

Oral History Interview with Peter McCarthy
Conducted by Kathleen Lingley, 2002
Transcribed by Alison Froese-Stoddard, 2013

KL - [Recording starts mid-sentence]. And when were you born?

PM - December the 2nd, 1928.

KL - I'm a December birthday too. Did your parents work outside of the home?

PM - My father was a travelling salesman who selling for a company known as Pickfield & Clark, which sold stocks and bonds of various.. throughout the province of Nova Scotia.

KL - And your mother worked in the home?

PM - Yes. Looked after her sons, and one daughter.

KL - How many brothers and sisters did you have? You had one sister...

PM - One sister, and three brothers, for a total of five, plus my mother and father. The Halifax portion of the Jennings and McCarthy migrated from Sydney to Halifax in the relatively early business years, because they felt it was an area of greater potential.

KL - Certainly. When did you attend Saint Mary's high school?

PM - Can I refer to my notes? I wrote them...

KL - Sure!

PM - My mother and father settled in Halifax in early 1921, and going on here to say what my father did for a living... The five children resided on Near St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic church. We travelled in pairs as a result. We went to Thomas Aquinas Church, and Thomas Aquinas school, the common school, And some classes for the older students, and some evening classes were carried out at St. Thomas Aquinas, the St. Thomas Aquinas only went to grade 8 - we transferred to Oxford Junior High, which is located north of Quinpool Road. And from there, we went to high school at Saint Mary's College - the old Saint Mary's College located at the corner of Quinpool Road and Windsor Street. It's now, I guess you'd call it, an invalid's home, where invalids are, people beyond the ability to look after themselves, to be treated, and given direction because they don't have no one else, and don't have the financial capability to go to any more high class house.

KL - And this is St. Vincent's Guesthouse?

PM - St. Vincent's Guesthouse is where Saint Mary's College was located, there in the athletic, the rink, and all the rest of it.

KL - Ok.

PM - For your information, the old St. Thomas, I'm sorry, the high school was run by the Jesuit teachers, of course, and they replaced the Irish Christian Brothers, who came to Halifax

from Ireland some years prior to that, but as they grew older, there was no more influx of from Ireland to come over, so the Jesuits, which still run Saint Mary's, or think they do,...

The new Saint Mary's was built by the older people who went to the high school who took the classes like Engineering, and Law, etc. And most of them contributed after they graduated and got into law or doctorate or whatever. A lot of them paid for their - the fact that they graduated and received their degrees, they felt obligated to leave money upon death, or in the area of retirement, they felt it was an obligation on their part to make a donation forthcoming, but less wealthy than some of the ones coming in from rural areas paid the various classes, particularly like Law, and Engineering where they needed a lot more money than the teaching profession would have, and less demanding.

KL - So you were at Saint Mary's after 1940, then. Because the Jesuits came in 1940, didn't they?

PM - Let's see, Let's back up a bit. The Jesuits... Following my career in the business world, at which I went into after my teaching at Saint Mary's, I went to work. And I went to work as a junior in bank managing, and spent several times in branches throughout Halifax to look and see and digest the banking education. And that was after some weeks and a couple of months, I went into higher... I guess you'd call it "Step 2" in banking. And by so doing, I transferred throughout the province from Yarmouth to Cape Breton, and joined the.. the period of time progressed upward to different branches - more responsibilities. And it was through the bank that, I guess I became a bit of a wanderer, because of the transferring back and forth, I ended up in places like Kingston, Jamaica, and St. John's Newfoundland... And back home again.

And from there, I settled in Halifax because there was a young lady in my life who happened to be a nurse - studying to be a nurse at Halifax ... the babies hospital, but it was not nearly as run down as the one that was rebuilt when she was there. Once again. Fate stepped in, while I was following my love. In... Bear River, where the Reeds lived, and where my wife, Doris Reed was studying. And we were quite serious about each other, and of course, the bank transferred me again. Um, that became rather a major disappointment to both of us, and we decided that I was going to leave the bank, and try to find more stable locations, which would lead to marriage. And we did, that, and Doris graduated from the children's hospital nursing school, and I traipsed around the area for what I considered to be a progressive job in an area with a product that I thought I could do well with. That led to me somewhat great, and each job had a proficiency in that I got a job, and I was - I had to become flexible, and so the job I was looking for, which was with TransCanada airlines, and I was fortunate enough to get it. I loved the airline industry, and I was fortunate to work in the industry for the rest of my working life. I found that I had the disease called flying with somebody else's wings...

