

**STUDENT MILL WORKERS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT:
LEWISTON-AUBURN, MAINE**

Laurette Boulay
(Interviewer: Alexis Grossman)

SMWOH #046
May 16, 2005

Q: This is an interview project Boulay, that's how you say it, right? For the Mill Workers Oral History Project on May 16th in Lewiston, Maine. I'm Alexis Grossman, interviewing. Could you please state your full name and spell it, please?

A: Spell my name?

Q: Yes, just state your name for the record.

A: L-A-U-R-E-T-T-E, and B-O-U-L-A-Y.

Q: What is your date of birth?

A: September 6, 1920.

Q: And where were you born?

A: In Lewiston.

Q: In Lewiston, and did you grow up in Lewiston?

A: No, I went back to Canada, my family went back, I was a year and a half. And I came back, I was fifteen and a half.

Q: When you came back?

A: Yeah, by myself.

Q: You came by yourself.

A: I had an aunt and uncle over here.

Q: And you were fifteen and a half, you said? And you came back, your aunt and uncle lived in Lewiston at the time?

A: What?

Q: Did you say, you came back with your aunt and uncle?

A: No-no, I came back by myself. But they were living here then.

Q: Oh, your aunt and uncle were living here. And what were your parents' names?

A: Ulric, U-L-R-I-C, and my mother Odiana, O-D-I-A-N-A.

Q: Pretty name. And where was your mother born?

A: In Canada.

Q: Where in Canada?

A: Near Quebec, let me see if I remember the place. I don't remember the name of that place.

Q: And was your father from Canada as well?

A: Yeah, he was born near, he was born in St. Flavien, S-T, and then F-L-A-V-I-E-N.

Q: And did they work in the mill?

A: Over here?

Q: Yes.

A: When they were over here? My father was in the mill. He start, he was only nine years old. Yeah.

Q: Do you remember what mill he worked in, in Lewiston?

A: Well, I don't remember, I was too young. But I'm not sure, I think it's the Bates Mill, but I'm not sure.

Q: And do you know what kind of work he did at the mill?

A: No.

Q: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

A: Oh yeah, there was sixteen of us.

Q: Sixteen? Wow.

A: But they didn't live here, you know, we came, they went, when they went back to Canada, my parents, there was only two of us, so they were all born in Canada, the rest of them.

Q: Oh, so you were one of the oldest.

A: Yeah, I'm the oldest, yeah.

Q: And there were only two of you when you, you said, when you moved back to Canada?

A: Yeah.

Q: And, sixteen, wow. And do you, what were their names, all of their names?

A: Of my brother and sister? Oh, Rita, and Yvette, and Marc, (*name*), and Jeannine, and Therese, and she was the baby. After, there was, I had a brother, Andre, Colette, and Glenal, and Renaud, and Jackie, and Michael. Is that sixteen?

Q: That's thirteen.

A: That's thirteen? I forgot some? Oh yeah, I forgot Colette, Colette and Linette, I forgot two. They was in between, Linette was between Renaud and (*name*).

Q: Okay, wow, that's impressive.

A: And the other one, Colette, she was younger, she was, I think she was after, oh, there was Irene, too.

Q: Wow, that's a lot.

A: I know, (*unintelligible phrase*).

Q: Did your siblings work in the mills, too?

A: Well, one of them came here from Canada and she work at the Hill Mill for a couple of years, but she went back, she went to be a nun. So she was gone after that. And I, like Yvette there, she came in her, and she was at the Bleachery.

Q: The Bleachery?

A: Yeah, so, and I had another sister, too, that came over here, but she went back to, she went to Canada (*unintelligible word*), she didn't work in the mill, she went to Canada again, during the war.

Q: And where in Canada did you live?

A: We live in St. Flavien, there, you know the same, F-L-A-, yeah.

Q: That's where you lived.

A: Yeah, and that's, we lived there and then we, and then we lived to, Goly, G-O-L-Y, in the (*name*). It was about twenty five mile from Quebec. It wasn't on Quebec.

Q: How would you describe your family life when you were growing up?

A: Well, it's kind of hard. It was, it was, my father worked in the woods, you know, he was working as a -

Q: Carpenter?

A: No, not carpenter, but they were cutting the wood and selling it, you know. Then they went to, the times that there was no work, you know, it was kind of slow.

Q: Depression?

