

JUDITH MADDOCK HUDSON

Interview locations:

Judy Hudson: Randolph, NH

Mary Grace Flint: Sandown, NH

Interview conducted over Skype.

Mary Grace Flint (MF): This is Mary Grace Flint interviewing Mrs. Judith Hudson at 10:00 AM March 17 2014. So I'm going to start off with a very sort of a broad question for you, if someone were to ask you "who are you?" what would you tell them?

Judy Hudson (JH): That's a difficult thing to answer because I think I'm a whole group of things. I'm a musician, I play the viola. I am partially an anthropologist, I spent quite a few years living in Indonesia and working as an anthropologist with my husband. I'm a family member, at the apex of the grandparent generation at the moment. I'm a naturalist, I'm a hiker and I'm somebody who has a long relationship with the White Mountains. So that's a group of things that I think I am.

MF: So now more specific: when and where were you born?

JH: I was born in Boston in 1935, at a point when my mother was 37 I guess, and I was her second child but she was a professional woman, she had a doctorate in chemistry. She then went back to school and got an MD and she spent many years doing research on various subjects both at Harvard Medical School and eventually for the longest part of her career was at the Jimmy Fund building in the Children's Hospital. She worked directly under its founder, Sidney Farber. I have the advantage of having had a mother who was a professional and not so much of a homemaker, or, I don't know if it's an advantage or not but it definitely gave me a role model of what women could do.

MF: Did you and your mother get along very well?

JH: I got along very well with her. I mean, when she was home, she was very much devoted to her kids and spent a lot of time with us. But usually, she worked. Went into Boston [from] the small rural town in which we lived. So we were taken care of by a housekeeper who actually gave us a much freer kind of existence I think than we would have had if my mother would have been worried about us and our housekeeper once we were, I don't know 7 or 8, something like that, just sort of turned us loose and we could do whatever we thought we were doing as long as we didn't misbehave, and sometimes we misbehaved. But sometimes, we did some things that I'm sure my parents would have been absolutely horrified if they had ever found out about, like climbing on barns. I was really quite a tomboy, I guess you could say. I can remember at about age 6, wanting to be a cowboy, not wanting to be a cowgirl. So my expectations as a girl I think, were probably different from a lot of people at my age.

MF: How many siblings do you have?

JH: I have an older brother who's a little more than two years older than I.

MF: Do you get along with him very well?

JH: Sometimes, and sometimes not. We used to have colossal fights when we were children. And I can remember at school we went for quite a few years to a four grades in a room school and when I was in second grade and he was in third grade, I can remember the other kids just egging us on to have a battle. So we have a checkered history book. We don't fight that way anymore. He's also quite a hiker and turned 80 last year. He's in the process of trying to climb all the four thousand-er's again at 80 years and plus.

MF: Oh my gosh, I wish him luck!

JH: Well he's only got 18 to go out of the 60 last spring and summer and fall, he got through quite a few and we're hoping we're going to have a celebration at the top of Mount Jefferson as he finishes because that's where he wants to finish and this is the mountain where if I look out the window here we can see the top of.

So it's part of our everyday life up here.

MF: Do you and your brother hike a lot together, or did you?

JH: We did! We did, and as kids we did hike with our parents and subsequently, when we got to be, I don't know, 10, 11 something like that, we began hiking by ourselves and I'm still amazed that our parents let us do that kind of thing, but it was rather standard in Randolph in those days that the children were sort of turned loose and the only rule.. there were several rules that applied, one of them was, you should never bother your father who was probably a professor or minister when he was in his study, and the other was you should be home for dinner! And we have lots of friends up here that spent their childhood, whole summers up here and they used to, I mean, they just had tremendous freedom that we don't have any more. The first time that we went overnight by ourselves, my brother must have been 12 so I was 10, and we had another friend that was 10 and my parents did make arrangements for us to stay in Madison hut, but we were allowed to go off by ourselves and spend the night and then I can't remember how we came down, whether we just came back down again. But what I really remember about that trip, and I don't know if you're familiar with the mountain up there, but on the side of Mount Adams the double headed-peak which is called Quincy Adams, on the back south side of it, are some amazing cliffs and I could remember after supper at Madison Hut, going out the three of us, going climbing on those cliffs; as I think about it, if I thought about my own kids doing that I would have been petrified. But, we didn't have any problems and we were lucky. Maybe sometimes when you turn children loose they do what they're have the capacity to do and they don't do other kinds of – they don't take too many risks. And perhaps that's what saved us, I'm not sure. And then subsequently once my brother got a drivers license we used to just go all over the place hiking and managing our own climbing and so on.

