Interview with Greg Nolin & Gerry Fillion

At The Roy's Home, Berlin, New Hampshire

Tuesday, July 21, 2009

Interviewer – Ken Turino

Crew – Joshua Silveira

GF: Gerry Fillion. F I L L I O N.

GN: Greg Nolin. N O L I N.

Q: Okay. Gerry, did you grow up in Berlin.

GF: Yes, I lived in Berlin, NH all my life.

Q: When were you born?

GF: I was born October 24th, 1957.

Q: And where in Berlin were you born?

GF: At St. Louis hospital.

Q: And where did you grow up?

GF: On the East Side. I'm an East Side boy. Sullivan Street.

Q: And can you tell me a little bit about when you were growing up in the '60s what the East Side was like.

00:51 – GF: The East Side, ah. Well, we had our own little group on East Side. It was the only Catholic School was on the East Side at least on the East Side, one school. You had the church. Basically you all hung around together. We had our own little hockey team. Just good old East Side neighborhood.

Q: And how about you, Greg?

1:18 – GF: I grew up in Berlin and I was born on December 4th, 1959. And I grew up on the Avenues here in Berlin, 5th Avenue. Berlin was centered around the hockey rink as Gerry mentioned, the church was important. We had plenty of kids in the neighborhood. We were always playing hockey whether it was street hockey or went over to the baseball field and play baseball all day long, sports was a part of the up-bringing in the warmth of Berlin.

Q: Now, Gerry, tell me a little bit about your background and your family.

1:57 – GF: I come from a French heritage. My parents came down from, ah, just a little town just south of Quebec City, St. Bernard and St. Patrick. They moved here in 1956 and my father within three months became custodian (French Pronunciation) of Guardian Angel Church, the school. The rectory, he was the maintenance man over there we had six kids living in a three bedroom house (laughs) ya know from the ages of, my youngest, I'm 52 now with the oldest my sister, Marielle, is 57 right around there and my brother being ten years younger than me. So we just kind of, ya know, went to school went to church and did everything was all Catholic-orientated. French speaking. We spoke French in the house until actually we went to school. Actually French was my first language until almost the third or fourth grade. It took me a while to get that English in there and same thing with the rest of the family. I still speak fluent French. Kind of keeping the heritage going.

Q: And did your family keep up in terms of French foods especially at holidays?

3:26 – GF: Oh definitely. Every holiday in fact Greg come over a couple of times to my house Christmas Eve and have meat pie and my mother made a famous sugar fudge, I'm thinking of the word (French Pronunciation), and the ham just ah, my father being a comedian in himself, ya know, he like to sing and dance all the songs and we, didn't matter if Greg coming over we sang all the songs we could and we just had a good old time during the holidays, any holiday, it was always a holiday at my parents' house when everybody showed up. They made everybody welcome that was the heritage of them. My father and my mother were well-known because of, being in the Catholic Community working for the church. My father recently passing away he had six priests at the altar. I might have to look for one, ya know. That's my joke. Very, very Catholic-orientated oriented family.

Q: And, Greg, how about your growing up?

4:35 – GN: Yeah. Um I come from a family of four boys. My mother and father are both from Canada. My dad was a paper machine supervisor in the mill. My mom was a stay-at-home mom and raised the four boys. And like Gerry said holidays were big families got together enjoyed time together didn't matter if it was your immediate family anyone from town could stop over and say "hello" and it was a very welcoming town.

Q: We've heard a lot about that from people we have talked to. We have been very welcomed coming here. This is good. This is good to hear about.

5:12 – GF: I think even me being on the East Side and him being on the West Side, ya know, we kinda stuck to ourselves. But being able to play hockey everybody knew everybody. Ya know, we sat down in the locker room and I knew his brothers and he knew my brother and sisters and it was the same thing with the whole rest hockey team. We were one big family especially at the arena. Anybody who hung around there it was one big family. Everybody knew everybody and like you say anybody went to anybody's house everybody was always welcome, ya know.

5:39 – GN: The town turns out to support the youth. And when we were playing hockey together people came and watched us and now we do the same we go to the high school games and the youth hockey games and support. It's that town that hangs together and generations it repeats itself. A lot of pride.