A: Depression, yeah, they went to (*unintelligible word*) then, so then he was working for himself, you know, they built a house and, I was there only four years. And then we moved to Beebe on the line of Vermont.

Q: They moved to Vermont, you said?

A: It wasn't Vermont, but it was on the line. Across the street was Vermont, in Beebe, and they were on the side of Canada then. So they stay there until my father died there and my mother and my sister, from the one that came here to live and work at the Bleachery there, she went back to Canada and she stayed with them. And then she stayed there until last year. She sold the house and then she went to Montreal.

Q: And was your, did your mother ever work?

A: She did work I think in a shoe shop while she was here. I'm, you know, I'm not, not that much I think.

Q: But never when the kids were around, she never worked?

A: No, well, when, I don't know. Maybe when we were, I don't know if we were born or not then. I don't think we were, I think we were (*unintelligible phrase*). When my father went back to Canada, and my grandmother, he got married and they came back here, that's how come. And then they went back to Canada.

Q: Okay, after you were born.

A: Yeah, after, and my sister.

Q: And did you go to school?

A: In Canada, yeah, I went, well I went off to the, well I was in the sixth grade, but then my, the teacher, well, it was in the country, you know, we were all in the same room, all the grades. So she was making me teach the first grade. So my mother says, I need you home, she says, you don't learn anything at the school, she says, you're gonna stay here. I stay home, until I was thirteen, but then I start to work in a, oh, what do you call it there, a place where the children don't have any parents.

Q: Orphanage.

A: Orphanage, I work there until, for a while, and then after a while I came over here.

Q: So you only went up to, you only went to school up to sixth grade, you said?

A: Yeah. I didn't know nothing, no English, when I came over here.

Q: Oh wow, and your English is so good now.

A: Well, I don't know. What I did, after I got married I start reading the magazine and listen to the radio, and I learned.

Q: And how would you describe your cultural heritage, or your ethnic background? Are you, are your, do you say that you're French Canadian, Franco-American, or are you French Canadian or American?

A: Oh, well I was born here. I guess I'm French American. And I was, I live there ever since I was thirteen, so, I'm eighty five now, so.

Q: And you said your, and how do you celebrate your heritage today?

A: Well, I don't know.

Q: Do you, like do you have any French traditions or celebrations, or Canadian celebrations that you still practice today?

A: Not much.

Q: No?

A: I still have a, I've got sisters and brother in Montreal and Quebec, but I don't visit too often, and they don't either. I'm supposed to go this summer, though, with grandson there, but I don't know. It's kind of far.

Q: Yeah, it's very far.

A: Well, it's two hundred and fifty miles. It's not that far, but it just happen, you know, that the one in Canada, well, they don't go too far. But the younger, I've got a brother that's the same age as my oldest son, and I've got a sister that's the same age as my daughter, yeah. And there's one younger than them. But this one, though, he died, that boy did.

Q: So you were married, you've been married.

A: Yeah, I got married in 1940.

Q: And you've only been married once?

A: Yeah.

Q: How did you meet your spouse, your husband?

A: Oh, I came here and I went to work as a housekeeper, you know, to, in the, my husband's home, well after I met, I went to, I was staying with them, you know, and I was, she had a breakdown, and so I went to help her. So, but she (*unintelligible phrase*), she call him up, he was five year older than me, so she said that shouldn't have a girlfriend, and so he came over and we start going out, and we went out for five years. But he was sick, two years after, I think, he got a breakdown, he was working in the shoe shop then. And then he got better, and anyways, we got married.

Q: What was his name?

A: Rene, R-E-N-E, yeah.

Q: And he worked in the shoe shops in Lewiston?

A: He worked in the shoe shop for a while, and then his father opened a grocery store on Sabattus Street at Thorn's Corner, yeah, so he worked running the store, because his father wanted him, he was, he wasn't, you know, he wasn't working in the store for him.

Q: And you said you got married in 1940?

A: Yeah.

Q: Where was the ceremony and the reception?

A: Well, at my uncle and aunt, it was, the one who took care of me when I come over here.

Q: So it was at your uncle's house.

A: Yeah, and I got, I was married in the church, Sacred Heart Church.

Q: In what, in which church?

A: Sacred Heart.

Q: And did your siblings or friends get married at the same age as you did? Or how old were you when you were married?

A: Twenty, less four days, less four days.

Q: And so your siblings, did they get married around in their twenties as well?

