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Dot Campbell Interview with Patrick Dickinson, Exchange Teacher from England, Part 2

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Transcript of a sound recording in MS 608, WLBZ Radio Station Records, Bangor, Maine,
1931-1973

Title: Dot Campbell Interview with Patrick Dickinson, exchange teacher from England: Part
2

Date: June (?) 1996

Recording number: D 16.25 ; CD 5 , track 2

Length of recording: 5:21

[transcript begins]

Dot Campbell: Socialized (inaudible) medicine over here. Do you call it the same in England?

Mr. Dickinson: We just call it the National Health Service.

DC: I see. Well, lets see. I want to ask you something else and it was mostly to do with the contacts and (inaudible) that you have made over there because you are up in Millinocket, Maine. Have you had an opportunity to contact any of your English friends, people that came over with you?

MD: No I haven't really tried to. I think the nearest one is somewhere in Rhode Island, one or two around New York so you see it is quite a distance, so I haven't tried to.

DC: But if you do go to New York, possibly you will?

MD: I don't think so not really. I think I'll see these people when I get home.

DC: Well I think that's kind of nice. I hope you like the American people.

MD: I do indeed.

DC: What about the equipment here in the schools? Did you have an opportunity to look in the Portland schools and school here to find out how our equipment in the laboratories and such work to compare with yours?

MD: Yes, oh you have some excellent schools and very well equipped. Unfortunately, (inaudible) many of our schools were damaged, destroyed completely by bombing during the war. With the results, we find ourselves fairly short of buildings, as well as the teachers and we are putting up schools as fast as we can and sometimes we haven't been able to equip them just as well as we would have liked to have done.

DC: Well, that must mean too that you have a lot of new buildings.

MD: Yes we have. Yes indeed.

DC: Do you go into this modern trend of one-floor school buildings?

MD: Yes we do, yes.

DC: So architecturally, we are more or less keeping right on together.

MD: We certainly are.

DC: Tell me, have you had an opportunity to look into the school system in Canada at all? Would that compare with the English schools pretty much the same?

MD: I haven't set foot in Canada yet. I hope to just to look at some of the schools, if the opportunity does arrive.

DC: Well I certainly hope you have the opportunity. By the way Mr. Dickinson, were you yourself in service during the war?

MD: Yes, I was in the army for 7 years. I was on anti aircraft control, that is to say controlling the anti aircraft guns which shot against the American, oh I beg your pardon, the German planes, which came over. For a while, I did that. Then I went to the Middle East and I spent some time in Italy.

DC: I guess you've had your share of service. I'm also glad you managed to get out and start living a good normal life again. Do you enjoy teaching?

MD: Oh yes, very much. I enjoy spending all day in school. That's why this is really partly a holiday as far as I'm concerned but I've spent it by going all around the classes and talking to children as often as I could.

DC: You enjoy younger children more than older children in their teen years?

MD: All children, I think. I enjoy being with them all.

DC: Do you have a favorite subject that you like to teach?

MD: Ah yes, English I think, but I enjoy the others almost equally well.

DC: By the way, do you have time for any hobbies at any time?

MD: : Do you mean here or?

DC: Anywhere, anywhere at all.

MD: Yes, I played I still play soccer in England believe it or not, yes and tennis. I play the violin. I play in a little orchestra at home. I do a lot of traveling. I go to France almost every year, because France is only 22 miles away from England, remember.

DC: Well isn't that wonderful.

MD: Yes. You can see it from the (inaudible) building.

DC: Oh, isn't that wonderful. Well that sounds very exciting to me and I bet you miss it too.

MD: I don't, not really. I know I'm going home and all, so of course I just don't think about it.

DC: Well, if you are not going home until August and school closes in June, what do you plan to do in the meantime?

MD: Oh, see the other 47 states if I can.

DC: Are you really going to?

MD: I am gonna try.

DC: I think that's wonderful. What place are you looking forward to seeing the most?

MD: New Orleans, I think I'd like to see and I have been over to Los Angeles. I did have a quick trip over there at Christmas, so I have seen California, very little of it, but I want to see New Orleans. I want to see right down the east coast, right down to Florida and I want to see Salt Lake City and I want to see the, where is that park where all the animals are?

DC: Yellowstone?

MD: Yellowstone Park, yes, I'd like to see that too.

DC: Well, I think you got a pretty rugged schedule ahead of you and I only hope you can get there. It is strange to me how people who come from other countries always manage to see more of the United States than the people who live right here, but that's the way it works out. I do hope you enjoy the rest of your school year in Millinocket. Just before we close, I'd like to ask you one more question. Now that you're halfway through, would you do it again?

MD: I certainly would.

DC: You really would.

MD: Yes indeed.

DC: Well we are very happy you could come over here. I am sure you must be giving our children something that they are always going to be able to cherish for the rest of their lives in that they have made a friend of someone from another country and I do hope whoever is taking your place over in England is coming back to us having made a great many more friends over there.

MD: Yes I am sure of it.

DC: It is awfully good of you to come down today, Mr. Dickinson and that is Mr. Patrick Dickinson, who is from New Castle in England and he is an exchange teacher from England and we are mighty glad that he could spare a little time for us so that I could pass the good word onto you in what's going on in the teaching field right here in the United States and that's it. Remember, you heard it on the radio from your hostess, Dot Campbell.

[transcript ends]

For more information about this transcript, audio recording, or other materials in Special Collections at the University of Maine, contact:

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