KL - Now, what grades did you attend at Saint Mary's high school?

PM - Grades, I would have been... Grade 9 through to 10, 11, and they had grades called 11A and 11 B, and then into junior college. I didn't think that the college degree was my cup of tea, to put it that way, because it was quite an expensive role, since my mother and father were not paupers by any stretch of the imagination, but us four boys and a girl, and

my sister was studying at Mount Saint Vincent... Also, it didn't have what I guess I called, the product that Saint Mary's were preparing to, I guess, put into practice that I preferred would take me to Dalhousie, or one of the other Maritime education homes. Going back to your question, the knowledge of knowing that there was an airline in its infancy, and jobs were there, and certainly it enticed me, and I never left it.

KL - You were happy there.

PM - Yes.

KL - Do you remember anything about who taught you at the high school? Could you tell me about your teachers?

PM - Yes. Some were good, some were not so good, but I could start in Grade 8, which was where babies became students. And we had a sister – the sister of charity, Sister - what do you call the heads – she was the principal. And she taught Saint Mary's college, and she recommended the graduating high school peoples, and it was she who suggested that I go to Saint Mary's College. And it was at Saint Mary's College that I discovered one of my teachers – professors, I should call him - was a very well-known broadcaster – he did all the news – he was basically a teaching professor at Saint Mary's. He also taught me some classes with Mr. Lynch, that this little individual was a great guy. Father Kehoe. He was a very staunch Irishman, he had a great sense of humour. He taught Latin, and dabbled in other courses such as mathematics, when some of the priests would be seconded to the location because somebody was moved from another university, and he would fill in a grade for a few months, or the best part of a year. And I remember that he was a real tiger – he had a temper – that you couldn't forget. But he was so small and tiny. He did not tolerate any tomfoolery in class, but when he was out on the football field he could (()) because he was so small. He'd stand up to anybody in the football field and take his lumps, and give his lumps.

Who else was in there at that time? Let me see what I can recall with some degree of accuracy... There was another gentleman who happened to be the Dean of Discipline, and we found this rather funny. His name was Peter J. McCarthy!

KL - Coincidence!

PM - Yes! He took, I like to say at the time, a very fond teacher. He didn't find me all the time as a very fine student, to his standards.

KL - He expected a lot, did he?

PM - He demanded a lot! And I thought at the time that I could wheedle some special treatment, which I soon found, after squeaking through a bedroom window, at the old Saint Mary's College on a Friday evening, or Saturday morning! But Father Peter, as I was known to call him, (I thought I could take leave because we had the same name!) But anyway, he knew that I was out without permission, and he waited until the window opened... And the dormitory was in darkness, but he managed to grab me by the scruff of the neck and for which, I lost all privileges, but got lots more duties, because I decided I wouldn't ask – I just took my limit. But anyway, I found Father McCarthy very Irish,

and very temperamental. But he was also very kind. He sort of - he took everybody as equals. And the punishment that he administered was not given to anyone, nor was help with history or any other class we were taking, because he thought he was going to make sure that the rest of the people, all of the students, were not going to get anything special from Peter McCarthy, since the principal of the school was no relations of mine.

But anyway, very well-carried out school at the old school, and from that point on, we went into the business world. And the business world, as I said, was with Air Canada, known at that time as Trans-Canada Airlines. And as such things happened. I thoroughly enjoyed my travelling to Japan, travelling to Paris, to Italy and Rome. Learned how to cope with the changes of currency in places that you went to because you had to carry the currency – and that was of great help...in your daily requirements. In terms of your... I guess, I don't think I would have gotten the education from that point of view with the airline that I would have gotten from a conventional business office. But what else the airline has done, in terms of redeveloping my education, I was fortunate enough to go to places like Japan where the world fair was conducted. I guess also, that the holiday bug bit me too, because as years went on and we had children – which we had seven children – they learned more about the airline industry than people on the street because we could go on trips, and each year, if the children did well in school. And also, won a trip for myself, and their mother and their brothers and sister, we'd... no business to do - we went to Disney World, and all these ones that are on the East coast and the West coast.. and found ourselves in areas that we would have never accomplished but for the fact that their father had a pendix that was allowing you to move with ease, and the children certainly loved all the places that we went to.

KL - That's wonderful.

PM - I have a product here that I want to show you before I forget. It's pretty tattered and torn.

KL - That's your yearbook!