A: Well, my sister, she was, the one that went to Canada (*unintelligible phrase*), I don't remember, I think she was twenty two, twenty three. And then there was, one of, the next one, she never got married. And the other two, they went, they made a nun, I mean they -

Q: They're nuns?

A: They're nuns. And then, well the other one, I don't, I guess maybe a little older than me but not too much.

Q: And did you have any children?

A: Yeah, got three.

Q: Three children? What are their, how old are they now?

A: Well, one is sixty three, my son, he lives in Auburn, he was here this morning. And my daughter is sixty one, she's going to be sixty two now, she lives in South Hampton, Massachusetts. And my younger son, he's fifty one, and he lives in, voyons, Branford, Massachusetts.

Q: Branford?

A: Branford, yeah.

Q: And what are their names?

A: There's Bertram, the oldest one, Bertram, Bert, and Joline, and the other one is Donald.

Q: And when did you start having children?

A: What?

Q: How old were you when you started having children?

A: Oh, I was twent-, I got married at twenty, he was born in January, him, he was born January 1922 [sic], and Joline in 1923 [sic], and Don 1954.

Q: And so you said you were fifteen, or how old were you when you started to work in the mill?

A: The mill, I was eighteen, we couldn't work before.

Q: And so when, did you stop working when you had children?

A: I wasn't married. I mean, I was eighteen, I wasn't married. I stopped working at, I went to Cowan, I work in all the mill in Lewiston, me.

Q: You worked in all the mills?

A: All of them. Sometime I didn't work too long, yeah.

Q: So you started working in the mills when you were eighteen, and then you were married when you were twenty. And you had, and then did you stop working at the mills when you started to have children?

A: I wasn't working, when I had children, I don't know, I'm trying to

remember when I was working, because, I don't think I was working in the mills. I went after that. I work at the mill before I got married.

Q: But not afterwards?

A: Yes, I work after, too, after the, it was, the children were, well the first time I remember there, my daughter was about a year and a half I think, and my son was about three years. Then I worked. I work at the Cowan, I guess. No, I was at the Cowan at eighteen, at eighteen, because it was just temporary, you know, so you were working for a while and then they lay us off. And then I went back as a housekeeper, what I was doing when I got married.

Q: And where did your children go to school?

A: Holy Family, the two oldest one went to Holy Family.

Q: They what?

A: Holy Family, and Lewiston High. And the youngest one, he went to Farwell School and Lewiston High, too.

Q: Did they go to college?

A: No.

Q: Did your children work at the mills?

A: No, my daughter was a hairdresser, she went to learn that after she got out of high school. And my oldest son, he went into the service, and then he work at the

mill, him, a little bit, but not much. He work in the shoe shop, too, and he was in the service and then he work at Bath Iron Works one year. Then he got hurt over there, and he got his pension, you know. And then after that, well before he retired he was working at K Mart.

Q: Okay, so -

A: And the youngest one is in computer, he went to school to learn computer, and that's what he does.

Q: So do you remember what year you started to work in the mills?

A: I remember, yeah, I work at eighteen, yeah.

Q: And so which mills, you said you said you worked at -?

A: Cowan, I started with the, at the Cowan, the Cowan Mill. And then, I don't remember.

Q: You don't remember? Well, there is the Bates Mill.

A: Yeah, the Bates Mill, I work there but just about, I work there just before my youngest son was born, and I stop working because I was pregnant, so that was in 1953, yeah. I been working thirteen month there.

Q: And then the Libby Mill?

A: The Libby Mill, I work there after that, I've got pictures from the Libby Mill, but I work there twelve years. So, and those picture, I've got one that was taken in '62, and the other on '68. So I worked twelve years so, and I was done working there in '73

I think, because I work at St. Mary after that for ten years.

Q: Okay, which one are you here?

A: Over there? Right there. It was Christmas and we had, taking a picture (*unintelligible word*).

Q: Great, so there's all (*unintelligible word*) what you did?

A: Yeah.

Q: Is that bobbin (*unintelligible word*)?

A: Yeah, when they were breaking we had to all stop and run, you know. When they were full there, we take them off and start a new one.

Q: And so you have the Cowan Mill, the Bates Mill, the Libby Mill. Was there Continental Mill?