Q: It seems like that. We are hearing that word a lot and I believe it. Now since you both played hockey we would like to hear, we have heard a lot about people's hockey experiences we know how important it is. I would like to hear about some of your experiences and was Husky a coach for either of you both of you? You're smiling here? Okay, so I'm going to start with you, Greg.

6:24 – GN: Yeah. Played hockey since I got on skates at the age of four. Husky Poirier was one of my youth hockey coaches. Definitely a big influence upon values that we have not only about the game but life's values. (Spelling) Albie Brodeur was another significant influence as he was the hockey coach at Berlin High School. Husky did most of the coaching in youth hockey. I was fortunate enough to go on to play hockey at the college level at Providence College with Lou Lamarello who was my coach so hockey was a big part of my life. And I think the game has been good to me and helping me grow up and the values I exhibit today.

Q: And how about you?

7:10 – GF: I started playing hockey, my father started working at the arena before I was born. He used to be the zamboni man and I was lucky enough by the age three or four first pair of skates were figure skates and I didn't know how to do that so it wasn't long before I got the hockey skates (laughs). And I used to be able to shoot around go on the ice while my father was doing the ice just take the puck and from there I ended up with Husky with the Squirt team. He already had a Peewee team going. Going through the ranks Squirts, Peewees, Bantams, Midgets, and onto high school where me and Greg, I believe, Greg, two years together we won states both years, we won New England runner up in '76. I kept, I ended up going into the service for a couple of years and came back and played Bruin's hockey for almost fifteen years after that until '96 – '97. So, hockey is still in my blood today. A couple of years ago Berlin High School hockey team went to the Verizon Center in 2006 and I ended up chartering two buses and brought a whole bunch of people down there. So we had a whole lot of fun just going to the Verizon Center having, what, 35-34,000 people there and it was just a big homecoming for us because we got to see people we haven't seen in a couple of years. Just a good old time. Reminisce of the old times, ya know.

8:47 – GN: Yeah. Wherever you go in the state there seems to be someone from Berlin that shows up at a sporting event. Again, knowing the people from Berlin travel no matter if it is a two hour trip. You say "how do the people from Berlin do it?" it's a way of life, we have done it our whole life. It's like going down the street to us to go support the youth.

9:01 – GF: We traveled two hours, Concord is the closest, it's two hours and fifteen minutes depending on weather. The people from down south kinda like "Geez, we have to go up to Berlin, New Hampshire?" We do this every other week or every week and down there even as

far as from you guys are from, Boston area, going into even Rhode Island so traveling was a big part of our lives.

Q: That's interesting to hear. Someone earlier was telling us it is two hours to anywhere from here.

9:38 – GN: That's a good point. Whether you're going to Sherbrooke, whether you're going to Portland, ME, whether you're to Burlington, VT, Concord. Absolutely, whatever direction, it's two hours. But I'll take this lifestyle, it's a good lifestyle. We live well here, we can leave our doors unlocked, it's a big thing.

Q: Now, I've heard some, from some of the people we have talked to even tonight some good Husky stories. I'm going to ask each one of you if you have one. I've heard stories about him buying a car because there wasn't enough cars to go to one of these games. I'm wondering if you have any stories that you could tell, we interviewed him by the way, I don't know if I said that but we did interview him so he is going to be part of this documentary. But I would love to hear if you have any stories.

10:26 – GN: He had a lot of great speeches in the locker room and one that comes to mind. He was trying to get us pumped up that we didn't have a very good first period and he came in and he used the term we were playing like a bunch of Zambonis versus a bunch of zombies. He used the word Zamboni he misrepresented the word and we all broke up laughing. We were fortunate, we were able to play together, we grew up together, we were very skilled at what we did we were fortunate and we did well most of the time so when we had an off period he didn't like it and that was the story I remember clearly that we were playing like a bunch of (spelling) zambonies which is a machine that cleans the ice.