PM - That's my yearbook. Pretty tattered and torn.

KL - Was this a team you were on?

PM - Yeah. Lots of them in there.

KL - Which one are you? What a handsome young man! And this was football or rugby?

PM - Football. I forget what that is...

KL - It's a clipping about a surprise win in the city league..

PM - Oh, it's a hockey game that they were playing. There's quite a lot of this, the teaching and education part of it. There's some of them that I ... there's my protégé,...

KL - Oh, there's the Reverend McCarthy.

PM - I'll lend you that book if you want it, to check on any of the things that are in there.

KL - Now, you weren't in the service...

PM - No, I was much too young, thank goodness.

KL - Do you remember anything about training? Some other men were talking about how they would have military training?

PM - Yes, they called it, let me see... COTC. Officer's Training Corps.

KL - That's what it was. Were you a part of that at all?

PM - No.

KL - Was anyone from the high school? Or just...

PM - Oh no, more people were participants in the college ranks because there was another outfit called Cadets. Cadets was kind of a broad, same type of activities that other high school students were involved in throughout Halifax through the various schools. Whereas Saint Mary's and the technical college had military trained soldiers at a younger age, and were limited to such things as marching and firing guns, and that kind of thing.

KM - Now when you were at Saint Mary's, do you remember there being a dress code at all?

PM - Yes, there was, but you might say it was a mixture. And I say that with all sincerity, because some people that were going to the university were from very lean families. And there were other whose parents, you might say, sent them to school because the Jesuit priests were very strict people. And in order that they sort of ...obey and learn from the strict priests, they came home as a more grounded and genteel... and obeyed their parents to a higher degree than if they were sort of, running wild. So some people barely scraped through, not because they lacked talent, but because of the things that the other people would get and now, when high school pupils drive cars, there was no such thing as driving cars or bicycles or anything else - you got around was by your own feet. But the training was, and that's why the gentleman was there that I still adore, Father McCarthy. He got no impudence from anybody, whether it was from lower class, as we called it, to the idle rich. And naturally, we find in schools, more so today, that people have more tangible things than they did years ago. For example, my own wife who comes from a small village in Bear River, and whose parents were a farmer and his wife, and when they went to school, and a private school at that, there was considered to be a very sort of exceptional sort of individual who was encouraged to go to those schools because of the talent they had. Where others didn't care, they went because their fathers sent them to get rid of them, out of his hair.

No, to answer your questions, even today, I think of the schools down in Arichat, I think it's Arichat - people send their kids to those schools to give them a sound teaching course. Not as a punishment, but a genuine education. Not to go play hockey, not to play baseball, but to get - they preferred, but when they go to these places. To give you an example, a brother of mine, who decided he was a... not so good student - he didn't like to go to school. My father and mother got together and sent him to Sainte Anne's. Sainte Anne's is a French school down in Nova Scotia down near Yarmouth. And when he came

back, he learned a little bit of French, because he had to, and he also joined the navy. And because of the stiffness of the training, he was well-prepared for the Navy before anybody else was, and as a result of that, he became sort of one of the leaders in the navy at the time.

KL - Not to interrupt you, but I just flipped through the 1945 yearbook here, and they said that you were ‘tall, dark, and ambitious, and a firm believer that a thing of beauty is a joy forever’.

PM - Yes.

KL - Does that sound like you in high school?

PM - Yes, I remember that very well. I’m really not sure, to this day, as to what they meant by that, I guess that there could be various interpretations of what they meant by that. I’m never did find out who wrote it. Yearbooks were being sort of, put together, there was probably about six guys and a professor who developed the print. And each and every student seemed to have some kind of a nick-name...

KL - I see yours was Maxine!

PM - Yes. And that also got memories of mine – I chummed around with a guy named David MacDonald, whose father was a Dean of the law school at Dalhousie. Big burly man. Anyway, David and I chummed around – we still chum around – he lives in Ontario now. And he’s a very well-known world traveller in terms of writing the ways of different colleges, different codes of speech. Particularly in Oriental places. And when the war was over, he travelled many places to see the remnants of the war. He writes now for Reader’s Digest.

KL – Ok, that’s neat. I wanted to ask you – did you remember any college rules? Like, rules of conduct, rules that the Brothers had for you boys?