A: Oh, Continental Mill, I work there two weeks, because I went there after my youngest son was born, and I, they needed somebody, but my blood pressure was real low and I got sick, two weeks after. So I was in bed for a week, so I didn't go back. And I went to the Hill when one of my sister came for, the one who's a nun now, I went over there and they needed somebody and I had, I knew how to spin, you know, so they hire me. I didn't go there for a job, but they hire me and her. Her, she didn't know how to (*unintelligible word*), so they, I forgot what I want to say.

Q: That's okay, you were talking about the Hill Mill.

A: Yeah, my husband, oh yeah, my husband got a breakdown seven week after I started to work in there, so I stay home. My children were young then, they was about a year and a half and three years old, so I stay home.

Q: And when did you go back to, did you go back to the Hill Mill?

A: No.

Q: Did you go back to work at all?

A: I went, not right away.

Q: Not right away?

A: No, I went back later. My son, my younger son, (*unintelligible phrase*), I think that's when I went to Libby, because he was born in '54 and when I went, next time I went to work he was about six years old. Because he was going to a, maybe five because he was going to school, so. And my neighbor was taking care of him for a couple of hours in the afternoon, until my husband got home.

Q: And what type of jobs did you do at the mills?

A: I don't know what you call it. I was a spinner, I guess, yeah.

Q: A spinner, so you would, you said when these bobbins were full or they broke, you'd take them off and replace them.

A: When they were full, yeah, I take them off and put a new, one that, we can't see that over here? No, we can't see. We just see the thing that's empty.

(Telephone interruption)

A: They're a pain. They call steady, say that they want cancer, they want the veterans, they want moneys to this, to this, I am fed up with it.

Q: So what, could you describe exactly what you did, like what exactly your job was? Did, it was just standing at the, all the -

A: Well, I was walking around and, I mean, I had more than one side to do, you know. I don't remember. I don't remember how much, how many frame I had, though, over there.

Q: Okay, and what did you think, what did these, the mills that you worked at, did they just produce the cotton, or did they produce blankets?

A: They were for just, over there they were, it was cotton and, but they were making wool blankets, too. But I wasn't on that, me. They had to mix the, they were doing separate jobs, you know.

Q: And was it good work, were you proud of it?

A: Oh, it was good for a while. But at the end there, they had like some kind of glass stuff there, oh, it was awful.

Q: What kind of glass stuff?

A: Well, it was to make blankets, you know. I don't know how they called it.

Q: And what were your hours, did you, what hours did you work?

A: Well, I work all kind of shift. I went to third shift, and the second shift, and the Libby Mill, well, it was the second shift.

Q: Is that during the day?

A: During the, I mean from three to eleven o'clock, you know. And sometimes some of the place I work the third shift, at the Bates Mill there, I work seven months on the third shift, eleven to seven in the morning. And then I got a job on the second shift.

Q: Were you very, were you tired then?

A: Oh, yes.

Q: Do you think that these hours were fair?

A: Well (*long pause*). I don't know, (*unintelligible phrase*). Not today, anyways.

Q: So, and did you get paid for overtime?

A: Oh, we never, I never made overtime.

Q: And what kind of, were you paid well, did you think your pay was fair?

A: Yes, I think so, yeah.

Q: Did the job that you did at the mill, did men also have that same job, or

was it just women that had your job?

A: I think just women. I don't think, they had some kind, some of the (*unintelligible word*), but you know, they were, but I don't think they were doing that kind of work.

Q: And do you remember that, at the mills, that there was a separation between the French Canadians and the Irish, or were there, was there separation between ethnic groups?

A: No, I don't think so.

Q: Were there mostly French?

A: No, well I wouldn't, when I work at the Cowan there was a woman, an English woman, and she's the one who showed me how to do the work in that. And I don't think, some of the mills, like, at the Libby, too, then the man was bringing us our stuff there, he wasn't French. We got along okay, got along fine.

Q: Did one particular ethnic group hold one job more than another?

A: They like -

Q: Was there like in the different jobs in the mills just one ethnic group have that job more than another?

A: I don't know.

Q: And how did you get your first job at the mill?

A: I don't remember. I must have gone there.

Q: And if someone wanted a particular job, how would she get that job that she wanted at the mill?

A: You had to go to the office and tell them what you could do well.

Q: Did you have to fill out a form, or did you have to have an interview?

A: I don't remember all that.

Q: How could you get promoted to a better position at the mill, were there workers promoted?

A: Well, well when we start doing your job, you know, we stay on it, most of us.

Q: Did mill workers ever become supervisors?

A: I think so, yeah.

Q: Okay, and what were relations like between workers?