11:09 – GF: We had, ah. I have two of them that kind of stick to my mind. One of them is we're playing in (???), Vermont Tournament and he was so frustrated because we were all clumped up together and he just shouted it out where everyone could hear it "Open up! Open up! You're playing like a can of sardines!" ya know (laughs). Every guy stopped and looked at him, ya know. Another one was that same thing in (???), Vermont he yelled at one of the guys "Start skating! You look like a pylon out there!" ya know. And just different things, there are so many of them but that's two of them but that sardine one is pretty good.

Q: Well. So you both went through high school here and you said you went into the military for a few years.

GF: Yes, I went for three years, yes.

Q: And but then you came back?

GF: Yes.

Q: And did you go into the mills then?

12:00 – GF: Ah, I got hired in March of '77 and I got laid off somewheres in the beginning of October of '77. I decided that I didn't want no lay off. So I said I'm going to join the service and I ended up going to Germany for three years. I kept my seniority rights in the mill because I had my forty-five days in the mill that was one of the things we had. Seniority meant something back then versus what today is. I came back in October of '80 and I started in January or February of '81 back working on the paper machines because I had really no seniority at all. So I started working the paper machines for a couple of years until I went into the towel room. And from there, I bounced every six years it seemed like I bounced all over the place because I had enough seniority to where I could move departments to where I thought it was better for me. So actually I worked in the towel room, I ended up going to the (???) plant, from the (???) plant I went to number 9 paper machine, down to ship, Cascade Shipping and my last job was working in the (???) room. So I have quite a bit a taste of that mill working in different departments.

Q: Which was the hardest to work in?

13:24 – GF: The hardest? Well, the paper machines. Actually the paper machines weren't, once you got used to it was pretty good. But the biggest one was, and maybe Greg can help me out with this, was the Pony Rolls. Just small 26 - 24 inch rolls so wide that there was about twelve of them coming out at once and they were coming out like, we called it popcorn. That was, and you're down low because the rolls are low and you're moving them, ya know, that was a tough job. To me that was the hardest. The rest of them once you learned the job the people in the mill were helpful showing you, doing it a couple of different ways to where it meant, how you wanted to do it, ya know. So, in April of 12th of last year I got laid off with almost thirty-two years seniority.

Q: And you went through a progression of companies.

14:19 – GF: Oh definetly. From Brown Co. to James River to PPA to where we are at right now. Is it Fraser right now? I'm trying to think of the other one was, Crown Vantage. So, but we bounced all over the place with different companies.

Q: And what about your experiences?

14:43 – GN: My experience after I got out of college came back to Berlin landed my first job in the mill as a converting scheduler. I got the scheduled converting machines got the scheduled paper machines. What products run on those machines. As Gerry said one of the items was a small pony roll that came off and it was a difficult job just bending over getting the job done but that was the customer's spec that's how he wanted it. From there spent a couple of years doing there and then went into human resource work and have been there for twenty-eight years now doing human resource work. Both at the Berlin mill which I left right after James River sold to Crown Vantage spent a couple years with Crown Vantage, saw things were not good so I took a job in Groveton, NH with Wausau Paper, their Human Resource director up

there. Then they shut in the fall of 2007 and now I'm in the banking business still doing human resource work for Northway Bank.

Q: Well, being in human resource work you are charged with helping a lot of these people that were getting laid off correct?

15:51 – GN: Yeah, right. Human resource work dealt with all ends of employee relations. Whether it's a labor grievance to, yeah, laying people off, hiring people it's the full gamut, benefits administration, all of that that's correct.

Q: So, what was it like for you and the people who were, we have heard of people losing their jobs here it must have been really difficult.

16:16 – GN: Very difficult. Because like I said we grew up together and it didn't matter whether you were part of management or part of the union we still, ya know, after work played ball together played hockey together whatever it might be. So, yeah, feelings run deep because the town is tight knit. And, ya know, the mill is the main engine to the North Country. All the mills that were here provided, we took advantage of the wood and the forest that were there and that's the city that trees built, Berlin, NH, that's where the name comes from taking those natural products that for many, many years that was needed on the open market. And now as you know the paper industry is dwindling and those kinds of needs are dropping.

Q: What changes did you see in Berlin with the factories closing with the mills closing?