PM - Many! Many, I think... I’ll try to be honest and also be truthful. But your discipline depended on how well you studied or how well you carried out your classes. You could sort of.. the Dean of Discipline could sort of forgive a guy if he was, let me say, on the edge of punishment. But if he made good marks, and didn’t abuse the privileges, he could do most anything. There were a lot of priests that made efforts to have young boys study or take advice about religion, particularly the priesthood. Did you have another part of that question?

KL - Not for that question, I have another question, but if you’re not finished...

PM - No, no.. Guess I’m trying not to ramble.

KL - Were you responsible for paying the tuition at the high school yourself?

PM - No, not in high school. But when I got to, what they called Senior High. That is, beyond grade eight, they approximately, I would say, 15, 16, If you had ambitions to earn money, you could make money by pretty hard labour. It was during the latter part of the war years and they needed manpower, because a tremendous number of men were still in the armed

forces. You could make very good money by doing labour in places like Halifax Shipyards, or the Naval dockyards, and in some cases by going to rural locations where farm help was needed, and they took upon themselves to fill that gap, to help the people that were still at home, and even who had a physical disability and the boys would go out there, two or three of them, and they'd get a small amount of money but they got great food and great health, and they learned other areas. For example, they may have gone to places like Ontario where there was great opportunity, and great opportunity that they normally would working in Ontario. And being brought back by train and they learned so much, both physically, and in terms of some farming. And some of them remained in that niche, because they were city boys, they didn't have an opportunity to learn what a farmer was doing! What was his chosen - what word am I looking for - career?

KL - One thing - do you remember how much it cost to go the High School? Even an approximation?

PM - I would probably have to... this is probably way out in left field, but I think of myself. When you ask that question, I have to respond by another question. And that is, Are you talking about a person who, like I, who lived in Halifax, and went to school in Halifax, and went to school in the old Saint Mary's College? You paid very little compared to those that came from rural areas or other cities who had to board in, and bring their belongings and leave home, and came home at Christmas and Easter, and other times and all that time, they were paying for their food and their living. Whereas at my place, we had a pittance compared to the boys that were rural. Now. Take a fine guess as to pass this information along, and that would be that I think if I'm correct, and this emanates from... discussions with my father - and that was, if you don't make better marks from that university you're going to, that high school you're going to, you may find yourself out on the street. Because I... even though you're eating and sleeping, and using the love of your parents, you might find yourself wasting 100 or 200 dollars of good, hard earned money because you're not doing very good work, of your last marks on your report card. That's what I'm saying - that amount of money - a couple hundred dollars may have seemed a rather small amount, but when you compared to those from afar, like Newfoundland or PEI or some came from Quebec to learn English. Some boys came from St. Pierre-Miquelon just to learn the - not only the regular courses, but learn to speak English with their fellow high school kids.

KL - Oh my goodness, that would be difficult.

PM - Yes, but they would prefer to do that with learning it from fellow students than learning it in a classroom.

KL - Another question about boarding... How far from the college would you have to live in order to be considered a boarder? Like, did you have to be from away, I mean, not Halifax, or...

PM - No, I know another gentleman that you're talking to right now who... when marks.. sort of were better than expected by my father. In other words, I was not making good marks. And he said to me, I have talked to the priests at the college (gap at 49:01)

[End of Tape One]

KL - There, we should be good now.

PM - Ok, my father said to me - For the last semester, you're going to be assigned to Father McCarthy, and you're going to live in the University. And I did that two years.

KL - Ok. And was this so Father McCarthy could help you be a better student?

PM - No, it was so he could direct me! And "direct" is being polite! It was "direct" or "punish"... which one do you want?

KL - He kept you in line, did he?

PM - Yes. In fact it was only his direction that seemed very stern, but it was his direction that got me through two grades of high school with suitable marks – satisfactory to my father. And it was all because I was at the University after living in Halifax, living at home, was not satisfactory to my father. Now you're being sentenced for the last few years.

KL - Were you allowed to go home on the weekends or when you were a boarder, or.

PM – Only when you made an application to the Dean of Discipline, who said, "How are you doing in your studies?" And he didn't keep track of all the studies – all the students, rather, but he could very easily push a button and find out from any of the priests that were teaching. How was the McCarthy boy doing... And if the McCarthy boy wasn't doing both his father, and the priest disciplining, you didn't get home.

KL – You had to stay.

PM - No, it was often possible, that on Sunday or Saturday – I gave two examples only, and that was on Sunday, you went to Mass, and in my case instead of going to the... we used to call it something that was not very complimentary – we called it the hash house...