MF: Did you travel a lot?

JH: Not as a child, my father was also a physician and he was associated with Boston City Hospital, and he had quite a lot of responsibilities [...] and so we were only up in Randolph for maybe 3 or 4 weeks usually in September, and then after and especially during World War II they were both you know, involved in various things that they couldn't get out of and so you know, we did very little travelling at that point.

Al Hudson (AH): But later!

JH: But later, as my husband who is sitting across the room says, I am really all over the place. In addition to Indonesia we've done a lot of other travels, mostly in Europe. In fact, in mid-May we're headed to Yorkshire for a couple of weeks or so. So we'll do some hiking and sightseeing and what not. See some new places.

MF: What age did you enter high school?

JH: I think I was 13.

MF: Me too, I was very young when I entered high school.

JH: [laughs] As I was saying, we went to a four-grades-in-a-row school and by the time I was at the end of 6th grade, my brother had already graduated from the school and [my parents] decided that I was just not challenged at all by this. Because if you're in the same room with the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, by the time I was in 6th grade I had listened to everything that the 7th and 8th graders were doing. And therefore there was nothing new coming up. So they sent me to a junior high school which was about 15 miles away and so I did my junior high school there three years until 9th grade. And then they sent me to a private school, a very progressive, co-educational school outside of Boston which was called the Cambridge School which was a very challenging education. And I had a lot of good teachers there and interesting classmates and various creative activities and so on.

MF: Did you have any college plans at the time?

JH: Well you know at that point college, getting into college, was not such a big deal. And so people did not plan very much. And I wasn't very interested in college and making plans, and so I sort of backed into it. At that point if you were a relatively smart young woman, you were encouraged to go to a women's college, one of the seven sisters. So I applied to Smith because my advisor suggested I should do that. I applied to Vassar because my mother's older brother and older sister both lived in the town where Vassar is. They thought that would be a good fit for me. I got into both and my advisor at school, whom I did not like much, said "I think you should go to Smith!" and that's why I went to Vassar. [laughs] Freshman year it was not very good but subsequently, for the last three years I got into a cooperative house where there were 28 of us and we did our own cooking, and managed our own house and what not. And so it was a much pleasanter kind of atmosphere than a dormitory. So I stayed there for those four years.

MF: What was your major?

JH: I majored in music, and I minored in English. I did a very complicated honors thesis which involved both musicology and literature and philosophy and aesthetics, something like that,

which was a great experience. I play regularly in a symphony-orchestra and I ended my working career as the manager of this orchestra, and did that job for about 11 years until I retired.

MF: You play the viola, right?

JH: Yes, yes.

MF: Do you play any other instruments?

JH: I first started on flute and there isn't a lot of music for the flute, and when our daughter was, we were buying, I guess she had a quarter sized violin and we were going to buy a half sized, I asked the guy at the store "do you have a viola?" and he said "oh yes!" and so he brought out this viola and I started to play it! Anyway, so I've been doing that for a long time. In fact, we just had a concert Saturday night and I worked very hard to be able to play what we were playing but it worked very well. It was a good concert.

MF: Do you do any conducting?

JH: No.

MF: Do you have a favorite piece to play?

JH: I have lots of favorites. It all depends, it depends upon, well, we regularly play in string quartets, maybe once a week with a couple of friends. My husband plays second violin and we have two other people who play with us. And I would say probably string quartets are my very favorite thing to do because they're really very exciting and you do just your own part and you have to cooperate with your other players and the music can be very beautiful.