A: It was fine as far as I'm concerned.

Q: And what were relationships like between bosses and workers?

A: They were nice, too.

Q: There was never any conflict or -?

A: Not, no, not where I work, me.

Q: Was there ever sexual harassment in the workplace?

A: Sexual, no, not where I work, no.

Q: And what were working conditions like in the mills? Was it really cold in there, was it really hot, was it hard to breathe, or?

A: Well it was, sometime it was hot, yeah.

Q: Were there any health hazards?

A: I don't know.

Q: You don't know? Okay. Were workers ever injured in the mills?

A: Well, some of them got hurt I guess. I never saw anybody, me, got hurt.

Q: And were there any long term health effects? Were you, are you still, like?

A: Oh, for me, you mean?

Q: For you, yeah.

A: Yeah? No.

Q: But for, do you know any other friends?

A: Me, I don't know, maybe, I don't know.

Q: Do you still have friends from the mills that you worked with?

A: If I still have friends?

Q: Yes, from the mills?

A: Yeah, I still, I still do. I haven't seen them, though, for quite a while, for a year now, but I've got a couple that live in Lewiston and we used to go out once in a while. But lately they've been busy, so we haven't been out. They were working over at, those two, they were over here. And that's one of them, no, the one, one of them, this one. And the other one, it was, she came after. Those are, this one is, she's going to Florida, and the other one, I don't know what happened to her. This one went to Florida, and this one, I don't remember, I think she was sick.

Q: Do you remember what year you stopped working at the mills?

A: I stopped 1973, I think. I was at the hospital twelve years, and I, no, no, I was twelve year, I worked, yeah, because I worked ten years at the hospital, yeah. I stopped in '73, not '73, '83, anh?

Q: You stopped working at the hospital in '83, or the mills in '83?

A: Oh, no, the hospital.

Q: And you stopped working at the mills in '73.

A: Yeah, ten years before, yeah.

Q: Did you have health insurance at the mills, do you remember?

A: I don't think so.

Q: And did you have paid leave for injuries or pregnancies?

A: Well, I don't think so. Me, I didn't, never needed, when I had my kids I wasn't working in the mill anyways. (*Unintelligible phrase*). I don't think so.

Q: So after the mills closed, you went to go work at the hospital?

A: The mill wasn't, the mill didn't close. I was laid off at the Libby, and I went to work on the mill on Lincoln Street, I don't remember the name, though. I was there about a year, a year and a half maybe, before I went to the hospital.

Q: Why were you laid off at the Libby Mill?

A: Well, they weren't, no work, you know. So, and then they call me up, they call me back, but I didn't, I stay where I was.

Q: And so I've asked you a little bit about your work in the mills, but I'm also interested in the Lewiston community and how people socialized in the mills, and also in like the larger community. So what was the community like when you were growing up and working in the mills? The Lewiston community? You don't remember?

A: No.

Q: Was it a very close knit community, or can you tell me a little about what Lewiston used to be like?

A: Well, I don't know what you mean by community.

Q: Like this area that you lived in in Lewiston.

A: Oh, I live on East Avenue.

Q: You what?

A: I live on East Avenue.

Q: On East Avenue?

A: Well, at the end. At first I live at Thorn's Corner. And we live up the store for a while, then we bought the schoolhouse and we built a rent, my husband was doing that, he was a carpenter. Then in '51 we move on East Avenue and we fix up a house that was, the outside was done but the inside wasn't done, so we finished that and we stay there until my husband die and I move over here. I've been here, it's gonna make eleven years in July.

Q: So what was Lewiston like when you were *(unintelligible phrase)*?

A: It was nice. I like it, me.

Q: Were there a lot of people, or stores, shops?

A: Yeah, there was quite a bit before. I mean the stores, was quite a few stores. Oh yeah, but now it's changing.

Q: Where did most people live in Lewiston?

A: All over.

Q: What types of social activities did people participate in? Like was there dancing, or events or celebrations, or just other social activities that people participated in regularly?

A: Well, there was a few places, they had some places where we went dancing, yeah. I never did go to dance too much because my husband, he wasn't dancing with me. Me, I used to like it.

Q: Did the mills, do you remember if the mills ever sponsored like social activities for the workers, or sport (*unintelligible word*) for the workers?

A: No, I don't think so.

Q: Were you in any political groups, or social groups outside of the mills?

A: No.

