

**Interviewee: Ottinger, Patrick**

**Interview Date: August 12, 2003**

HHA # 00331

Interviewee: Patrick Ottinger

Interviewer: David DiTucci

Interview Date: August 12, 2003

Interview Site: Lafayette, LA

Interview Module & No.: MMS: DD010

Transcriber: Lauren Penney

[Transcriber's note: The majority of the interviewer's backchanneling has not been transcribed for the purposes of readability. Although the ULL summary says that the interviewer is David DiTucci, the voice sounds like Steven Wiltz. I was unable to make out what the interviewer was saying most of the time.]

Ethnographic preface:

Mr. Ottinger was born in 1946 in Lake Charles and moved to Lafayette when he was 10 years old. His father was a land man/scout for Stanolind Oil and moved the family to Lafayette when the industry moved from Lake Charles to Lafayette because of Mr. Heymann's Oil Center. Since graduating LSU law school in 1973, he has practiced law in the interest of his clients, exploration and production companies. He also teaches oil and gas law and mineral rights to law students.

#### TRANSCRIPTION

Interviewer initials: [DD]

Interviewee initials: [PO]

DD: Alright. Today's date is August twelfth, interview with Mister Patrick Ottinger in his office. [Pause] So, like I said, we're, we're not askin' a lot of traditional questions. [Inaudible] Of course

**Interviewee: Ottinger, Patrick**

**Interview Date: August 12, 2003**

I'm gonna have [Inaudible].

PO: That's exactly right.

DD: Are you from here?

PO: I was born in Lake Charles. And I've been livin' in Lafayette uh, since I was 10 years old and went away to law school, so I, I pretty much uh, [from Lafayette?].

DD: [Inaudible]

PO: I'm, I'm, I was born in 1946, so I'm 55, be 56 in October. So in 1956, roughly, my father, who was in the oil business, but on the land side. Not offshore. Was transferred from uh, 'fact the industry kind of moved from Lake Charles to Lafayette when the Heymann Oil Center was built. So since then, in 1956, I've been in Lafayette.

DD: [Inaudible].

PO: Yes, uh hm.

DD: You father was in the oil business.

PO: My father was in the oil business.

DD: What did he do?

PO: He was what you would call a "land man," which is-

DD: [Inaudible].

PO: No, well, that's part of it, but in that, in those days, actually he was what you would call a "oil scout." Back then, and to a lesser extent today, uh, an oil scout was, was one who worked for a company and whose just it was was to find out what other companies are doing in terms of leasing, drilling, and activity. And they would meet once a week or once a month, I don't know which, to exchange data. And so, and then they would go back the company so the companies would know what generally is going on here. Now that, that which I've just described probably tended to be more on the land side. And I know you're interested in offshore, so I, I, I don't know that I can comment on [Inaudible] that had relevance offshore.

DD: Yeah. [Inaudible] well in title and abstract [Inaudible].

PO: That is correct. And, and, right-

DD: [Inaudible]. This, this is still interesting, you said that, that he was scouting to find out what uh-

PO: They, they would be uh, I, I think they'd, I think they'd call it a scout [check?] which is where the, the scout for each company would meet and have a luncheon meeting and, I, I never

**Interviewee: Ottinger, Patrick**

**Interview Date: August 12, 2003**

attended such a meeting, but my understanding is they'd go around the room and each person would report what he, I would say he or she, but basically it was all men back then, had determined that another company was in the area, what they were doing. And so the companies could be kept abreast as to what, where the activity was, what other companies were doing, and that type.

DD: Who was, who was payin' for these guys?

PO: He worked, he, he may have worked for company A or company B or-

DD: So contractin'.

PO: No, he was actually an employee of the company, but his job was to do this scouting function. [Inaudible]

DD: And, but they were, they were mainly scouting with other people who were possibly competitors.

PO: Uh, yes, and it sounds strange today, but that's exactly what was going on. I mean, today you'd probably have some legal issues involved in that. But back then, and I'm talkin' in the '50s, and so it was a little different state of the industry then so, so to speak. But, but they would actually probably once a, and I, and I don't remember, I, again, I was a child, so I don't know when that was goin'. But on some regular basis, these scouts for various companies would meet and each would say what their company was doing. "We're buying leases in Saint Mary's Parish this month for oil." "My company drilled a well in Calcasieu Parish." Or what have you. So that when you gained that information, you go back and are ready to tell your people that Shell was doing such and such in this parish. Or, what we call Exxon today was back then called Humble or something. You, you, it was an ability to find out what other people were doing. There's always been a little bit of a herd mentality in the industry and so that process just facilitates people knowing what other companies are doing. Called "scouting." Scouts still exist today, but not as predominately so. Probably for a couple reasons. One, legal issues of uh-

DD: [Inaudible]

PO: Well, legal issues of uh, anti trust or whatever are concerns. Uh, and then there's much with confidentiality now. People don't want you to know what they're doin' if they're doin' so silently, you know.