KL - Why did you call it that?

PM - Because nobody like the meals. Anyway, I used to sneak home and my mother was always kind to me and she'd either give me something to eat or make a big lunch to take back to share with my roommates and that sort of thing.

KL - Was the Hash House part of the college building or was it in another building?

PM - Yup. And you know, there were other.. Hard one, and yet funny. We had a room where we all sat together, and the food was mediocre, to say the most complimentary... But there were people there that came to the university or high school to be cooks, and people that kept the building in good shape, but were not necessarily the best cooks or chefs or anything like that. There'd be a person sweeping the floors or something similar, and the last half of the shift they may be making up tomorrows breakfasts, or ... foodstuffs. The one that most likely stays with me, stays with me in memory, is the ladies who cooked, also painted the walls when they needed to be done, And on two occasions that I can

recall, we always seemed to end up with mashed potatoes. And the mashed potatoes had little trickles of green paint.

KL - Oh my goodness!

PM - And you either ate it all, including the green paint which was difficult to get out of mashed potatoes, or you didn't eat it at all!

KL - What would you choose?

PM - I'd try many times to separate the paint, but it was hopeless. If you were hungry enough – you ate it! It didn't taste any different from regular mashed potatoes. In terms of the taste, the meals. But I lived through it.

KL - Now, when you spent the weekends at the college...What would you boys do?

PM - What would I do?

KL - Yeah.

PM - Well, what I would do would be get a nudge from Father Kehoe, one or two others that are in that book there... You partly... marched, almost to the chapel. And after Mass at the chapel, you might find one of the priests standing at the doorway saying, beckoning you over to see him, recognized that, you know, a free day today..."Well I have some things that would help your studies, if you go to the library this afternoon, and spend an afternoon studying French, or Mathematics or whatever it was – if you happened to be well-behaved, and an individual who would just get over the barrier of marks, He would say, you're bringing up your marks, you don't have to study today. You have the day off. Go to the ball game, anything you like – within reason of course. And this university has a reputation, misguided perhaps, that you're expected to hold a reputation up whether you're on campus, or anywhere else. In other words, don't come back with a black eye, or..

KL - But you used to sneak out!

PM - Oh yes. Yes. Because I had a girlfriend!

KL - And were girls not allowed to come on campus?

PM - No, they came very infrequently. They came to the bottom floor where the administrative offices were, where the .. such things as plays, or they were great people for putting on plays. But also, they had a hall that was used for visiting people. For example when there was graduation, they had a room which housed the, just by memory, 60 or 70 people.

KL - Wow.

PM - It was a fairly sizable number of students in the building, counting the people that were living at home and boarding in.

KL - How many boarders were there?

PM - I would say, there would be probably about, oh, 100? Maybe a little low, but I wouldn't go too far above that. And that was in both Junior grades 9 and 10, and people that were studying the, late teens, 18, 20, that were in the first or second year of university. When they got beyond that, they sort of do what happens today – they board out by a family or a relative or something like that.

KL - Now, what recreational facilities were there on campus? There was the rink...

PM - Very, very sparse. We had a rink that was a poor imitation for a rink these days, it was natural ice, not artificial ice. It was bigger on one side than the other, so when you turned around and changed ends on a hockey game, the turnout was equally as... one person getting a bad dig and the the other competition gets his taste at his turn. Now in addition to that, there were uniforms for football players, and baseball equipment... There was no such thing as a pool for swimmers – you were lucky if you had a shower! But the very basics – and not necessarily were they classy – they were perhaps hand me downs from maybe other colleges that could do without them when they replenished them. They'd send them to ... It was not a very lush university that we were living in. It was pretty rough.

KL - And you played hockey and football?

PM - Mmhmm. And ping pong.

KL - Ping pong?

PM - I'll never live it down that I played ping pong!

KL - What other things did you boys do inside school? Like ping pong, pool tables...

PM - Yes, I don't remember pool tables. I think pool had... not to be seen here in a college, university. Priests didn't like that sort of... There was nothing sinful about it, but it was never.. Probably because such things, guys get a little reckless, they're always looking for new bats, they're looking for ping pong balls, that sort of thing... they could never find any. They either walked away, or someone destroyed them.

KL - Goodness. Were you a part of any other society on campus? Like a debating society or,...