Q: Were you in any kind of group, or what did you do outside of the mills, on your free time?

A: On my free time, just visit the relatives. We went to, we were taking trips to Canada, especially to be there, we used to go there, and both my parents, they lived there. We used to go there three times a year. That wasn't too far, it was only about one fifty miles. (*Unintelligible phrase*).

Q: Were you part of a church, or a religious organization?

A: Yeah, Holy Family.

Q: The what?

A: Holy Family.

Q: Holy Family?

A: Yeah.

Q: And the church was called Holy Family? And how did your involvement with the church ever influence your work in the mill, did it affect your work?

A: No.

Q: In the mills and in your workplace, was religion ever discussed?

End of Side A

Side B

Q: . . . yourself, when you were with your friends, when you were working in the mills? Was it a very, was it a big part of your life? Do you remember if the church was a big part of your life?

(Original tape switch)

Q: . . . problems with the ethnic groups in the community, when you were, back when you were working in the mills? Do you remember if there were conflicts

between the French community and the Irish or the Italian that lived there?

A: No, no. (*Unintelligible phrase*), not where I worked.

Q: Do you remember that there were different ethnic groups that lived in Lewiston?

A: Different religion?

Q: That lived in Lewiston, the different ethnic groups?

A: What do you mean?

Q: Like, what, do you remember that the Irish lived here, or do you remember that, were the people that, most of the people that lived here, were they French?

A: Oh, well I guess. I guess there were a lot of French, yeah. But there was, like my father-in-law, he run a grocery store, I mean my husband worked there and I worked there a little bit, too, and it was all kinds of people, Irish or what, you know, French, and they were all coming in and they were all, there was no, nothing, no fights.

Q: And is there any, is there anything you (*unintelligible phrase*), I just, I want to know is what Lewiston was like during, while you worked in the mills. Is there anything you can tell me that would give me an idea of what life was like living here?

A: Well, me, I like it. You know, I didn't see, I didn't have, don't have anything, anything bad to say about it. I mean, it was okay with me.

Q: Yeah, and do you know, have you heard of the conflict with the Somalis moving to Lewiston?

A: Oh, yeah.

Q: How would you compare, or what do you think about the Somalis coming to Lewiston?

A: Well, I never had anything to do with them, you know, I don't know. They've been coming in since I've been here, me, so I never met too many of them. They come here, though, to get their rent, you know, they come to the office downstairs. But I don't have anything to do with that, the office (*unintelligible word*).

Q: Okay, is there anything else that you could tell me about your work in the mills that you think is interesting, or, did you like working at the mills?

A: Yeah, I did.

Q: Okay.

A: It was, again, hard sometimes, but I mean, we work hard sometimes.

Q: Yeah, it was hard work.

A: Yeah, but especially Libby, there, it wasn't hard there at first, it was easy. I mean, we had some time to ourselves, you know. But at the end there, when they change the material there, and it was hard, yeah.

Q: It was hard physical work? It was very physical work? Hard on the body?

A: Well, it was, we were too busy, we couldn't stop, you know. It was always stuck somewhere, and it was kind of a hard stuff.

Q: And what do you think about the museum (*unintelligible word*) preserve the history of the mill, do you think it's a good thing that they're doing there?

A: The museum?

Q: The Museum L-A, how they're doing this project with the mills and the mill workers. Do you think it's a good thing? What do you think about it?

A: Well, what's the museum doing?

Q: It's, the museum's doing an oral history of the mill workers in the mills.

A: Oh, I don't know.

Q: Okay, okay, is there anything -?

A: Why do they do that anyway, why are they doing it?

Q: They want to have a record of what mill life and mill work was like in Lewiston, when the mills were up and running. And they, so they want different mill workers to be interviewed, so that they have that history on tape.

A: Oh, yes.

Q: So that's why I'm interviewing you.

A: Because it was hard, you know, when you work at the mill, it was hard.

That's all there was then. The shoe shop, and the shoe shop, too, I worked in the shoe shop, too, a little bit. And that was hard work there, too. But I don't know today, to me it's easier, I don't know.

Q: How do you think, since the mills have closed, how do you think that has affected Lewiston?

A: Oh, well I think it must have affected, because, I don't know, I guess before there was quite a few people out of work. So, I don't know. When people are in business, they know more, they meet with people. Like me over here, I don't, I don't meet with business people so I don't know.

Q: That's about it, I think that's it. Thank you very much.

End of Interview

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