17:08 – GN: Well, you saw the trickle down affect that it affected other businesses and other businesses were downsizing or shutting all together. So, yeah it is a difficult time and we are hoping we are at the bottom of that now with a couple of federal prisons to help level off a some employment opportunities and other business that feed off of people that live in the Berlin, Gorham the North Country. Yeah, we think we are at the bottom, we are hoping we are at the bottom but you never know.

Q: When did the prisons come in?

GN: I think the state prison was five or six years ago? Yeah, and the federal prison is being built now.

Q: And those, there has been an influx of jobs about 300 jobs or something?

GN: Yeah, there's probably 300 and there's another 300 or better to come again.

GF: We, excuse me, with the, is it in Tilton or in the state prison that closed?

GN: Laconia.

GF: Laconia. That affected, the last people that got hired over there were people from the mill who just recently got laid off you know what I mean. So we're still feeling, ya know, even with the federal, I mean the state prison. Hopefully, the federal, the only thing with the federal prison you have to be thirty-eight to apply. Most of the people who went in were all over forty, ya know, you might have a couple young ones but for them to go apply over there, they are in the same boat as me right now, no job.

Q: And did you see your friends your colleagues and all did a lot stay, did a lot move away? How has that worked out?

18:47 – GF: People have been bouncing. A lot of them have been going to southern New Hampshire getting jobs in construction sites where it is seasonal work which I'm doing right now. I'm supposed to be getting a phone call at the end of the month or sometime next month. And it's, you work two to three months maybe three and a half months if you're lucky. And but you travel all over New England. That's my job and but sometimes the longest I have been out was twenty-one days. I came home they said you're coming back the next morning. So I wasn't even home six hours. So, it's tough, the family life, the values we've grown up to have to be with the family. Now I'm on the road, ya know, the money is ok but it doesn't, ya know, with the family life, ya know. It's tough. And people are doing that a lot of people are traveling. They leave on Monday morning, early, do their jobs four tens or five eights or whatever then come back on Friday and they are here for the weekend because they still have their house over here. And who's going to buy houses? Ya know. Nobody. It's not a buyers' market right now and it's tough for these people because they have to maintain a job and to try to find a job right now. With me I'm lucky my wife works at Car Freshener which we have insurance but other than that, no insurance and at the age of fifty-two, for me, that's a tough position to be in. So we do, I do what I have to do and I think the rest of the people do that also. If they just recently get laid off the people who are in the mill right now who have, they are at the bottom, they are bouncing all over the place; today you are going to work tomorrow you're not, you'll be here Saturday night. These guys, I call them puppets, they have no life, they don't know when they are going to work and if they called they have to go in and if not unemployment for them is cut off. For them guys, the bottom guys are the ones I feel the worst for. For me, I can go out and do something there are jobs out there you just have to go look for them. So, that's where I am at with that right now.

Q: Boy, that sounds really tough.

21:10 – GN: People have had to reinvent themselves. As Gerry talked about family for years and years and years went to the mill, ran their whole career and now that's not true anymore for the most part so they have had to reinvent themselves as Gerry said go work construction. The mill, what it did for the town and people, was taught them good ethic and from there they were able to get other jobs because of their work ethic. So, I think that is important, Berlin people, people aren't afraid to work and they work hard and that's part of the culture here is that blue collar, hard working families. So they were able, whether they were to travel

to Conway or Littleton, or Nashua or Concord wherever it may be, Portland, ME, they land jobs because of the good work ethic and they can do a number of things. And the mill was good about teaching people a number of different skills so if it did close you could move on and find another job if that's what you choose to travel and if you choose to pick up and leave you do that too but a lot of people travel, Gerry's right.

Q: You are really the first people to talk to us about that traveling. It seems like there are a lot of people doing that, interesting. I was wondering what you felt about the river and what that meant to Berlin. We have asked a lot of people this because it is central obvious to the history and the industry so I was wondering if you had any thoughts about what the river meant to you because the mills because of your work because of your life here in Berlin. If there are any comments you could make on it, either of you.

22:56 – GF: The river (laughs). I just look at it now I think, with the mill being down now a lot of people didn't know about the damn which is on the East Side we see it so I think my taxes will be going up now because I have a view tax now (laughs). We can hear it at nighttime, it's unbelievable, and especially with all the rain we have had lately the thing is just, loud. The river is what started the whole mill thing concept because the wood came down from as far up as; help me, a long ways from here. Errol?