MF: Did you ever meet anyone in any symphony or orchestra that also loved to hike, and did you go hiking with them?

JH: We have a cellist in our orchestra whom I've not hiked with, but she has been very much into the mountains and years ago we used to go up to a celebration at Madison Hut that the AMC crew members sponsored. It was called.. what was it called? August, something.. music in August, something like that. Augustfest, it was called. And we were up there one year, and Al took some pictures and a few years ago I was looking at these pictures and I found here was my friend Susan playing the cello up there! And people do these crazy things. Our son, who was also a cellist, when he was about 15 or 16, he came up, carried his cello up, played up there, and then went rushing and running off down the mountain in front of us. And I was thinking we were gonna find him crashed somewhere with a cello in pieces but, the only comment we got was from some hikers coming up saying "Did you see the guy with the double bass on his back?" Which really would have been something if it was a double bass! But anyway, so there have been times when we've combined music with the mountains and I don't know that they're doing Augustfest anymore, but if they're doing it, then they're not terribly interested in classical music anymore. So we haven't attended it in quite a while.

MF: In *Waiting for the Durian to Drop*, you said something about playing the flute for the people in the village and they weren't interested either?

JH: Right, right! I think it's an acquired taste. At that point the music they got was usually from, they could have heard something from radio Australia or something like that. The Beatles had just hit the international scene and what they wanted us to do was to sing Beatles songs and things like that, and we were not very good at that. The other one of the things that we used to do or be asked to do, because people provided their own entertainment in the village, of course there was no electricity or radios or anything like that. These people dance a lot, they play music in their own gongs and drums and things like this. But when they dance, they dance independently, they never touch dance, and so there was one song that they would sing and we would try to waltz to it, and the problem was that part of it was in three beats to a measure and parts of it were in four, and so it was not easy waltzing but this was the most popular kind of performance we could do for them.

MF: Indonesia was after college?

JH: This was after college, yeah.

MF: So you went on this trip with Al, obviously, how did you guys meet?

JH: He had gone to high school with my brother, and he went to Harvard from the Putney school and quickly, or within a semester, flunked out... or was told I think you should go away and do something else, and so he went into the Air Force at that point. This was during the Korean War. I had known him briefly when I was 13 - 14 and had been very impressed with him, but he didn't seem to be very interested in me. And by the time he had got out of the Air Force I was in Poukeepsie NY in college and he went back to Harvard, because Harvard when you leave Harvard like that, they will let you back in. And so he did a year and a half at Harvard and then we decided to get married after I graduated and he said let's not stay at Harvard because the schedule there was very very rigid, and he couldn't study the things he wanted to. And we went out to the University at California of Berkeley and we were there for four years and he did two years as an undergraduate and two years as a graduate student. I did a masters in Musicology at the same time and I worked in the music library there and eventually because we had decided we were going to go work in Indonesia, we moved to Cornell which had the best program in Indonesian studies at the time, and at that point I worked for a wonderful woman who was a dancer and an artist and just an all around incredible individual and Al did the rest of his doctorate there and after two years there we had studied the language and were beginning to be able to speak reasonably fluently and we then took this trip for basically two years and then came back to Cornell. So that's the long and the short of the education program.

MF: Was there any particular reason Indonesia was of interest?

JH: Basically it was a man with whom Al studied at Berkeley who had worked in Indonesia and when Al was in the Air Force, he learned Chinese and worked for the National Security Agency in the Air Force and monitored Chinese pilots and whatnot. And so he was thinking of trying to work in China and of course, that wasn't possible and, so when we got sort of excited about Indonesia this is, it was due to this very charismatic professor who had worked there and had ideas about all kinds of things that could be done there.

MF: Were you guys married before that or no?

JH: No no, we got married about a month after I graduated from college. When I was 20 and I couldn't get a legal drink in the world but... (At this point in the interview, the telephone rang and she was cut off. We moved on to the next question.)

MF: I noticed that in the kind of, the end of your book *Waiting for the Durian to Drop*, you said you probably wouldn't be able to come back and that the goodbyes seemed almost final. Was there any reason or?