PM - Oh, not so much debating, but yeah, just trying to remember, what was the sort of activities that were over and above your daily studies. We had, if you were fortunate enough to have the material, we had a room that would allow you to bring in, and this was... a unique trick sort of thing that... you could buy at any 5 and dime store, or Woolworths, model airplanes were big And it helped people to be able to use their hands in a way that they wouldn't be able to acquire... a sort of ...an artist, to a degree. That these were very articulate people sometimes, but if they are able to use their hands, they don't have to be articulate because their hands are doing their work for them. And we were encouraged to do make things like that. Or carve wood, with their jackknives.

KL - That sounds neat. Now I have read some things about annual retreats. Did you ever go on any of those?

PM - No, I was never (laughs) I was never really very holy. My mother did all the praying, I think in our house. But retreats were probably, and I say this with some degree of hesitation, and that is that the girls went on, what did you call them?

KL - Annual retreats.

PM - Yes, annual retreats. They used to go to Mount Saint Vincent's, and of course reminding you that of course, Saint Mary's College was all male. And they made sure that you said your prayers, unless you wanted to get a bat across the ear. Because you had to say your prayers before you went to bed at night. And beds of course, were double beds, military base.

KL - Like a bunk bed?

PM - One guy slept on the bottom, and the other guy slept on top. And whatever you owned was down at the foot of the bed, or under the bed.

KL - And this was at Saint Mary's...

PM - Yes. And we had a locker, a locker being like a university man playing hockey, and his puts his uniform in there. But they were very easily broken into, which was why people would put them under the bed, or at the foot of the bed so they wouldn't lose them. People would borrow them, and forget to get them back! There wasn't much of that – Although, unless they... I must give credit to those that did... they... To give you an example, this is just a basic one, but an example would be that a lot of the boys would be more pious than others. And they would be the altar boys for Mass at the chapel. And a couple of those guys became very pious priests, and did very well in that line. And came back very often to see what went on in that era, because they were sort of middle aged men then, and they would come back and look over the places, the facilities, and of course they.. fun of what they did in the dim dark days when they used to live there. It was a very rugged school . not rugged in the way that they didn't have adequate facilities, but they certainly far from new, they were well-worn. And the people that were students there, in the priesthood, that managed there, were very professional and kind people. Except when you deserved punishment, you could certainly expect punishment. And that's why many of us were sent to the university, because you got very stern priests that were not behind the door – I'll put that phrase out there – they were not behind the door. You'd get a bat across the ear from a priest – but they don't do that anymore. That would be very difficult. It may sort of, be some sort of a crime – I wouldn't know that, but people these days in high schools, colleges, etc., certainly don't use their hands as a weapon. I don't think so, anyway.

KL - No. Now how did Saint Mary's, being a small campus, affect the atmosphere at the school? Were you close - ?

PM - Oh yes. When the college was sort of what I guess I call the heyday, just after the 1939-45, no, what was the dates, 1939-45, the war was over. And people were free living. And

they... The ball game changed, and there were a lot of people coming back to the university to finish their education. For example, Saint Mary's would play any kind of sports with Dalhousie, and they hated each other!

KL - Cross town rivalry!

PM - That's right, and it became such that there was never anything other than.. spirit, I guess, but there was no hesitation at all in pretty rough fights at hockey games, and football games, and the water got boiling... and tempers would boil over and I guess to some degree, that helps the temper out of them. To some degree, there's still the odd scrap that happens now, but they're not like the good scraps we used to have, let me tell you that! There was nose bleeding and all the rest of it.

KL - Did the brothers promote the students being involved in the Collegian, and debating, and sports?

PM - Yes. It was never.. Well... maybe it was me. There was never enthusiastic about that. I guess my sort of, druthers as a fellow would say if they were from Newfoundland, I would have preferred to be involved with sports activity as opposed to what do you call it, when two people make their point in terms of...

KL - Oh, debating?

PM - Debating. Yes. But, I can't think of a kinder word that ... these were the sissy guys! And the sissy guys kind of steered away, and for the only reason that the other guy was good at debate could eat them alive. And therefore the ones that would not be so good at it, but might be good football players, that's where their strength would lie. And they wouldn't deviate from the so-called sissified but clever guys. Those were the guys who ended up, in many cases, lawyers who have a gift, and other mentionable professions.. Doctors, I suppose. And that sort of thing, but when I look back on it, I often say to myself, you know you should be... more of a businessman than you are now, and my response is, there is no business in any degree at all that is... There's nothing any more difficult to manage, to cope with, to guard other people - is flying on an airplane.

KL - Exactly.

