead for years. He was the long time mayor here.

**Mrs. D:** Squire, and he's dead. Let's face it, there's a genera-, his generation's pretty well gone; we're on our way out all of us. Ed was, how old was Ed? What, he was three, four years older than you? Oh no, because Jane . . . .

**BD:** Oh, he was older than that.

**Mrs. D:** Yeah, but Jane was our age, so.

**AL:** He'd be eighty-five now.

**Mrs. D:** I was going to say . . . .

**BD:** Yeah, I'm seventy-three, so he was quite a bit older than I.

**Mrs. D:** But Jane was our age, his wife was our age. There's nobody left around. The Democrat Party is, not much of anything going here now.

**BD:** (*Unintelligible phrase*), Muskie would, I mean if the, Dundas was alive and she was interviewing her [*sic* him] he'd say, he had a . . . . He communicated well but he had the worst way of stammering or stuttering and he'd come out with the opposite word. Or, he might say, he might say, he might say your name again was "le-le-le-le-le- Andrea". He'd switch to the other word quickly. But he was a good politician.

**AL:** Who was that?

**BD:** Paul Dundas, D-U-N-D-A-S. He was a six -term mayor here and he, and Dick McMahon that you were asking about with him, protégé of his, (*unintelligible phrase*) I guess.

**Mrs. D:** Where's Dick McMahon, is he dead or is he alive?

**BD:** Dead, he's dead, "Seriously dead," as my brother would say.

**Mrs. D:** No, I don't know, of course he . . . ., Ed left here after he got into politics; we never did see much of him any more. He had his home in Kennebunk and then Washington so . . . . And then his sister, his brother died quite a few years ago, Jack, I meant his sister-in-law. Doris was around for a while but she's in, his sister-in-law, but she's in Illinois now. I don't think there's anywhere, I can't think of anybody that was around at that time.

**BD:** Did you, any other names that you've told me about in this letter?

**AL:** I think we've spoken about those.

**BD:** I think so.

**AL:** Well is there anything else that you feel I may have missed in asking the questions that

you'd like to add?

**BD:** No, I think you've covered it quite well.

**AL:** Okay.

**Mrs. D:** You're apt to get more information from the people who know, who knew him after he left here. You know, that's, in his later years I believe.

**AL:** Well, thank you very much for your time.

**BD:** You're welcome.

*End of Interview*

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