JH: Well it's very expensive, it was during a period when the Indonesian government was not very interested in allowing people in to do research, in Indonesia. So I mean that's the reason why when we took the trip in '92, we went in on a tourist visa and were able to stay. It was 3 months that the visa was good for and we flew out into Singapore and got a new visa and came back in, so we spent maybe about 4 months that time. Also it's very strenuous, because of temperature and travel conditions and so on. But, we have kept in touch with a few people and we're now in touch with a couple of people from this ethnic group, the Ma'anyan with whom we've lived. And there are people we've never met but we probably knew their grandparents. That's been good, there've been a few people and we've gotten quite recently some photographs of the town and how it has changed. Seeing a new government office and seeing a picture of our house, which hasn't changed and looks just like it did in '92. So I don't think we'll go back, but it's very hard on you physically just because it's very hot. In '92 we also spent a while in Bali both on the way to Borneo and on the way back, and on the way back we were feeling sort of worn out and we went up into the mountains where the temperature dropped to maybe 60 at night, and I suddenly came back to life again! It just is really hard on your body especially, I mean... no air conditioning. By now, you know, a lot of these places are air conditioned which means you never get adjusted to the weather outside.

MF: So I need to backtrack a little, I've kind of been all over the place. How many children did you have?

JH: Two.

MF: Boy or girl?

JH: The older is a girl and the younger is a boy.

MF: What do you think is the most important thing to teach your children?

JH: There're so many things...

MF: Kind of a loaded question, but...

JH: [laughs] perhaps how to be human and sympathetic. How to exist in the world. Also how to live, how to be able to take care of yourself. And to adjust quickly to different situations. I mean that's part of what learning your way around say the mountains where you're dependent on your own skills to navigate and what not, how to know where you are and how to find where you're going. How to know what the natural environment offers you and all of that. Anyway, we're very lucky at the moment because both of our children live in the same town that we are in. we see them very frequently and our daughter teaches at University of Massachusetts in the school of education. Our son is a composer and is working on a big project on string quartets as a

teaching tool to expose beginner musicians all the way up through professional musicians, to expose them to contemporary music and playing in string quartets and what not. So we're very grateful to have them around and be able to be a part of their lives.

MF: Did your mom influence the way you raise your children at all?

JH: Certainly some things, I mean certainly my involvement with the natural world and learning about botany and birds and mountains and so on. She was raised in Japan, her parents were missionaries and in the summertime, the family would go up into the Japanese mountains because Tokyo was very very hot. She learned to hike in the Japanese Alps and had a real love for the mountains. I've been reading some letters that she wrote about being up, actually up in Randolph one summer while my father was an intern down in New York City, and she talks about the wonderful freedom of being able to be up in the hills and hiking, and on one's own. It's a question of having enough confidence to know that you can do it and just going ahead and hiking. I mean I still do some fairly long hikes. This last October I started out with my brother who was conquering some three, four thousand-er's or something and I stayed with him for a while but they were going to do a side trip to take in another peak on the Carters so I just decided I'd turn and do a slightly shorter hike, which ended up being 10 and a half miles, and I spent the whole day by myself. This was the holiday weekend and I met a bunch of people on the way and I spent an hour just sitting in the sun having lunch and looking around and watching birds, and what not. And then I headed back down the mountain and very near the bottom I met two young women who asked me where I had been and I told them. They were sort of agog at this and they said, "do you mind if I ask you how old you are?" I said no, and then I said I was 78 and they were even more astonished and they said "well how do you keep doing it?" And I said "well I don't know, I just keep moving!" [laughs] So anyway, but I got out before my brother and his daughter and granddaughter, and felt very proud of myself for having done that much of a hike.

MF: Do you remember your very first trip to the White Mountains?