23:41 – GN: Yeah, it traveled many, many miles to come to the mill and it was the source of money. The logs were driven that way and people pushed the logs along and that meant money it was jobs although they were very difficult jobs very dangerous jobs it was a source of the mill the mill feeding the town and everything working hand in hand. And the river today for me is we need to take advantage of it. It is a pretty river it's got a lot of history and we just got to find out what to do with it that will again bring tourism back to Berlin because it's got value.

Q: Maybe that is part of the future. I wanted to ask you if there were any particular stories you wanted to tell us about really any aspect of Berlin in your history or any anything I should have been asking you, any questions I should have asked so if you have a story if there is something.

24:44 – GF: Well, I can talk about the fact that my father worked at the arena. Ya know, being in hockey, ya know, he started working there right away. Once he started working for the church that was part of the church, ya know, East Side. Angel Guardian at one time owned the arena so and so, um, my father worked. As you must have heard about it the arena caved in 1969. Actually I was on the phone talking to somebody when this all happened and they said get off the phone we have to call the (French Word) which was my father and my father picked up the phone and I don't know who he talked to I can't remember. I was young back then and we went down to the arena and it was a sight to see, ya know. To see that dome come down, it was tough, ya know. We talk about the arena a lot and people start talking about different things about the arena. How the Zamboni room was always in the back. Well, the Zamboni room used to be in the front, ya know. Just three steps down and get in that

machine, an old type machine. And we used to have a lot of fun over there. There used to be roller skating at the arena until the early '70s mid '70s something like that. I don't know why it stopped. As a matter a fact, Judy, the house that we are in now, Judy's father was the one who took care of the roller skating. Kids used to come in for a quarter and rent skates for a dime and go out and have fun. Used to be 2-300 kids. The wall, remember the wall? They tore that down I don't know why but the wall has a lot of history there, because we hung out, all the hockey players and they would all meet at the wall at the arena. So, the arena has a rich history with memories. The locker room memories just sitting down having a beer just talking. One night we had seven of the Montreal Canadians in that locker room, the old timers, when Eddie Shack was one of them (two names not sure) just sitting down having a beer with them guys and talking old time hockey. Even with Husky was there. The memories of that arena are, they need to be talked about. It's locker room talk but sometimes you can say certain things without, to where we can put it on this, ya know.

Q: Well, we will be having some things about the arena. So you'll watch for that, you'll watch for that.

27:28 – GN: My stories are just, it was just a great place to grow up. I mean it was a safe place. Police and fire knew us all as kids. The town supported youth activities. We respected our elders. We had that upbringing that we respected everyone's property. It's a fond memory that it was a great upbringing and if I had to do it again I would do it again. It was just a remarkable run.

Q: But you both grew up in a period that was in this country, tumultuous, there were a lot of social changes going on and was any of that, first you have the Vietnam War and then the subsequent wars. Did that have an impact on the community in your minds?

28:23 – GN: Any time you have war you have people from the community off at war. I know there were plenty of locals off at war. It's like today, you hate to see it. But it obviously had an impact on all of us learning about the Vietnam War and what was really going. So, yeah, it had an impact on the town.

Q: We interviewed someone today and one her cousins was one of the four men killed and she was telling us about that and the family experience so I was just wondering. That's why I brought that up.

28:56 – GF: There's a lot of people in the mill who went to Vietman and came back and a lot of them now even today don't talk about it because of what they went through. So, you just have to imagine "wow," ya know. When I was in the service for three years, do our daily chores and we weren't at war at the time. I found it easy, it was just a job, it was an adventure. But today, people getting in on there and going overseas, it's not pretty, ya know.

29:33 – GN: And the town had, as it was blossoming and going to 20-25,000 people in Berlin the town kind of had its Norwegian Village, its Russians, its French, its Irish so all had pockets

throughout the city. And all of those nice cultures that were although segregated were kind of neat as you went into the different parts of town. Those are all broken up and don't exist anymore. You would think all of those barriers were a problem but not in the city of Berlin it wasn't. They all came together and they all had their own village within the city if you will. It was a great upbringing to see all that.