PM - There's only one chance, and you can lose a client's law talents, but you don't lose too many clients on airplanes. And I say that because that's my love. And I've never flown them, but I sure flew on a lot of them, and I knew a lot of guys that I had influence with. And we all became sort of, well, there's no 'sort of' - there's a talent of different loves. You can love very much an airplane, but it doesn't love you back. But it looks after a lot of people in the modern way of travel.

KL - Certainly. I just have a few more questions..

PM - Sure!

KL - What year did you graduate from high school. So you remember?

PM - I think – do you want me to leave these notes with you? I wrote them... And my handwriting is not necessarily good because I learned to write very quickly.

KL - It looks good to me!

PM - It's what I thought you might want to reflect on. Take a few minutes and look through it. My own family, my own bread and butter, my wife and my children, they're all in there too.

KL - Oh, Amy will love this too. She loves history.

PM - And her mother was our first child. And her mother hit her fiftieth birthday just last week.

KL - Just last week. I just have one more question,

PM - Sure, go ahead! I'm just getting comfortable with this now, now that we're getting..

KL - Now that we're almost done, eh?

PM - I don't know when we're done. I'm here for as long as you need me.

KL - What do you think your connection is with Saint Mary's is now? Do you still feel you have a connection?

PM - Yes, I still find myself in a position to be quite ready to argue that Saint Mary's was a dump. I'd direct that place on the corner of Quinpool Road and Windsor Street was nothing but a bunch of thugs. You hear that sort of thing! Because this a person that is the same age as me, or a little younger, saying that all those guys did was fight and drink. And you know, you just don't take that kind of stuff. In my case, I'm in my mid-70s, and I can still argue and if you want to, you can still fight, and I don't mean physically fight, but you take it very seriously if they ridiculing or criticizing the priests, because if you may or may not know, the Catholic priest in the world today is an individual on the hot seat.

KL - Certainly.

PM - And you know, it's not unusual to say, I bet you back in year whatever, that the priests at that time had a bottle under the bed. Or had their floozy down the road that they could have a date with, but you'd never know. Now that's a bunch of bloody lies! In my own personal point of view, if there was someone sort of anti-priests, or anti-Catholicism, and that sort of thing, I would have no hesitation at all getting into an argument about that.

KL – To defined yourself...

PM - I have an Irish temper, and you know, that's the way my father was, and my grandfather, and those things stick with you. Even though I haven't been in... well I shouldn't say I haven't been in Saint Mary's University, I have been, but the course at Saint Mary's there, back 20 years ago, a night course, helped me with my modern day business. I forgotten what the course was, but I got a certificate, but it came in quite handy when I

was doing business with Air Canada. And those kind of things stick with me. It's like a disease, you know? Something you're stuck with. There's another word – it's love! I'm sure the girls that went to .. what is it.. there on Bedford Highway....

KL - Mount Saint Vincent?

PM - Mount Saint Vincent. I still see girls that I went to dances with, who are married, and have grandchildren and that sort of thing – and the conversation will always go back to indubitably, swing over to here, and “have you seen Betty, or Lucy or Sam, or...” and “do you remember the dances that we had”, and “the time we snuck out into the back yard and had a smoke” And nowadays they're smoking in the back yard, or the quad or whatever, that kind of stuff was glue that kept them together. And I'm sure there are girls that are somewhat blue that they.. that Mount Saint Vincent was on the verge of... not necessarily collapse, but they certainly don't have the facilities or the reputation that they had when we were teenagers.

KL – I'm done all my questions, but would you like to share any other experiences of Saint Mary's?

PM - No, but I will tell you that I'm flattered to come and meet you!

KL - Well, it was great to have you in.

PM - And uh, I guess that I get a little sort of, what's the word, mellow... when Amy, as an example, asks me to participate. And it's special. Because she's our first grandchild, and she's a wonder.

KL - She is great. I know she wants to talk to you again another day and talk more about your personal life too. And she asked for a copy of this tape.

PM - Oh, I'm sure she will.

KL - Are you interested in having a copy?

PM - No. Because I probably wouldn't do it again. Her mother would love it. Her mother was our first child. And I get quite emotional about this sort of thing. And that's because of my... And this may not be very helpful, but it will give you the way I think , the way we brought up our kids.

KL - It's all you, and it's all part of Saint Mary's, because you went to Saint Mary's.

PM - Exactly.

KL I'll just turn this tape off then.

~End of interview~