JH: I don't remember too much of my very first trip, I think was four. We came up to Randolph and stayed with a family that my parents were very close to. So I don't remember much of that trip, but I do remember, well... I have a sort of conglomeration of experiences from ages 5 or 6 onwards. To begin with, I really didn't much care for hiking. I was really into reading books and I would – and also this was with the same family and they had a young English boy who had been sent to America by his family at the beginning of the war because it was very dangerous where they were and he stayed with this family for some years and he and I were good friends and – I either wanted to read my book or I wanted to play with Ian. I didn't want to go hiking, and I can remember that very clearly. One used to sort of pray for rain because nobody would go anywhere then. And in retrospect my children look back now and say, "oh, we used to hope it was gonna rain!" [laughs] so they wouldn't have to go out.

MF: When did you start enjoying hiking?

JH: I think at the point that my brother and I began doing things together and having some freedom; and you got used to it. It didn't bother you anymore. Our granddaughter who's now almost six has been up here for three consecutive summers for a visit and you know, the first time she barely walked anywhere and the second time we got her somewhere up a small mountain. And then she began to say, "oh, well this is sort of fun!" and she really likes to run

down the mountain and I started out running down with her, holding her hand, and stopping her from running when it got to steep or rocky or something like that. She now is just very enthusiastic, she wants to have her sixth birthday party on a mountain down in Massachusetts where we live. So it looks as if we're passing this onto the next generation, which is great.

MF: So you yourself have a pretty mountainous background yourself I would say, did your ancestors live in, or were they connected in some other way to the White Mountains?

JH: No, as far as I know. As I said my mother was introduced to hiking in Japan and my father grew up in Ohio and there aren't many mountains there, but he, before he developed arthritis, used to do quite a lot of hiking also.

MF: Did you ever live there, in the White Mountain region?

JH: Well, I've spent a lot of summers but I haven't lived there. Almost every summer except for when we were in California and also Indonesia, but I've been back almost every summer.

MF: You are a hiker, correct?

JH: Yes.

MF: And a naturalist?

JH: Well, yeah I would say so, yeah.

MF: Do you do any skiing?

JH: I cross-country ski. I never was very good at downhill, or I never spent enough time. During my sophomore year in college, I did spend a vacation up in Tuckerman's Ravine with a boyfriend and decided that I was not a winter camper. It was not very pleasant, most of it. Also he had been saying it was, you just weren't alive until you skied in Tuckerman's Ravine and he spent the whole trip complaining about one thing or another, which was the end of him in my life. But, anyway.

MF: You are a member of the Randolph Mountain Club.

JH: Indeed, yep.

MF: Do you hold a position there?

JH: Currently I'm called the historian. My husband is the archivist. We have both been president at one time or another, and I was treasurer for a while pre-computer age. We've served a variety of functions, done a lot of, particularly Al has done a lot of maintenance of the camps: carrying boards up the mountain, I mean nowadays when any major renovation happens they usually helicopter in the materials that they need. But in those days we carried the stuff. There've been just a bunch of amazing stories about people carrying loads of this and that, and I can remember Al with some boards on his back. They were, they must have been 8 feet...

AH: 8 feet.

JH: How many?

AH: 8 feet.

JH: tall and going in front of him and letting him know when he was gonna hit a tree! [laughs] which was frequently, and so we've had some adventures in that direction. I don't know, one of the real influences in my life I think is a German guy who was president of the club and what not for many years. A man named Klaus Goetze. He also was a musician and a friend of my parents and we spent quite a bit of time together and going on camping trips with him, backpacking, and at a point when the packs were hideously uncomfortable and the sleeping bags weighed a ton and we carried food in tins, tin food, there either wasn't any dried food except for maybe rice and a few other things. Learning a great deal about how to manage in the mountains. And at night we could sit around a campfire because that was still possible on those days, and Klaus always insisted that everybody do something to help entertain us. Tell stories; sing songs and whatever. He had memorized a poem called something about Dangerous Dan MacGrew. And he would recite this very long poem for us all, very dramatically in his German accent and whatnot. The good thing about the club is that it had a lot of interaction with other people and as a child you got to interact with other adults than your parents, and our children as well had some wonderful conversations as they were hiking. Our son and a friend climbed something with our, a Nobel Prize winning physicist and they got into this conversation about was there water on Mars? And if there was, how were we going to bring it to Earth? And this conversation went on for half an hour or something like this, and the physicist was just very, very generous with the kids and you know, treated their ideas very seriously and they had a wonderful time!