Q: We've heard a lot of stories like that. It seems it would be a great place to grow up. Josh?

Q: (Josh): Were either of you involved with the unions?

30:23 – GF: Ah, I paid my dues (laughs).

GN – And I was a representative of a manager who worked very closely with the unions.

Q: Was that a good relationship with the unions and management? I understand there were some strikes.

30:43 – GN: Right. The relationship I think was kind of a love-hate. It wasn't the personalities it was more the principles of what the issues were and what the company was willing to do or could do based on the economics of the company. So Gerry and I may sit across the table from each other he may have put in a grievance and I've got to hear his grievance and we make a decision whether it is in his favor or not. Tonight I'll see him and it's forgotten. So, yeah, there were strikes but they were over principles it wasn't over the personalities. It was more contractual-based.

31:19 – GF: The union back years ago, we had a pretty strong union versus what we have today. Today, actually, I consider we don't have a union. I mean there are different things the company and the union can do to keep harmony but people who are not working have like myself thirty two-years versus some guy working in the same department as I do, do the same amount of work, not the same amount of work, the same work and they are working and they have twenty-five years but because of seniority, department seniority, they stay there versus a guy so the only way I could get back in there is a general layoff and that is not a viable thing for the company to do because of the paper machines. That's where you need your experienced people there, not somebody, me coming off working off the B-Room saying I'm going to work the paper machine. I have thirty-two years I think the youngest guy has twenty-four years something like that. So it's a tough situation for the union and the management right now. The management is standing firm on what their beliefs are and it's to keep that mill running. It's tough for the union, the president and the board to act with the workers. Some of the workers who are not working go see the union and say we need a general layoff and this and that and they are not happy because they are not getting what they want. The biggest thing is the mill is still here and if it keeps running there could be a chance where it could pick up again versus if it shuts down. If it ever shuts down, to me, it's like putting the nail in the coffin. It's tough.

33:12 – GN: So the town has got to reinvent itself. And continue to attract business however it may using the river the mountains, whatever. Try to draw business back to the North Country. That's the challenge.

Q: That is the challenge but from what we are hearing there are a lot of people seem up to it. We haven't talked to a lot of people who are really down beat at all. That has been something really encouraging for us to hear about how upbeat. It will be interesting we are interviewing the mayor tomorrow so it will be interesting to hear what he as to say. About where things are going.

Q: (Josh): I have another question both hockey history right. What was the best part of your game?

GN: I was a goal tender so obviously keeping the puck out of the net.

Q: If you want to talk about what was the best part of your game or your most vivid memory from playing in hockey. If you could direct your answer to Ken.

GF: Scoring on him (laughs)

GN: Didn't happen much but I made his day once in awhile (laughing).

34:16 - GF: Oh, geez. Ah, because I had so much ice time at the arena when my father worked there, my slap shot was my weapon. Go down the left side, I shot left, and let that thing go and my leg shot, it was unique (laughing).

GN: Gerry is modest. He had one of those gifts that he could score. Not everyone, you can be a great player but not have that finishing touch. Gerry had it he's very fortunate to have that. It's a gift. My memory, boy in high school, Gerry mentioned it winning state championships was fun. The New Englander runner up we were sorry we lost but it was still a good experience. In college playing at what was called the Boston Garden playing against BU, Clarkson, BC those are vivid memories for me. UNH playing at Snively against UNH when I was at Providence that was big for me because a New Hampshire boy coming home to play against UNH so those are all great memories.

35:23 – GF: The Maroon games from the early '80s, '83-'84 we used to back when I was younger, I will get back to them. But once when I was younger they used to have a line from the front door of the arena passed Bob's Variety store going up Hillside. And when I played in the early '80s it was the same way so it was a great feeling to go out on that ice and the euphoria of the arena just because everybody knew everybody it is was great. You go out there and play your game and have fun. And after the game to get into that locker room, huh, Greg, couldn't get in. People were all in there "Hey, excuse me, can I change?" "Oh, don't worry about it." Five hours later Butchy Roy is still there with his skates on and the only thing he's got off is his jersey. Locker room talk, a lot of fun. And the fans were great, to watch us play.