MF: I was going to ask you if there are any memorable conversations you can think of that came from any hikes, or if you've ever had like a deep conversation on a hike?

JH: Yes, yeah. Often! But it would depend upon who you were with. And I've had a number of them but in the way that mountains can be consoling. I climbed, oh maybe 10 years ago with a very dear friend whose son had recently died of cancer and we went up the Howker Ridge trail and she was able to talk and I was able to listen about you know, all of her feelings about her son and when we got down she said "I'm so grateful for you, for having done this with me. Because it seems I can only express myself when I walk," and she was able to talk about her grief in a way that she wasn't able to with other people.

MF: The mountains do that. Definitely.

JH: Mhmm.

MF: Can you paint me a picture of your favorite section or region of the White Mountains?

JH: Well I think it's the view of that we look out our windows at. Between Mount Jefferson and Mount Adams; the place that's called Edmands Col. If you drop down our side of the mountain just a little bit, there's a spring on the north side of Edmands Col that's called Spaulding Spring and it is an absolutely gorgeous place. The spring bubbles just out of the hillside, you're above tree line, there's very lush grass and moss, and despite the fact that there's a very popular trail maybe 200 yards above it, I've never met anybody else there. And it's just; it seems like a very private place and one can lookout all over the place and see wonderful views. I would say that's probably my favorite place.

MF: What are some good things about the White Mountains?

JH: Well, they're there! For us to enjoy. They're a place where they're vast enough that they can accommodate a lot of people, after all people like to sort of keep together generally speaking, and if you want to get away from people, it's really easy to do. I mean, I've been on an RMC hike maybe with 15 people, something like that and every once in a while, I've started out slowly to talk with some of the people who are going slowly and then I want to move faster and so I go ahead, and within five minutes I'm in a place where there's nobody! And I know there are eight people behind me and seven people ahead of me, and yet I feel like you know, the mountains are totally mine. And I think one of the things I like to do is climb on the less populated trails especially some of the RMC trails because they're mostly not used as much as the main trails going up and down the mountains.

I don't know if Marcia has introduced you to this collection of letters called Mountain Summers, have you seen that publication?

MF: I have not.

JH: It's a series of letters written in the 1870's and 1880's by several women. One of whom is the sister of one of the early path makers. If you look in Peaks & Paths I talk about Marian Pychowska and her relationship with the mountains and what I like to think and indeed, in the preface to my book, Laura Waterman starts out with the Pychowska's mother and daughter and their adventures and sort of projects that, you know, the same kinds of experiences are happening in those lives well over 100 years ago, and they can still happen today. I think you'd be interested in some of them, part of it is that a woman in those days had very little freedom to be without a man. And you know, they had to, if they were going someplace it was better if they had a man along but when these women were able to get out by themselves or in a group of women, and one of the favorite things – I mean at that point there weren't very good maps and they didn't know necessarily where they were and one of the ways of finding out where you were was to climb a tree! And in long skirts, this was not a good thing to do when men were around. So they enjoyed you know, the freedom of being by themselves and not having to worry about being proper or whatnot. And these tales of how they come down at night and are filthy and their clothing is torn and whatnot, and they come into the hotel and people look at them as if they were just scandalous. That they couldn't possibly be like that, but they got a great deal of joy out of being independent. I think the White Mountains, any mountains perhaps, but the White Mountains have a long history of enabling people to be independent and especially women. I mean, I'm amazed now at the younger generation, two generations below us, for example, my nephews daughter who's a junior at Williams now has served on the AMC hut crews and done various things and thinks nothing of starting at the Lakes of the Clouds and walking home – which is really quite a hearty distance, and she'll do it in you know, 2 and a half hours and something like that. Just banging along having a fine time. Her parents are happy that they have cell phones and that they can occasionally text where they are! So that if something goes wrong, they would know where to start looking, but anyway. The fact that she is so empowered to do this kind of thing, I mean I almost felt to be pretty daring years ago. I mean men have done that for a great many years and nobody would have thought twice about it in the past but that it can be done now is very great.

MF: Is there anything that you don't like about the White Mountains?

JH: Nothing that the Mountains themselves brings. It's some of the things that mankind comes along and tries to do is perhaps less desirable. I mean they're not trying to inflict their ways upon me. They're just sort of there.

MF: Do you know what Title IX is?

JH: Of course, yeah.

MF: What did you think about it when it was first passed?

JH: That it was a great idea, and well past its time of needing to happen. And I think in general women have been able to take advantage of these opportunities now and do a variety of things. I was seeing that there's a first female joining professional hockey, men's team as a goalie - which I read that in the paper the other day.

AH: Minor league.

JH: What?

AH: Minor league.

JH: Minor league,

AH: But still!

JH: But still! It's quite amazing and to see in the recent Olympics all the activities that the women are doing and you know, they may not be able to jump quite as far, or ski quite as fast but they're really living up to their potential.

MF: Did Title IX affect your relationship directly or indirectly with the White Mountains at all?

JH: Not me personally I don't think, because I was already fully adult by the time. I think it affected my daughter's life in a way that she was able to participate in various sports activities and that sort of thing that maybe she wouldn't have thought about in the past. But it certainly has opened a lot of doors for lots of people but I think, and especially I think for youngsters who are brought up in more conventional families than mine, be really mind changing and attitude changing on the part of you know, having parents who would allow you to do that kind of thing.

MF: In the Randolph Mountain Club, were you welcomed and integrated into the work place or did you have to work at it?

JH: I don't think there was ever any suggestion that as a woman, I couldn't do, or participate fully in activities. However when I was growing up the Trail and Hut Crews were all male. But we were invited to participate in various kinds of trail clearing adventures. I helped this Klaus Goetze clear a trail, a new trail, cut a new trail and was not treated as someone who couldn't do something. The club itself had quite a, an awakening I guess you could call it, when we finally began allowing women to serve on both Trail Crew and to serve as Hut people. And as it happened Al was president of the club when it was integrated by gender. And I think he was fairly influential in getting the change to happen and have people accept it. Would you agree?

AH: Yes.

JH: Yes! [laughs] There were meetings about what would be inappropriate for women to do, yeah yeah. Would they be what?

AH: Safe?

JH: Would they be safe? Yes. And you know, sometimes you do worry about that. But the women we have generally speaking working on crews often our Trail Crew now has either equal numbers of men and women or more women than not. So it's interesting to be able to see that happen. And they do incredibly heavy work. And also I find I think having had women as hut masters has civilized the whole experience for a lot of people because there aren't a lot of people, or a lot of men up there who are drinking and getting out of hand when there seems to be women in charge.

MF: Did you ever do the same work as your male colleagues?

JH: Well I never actually served on any of these Trail Crews. When I have helped cut a trail I would do more or less the same work, but I'm not a chainsaw user. All of the, or a great number of the women now are so, this is something.

AH: Engineers!

JH: Engineers. [laughs]

MF: So my very last question is, have you changed about how you feel about the White Mountains over time?

JH: Well I think I've gotten gradually more addicted to them. I can't imagine not being able to be here. And as one gets older one worries about, am I gonna be able to do this anymore? And so when I'm up above tree line, it's sort of exulting. I guess I try to live in the minute up there and say you know, maybe I'll never be back here again but let's enjoy it to the fullest while I'm there. I've also gotten much more deeply involved because of all the history that I've done. Until the early 2000s I wasn't really incredibly knowledgeable about the history of the area and through a variety of circumstances I got involved with the club and with writing for the news letter and this all eventually led to the book which came out in 2010 which was the Centennial of the club and so I now have sort of a reputation as being somebody who knows a lot and all this knowledge has been quite recently accumulated or within the last 15 years. Although we do draw upon personal experience, which I can remember, but I didn't know much about the detailed history until I started working on these historical articles.