36:23 - GN: Hockey is a great part of the culture as you can see through Gerry. That even though that people didn't play they still supported it, came to the game line up wait an hour or two outside in the cold to get into the game because we were playing the Concord Budmen or the Manchester Blackhawks or the Lewiston-Auburn Twins, whoever it was there is a long history with those teams and people just came back night after night supporting it and would drive to Manchester, Concord or Lewiston to catch the away games. We brought as many people to the away games as Manchester or Concord had in the stands. Truly remarkable, you don't see that. And when my son, my kids you didn't see other towns follow like Berlin follows and they still do it's remarkable. That's culture. The arena the church. That's the North Country culture. There was a lot of support there.

37:15 – GF: Also, another memory is Joe Valliere (laughing). He played for Concord, he's a Berlin boy. And back in '77 -'78 he moved to Concord working construction. So he played for the Concord Budmen. Big defenseman a little bit taller than me. In the first period, in Berlin, he cleaned me out. Just about took my head off. Second period I said, "It's my turn, Joe." So I'm going to level him so now he's mad it me. So here comes the third period Joe says "I'm going to get you for that one." and I says "No, Joe, we are going to fight." "What do you mean we are going to fight?" "Yeah we are going to fight. And you'll know what to do." So another good buddy was a linesman, Skotes, Danny Cote. Well, he come in to break up the fight he's says, "I'll take the top guy you get the bottom" and Joe was hitting me in the shoulders and the chest and I was doing the same thing and when Skotes grabbed a hold of Joe we turned around and we are hitting him in the side in the shoulders and he says "They're hitting me, they're hitting me." Well we got up and there are 1,500 people out there me and Joe are trying to hug each other, we are crying because we had just beat up the referee without getting any extra penalties. It took us twenty years to tell Danny Skotes that. Twenty years, we laughed. All memories, ya know.

38:30 – GN: And Husky was a big part as you started off, he was a cog getting all that going and keeping it going even after we had been through our high and college he still wanted us to play just kept it going and wouldn't take no for an answer when we were committed to do something else. He was a negotiated he made sure we played.

38:50 – GF: As a matter of fact he is still involved trying to get a junior team up here. Him and Russ (?) have been heavy at for two years now. They are pushing and pushing trying to get a team up here and play. They still want to keep hockey alive. What I can do is help them out in different ways but it's tough to be working outside in the New England area and not being able to help them out so it's tough for me to get on the committee but I wish them the best of luck. Hopefully they get it going.

Q: I hope so. That would be good. Josh?

Q: (Josh): Should I ask the final question? Unless you have anything else? The main purpose of this documentary is to preserve 20th century Berlin history that is in danger of being lost. So in

your opinion what needs to be captured in this documentary, what needs to be preserved from 20th century Berlin that is in danger of being lost. Could be a building, could be an idea, could be a philosophy, anything.

40:04 – GN: For me it's the people. Remembering the people that are in the town of Berlin, the town of Gorham. Like I said it is a warm reception when you come here. People are willing to accept people from outside the city. And I think that's what I take away from Berlin. If I should ever have to move away will be the warmth we greet people with and the pride we have in where we live. It's not just a place to live we are proud of this place. So it's the culture and the people.

40:40 – GF: Yeah, definitely what Greg says. The thing is, if to keep, ya know, we talked about the river and different things we have to do. Somebody has to start someplace, we all have to start someplace but it's to get, the beauty of this town now, it's not a mill town anymore it's going to be more of a tourist town. So how do we go about getting that to where, they are doing some four wheel trails right now which down the road sooner or later we will be able to connect East Side and the West Side to where we can drive but I think to get to a recreational town to where we get the people back in here and get jobs back in here.

41:23 – GN: There's plenty of buildings still standing that were built years and years ago so I think any photographs of them obviously weigh into the history but it's filming people and the smiles and the warmth you'll see as you move around town.

Q: Well, that's great. We have experienced that. People have been very generous to us and I want to thank you for giving your time to come out tonight and speak with us it's been really fun for us because we are learning so much about this community so thanks.