DD: [Inaudible]

PO: Exactly, that's exactly right. Right. So I think scouts still, still exist but to a much smaller extent if at all.

DD: I've heard a lot of [Inaudible].

PO: Yes, I understand-

DD: [You gotta give 'em your, if they didn't?] [Inaudible].

**Interviewee: Ottinger, Patrick**

**Interview Date: August 12, 2003**

PO: [Inaudible], exactly right.

DD: [Inaudible]

PO: Right, yeah, it is. [DD laughs] Exactly. Yeah.

DD: But interesting point here too, you guys lived in Lake Charles and came to Lafayette because?

PO: Well back then uh, you know, I was a 10 year old child, but my understanding was that the, that the uh... economic hierarchy of Lake Charles was not interested in developing the oil business, whereas Mister Heymann, Maurice Heymann a-, you know who I'm referring to? Uh, had the vision, he had this land over here that's called Oil Center, he built the Oil Center, which is very unique and companies started coming in. And so he was probably one of the main reasons that the oil industry uh, developed in the Lafayette area to the detriment of Lake Charles. 'Course there's a lot to be said about Lafayette being more centrally located and uh, both in the state and equally distant from the Gulf if you will. But he was uh, responsible as anybody for bringing the oil industry to Lafayette.

DD: [Inaudible]

PO: Exact-

DD: [Inaudible]

PO: Exactly, exactly right. Yeah. He's, he's quite a guy, I understand, but that, that's, my father worked for a company which uh, at the time was called Stanolind, later became Pan American, later became Amoco, and today would be called BP-Amoco. So it's gone through several uh, generations. But that company was drawn from Lake Charles to Lafayette [Inaudible].

DD: Yeah. [And then you guys came in for that work?].

PO: My daddy and I, I was a 10 year old child when my family moved here-

DD: [Inaudible]

PO: Exactly right. [Inaudible] that's right.

DD: Did you uh, what is your, what is the focus of your practice here?

PO: I do oil and gas [Inaudible].

DD: Did you, were you drawn to that because your father-

PO: I think so. Probably so, because I kind of grew up with it and had knowledge of it and I was aware what my father did. While he was not a lawyer, he was very active in leasing of land, and uh, land titles, and that side of the industry. And it-

**Interviewee: Ottinger, Patrick**

**Interview Date: August 12, 2003**

DD: [So they call it] land man.

PO: Exactly. And a land man or a lease broker, a lease broker's the one who buys leases for a company. A land man may buy leases but [may?] do other things as well. But because of his involvement and my exposure to it, I probably had a natural draw toward this industry. And I've been doing this since '73.

DD: [Inaudible]

PO: LSU Law School, correct. And I teach the mineral rights, I teach at law school, I teach uh, oil and gas law. It's called mineral rights at [Inaudible].

DD: [Inaudible]

PO: Right.

DD: We interviewed a guy, [Inaudible].

PO: Uh hm, [Bill?] works here.

DD: Right down the street.

PO: Right. Exactly.

DD: [Inaudible]

PO: At UL?

DD: So, so it sort sounds like [Inaudible]



PO: Right.

DD: [Inaudible]

PO: Right. Now of course my teaching law students will become lawyers and they'll be teaching students who take the course at UL, you see.

DD: Yeah. [Inaudible]

PO: Right. [Real estate patterns?].

DD: [Inaudible] Was there uh, when you got out in '74 or '73 [Inaudible]. Was there a need for guys like you?

PO: Well there was 'cause it happened to coincide with uh, what was called the energy crisis. You know, the Arab embargo and oil prices went out the roof and so the oil industry really got into high gear. And it, the oil industry is very cyclical if you chart it out over the years, there are ups and downs, and very big ups and very big downs. But at the time my getting into the

**Interviewee: Ottinger, Patrick**

**Interview Date: August 12, 2003**

profession coincided with the oil [industry?]. So from day one, the business has p-, has been booming with the oil. And, of course, I've been riding up and down since. But there was very much a need for, there was a need for drill-, finding oil, which means to drill a well, which means for buying leases and second titles and that type of thing. So necessarily everyone in the oil business, whatever their role, was busy, as were the lawyers who did that as a [Inaudible].

DD: And I'm sure [Inaudible] as a child, with your father in the industry, so-

PO: 'Course being a child I was 1-, I was less aware of it, less interested in it, less uh, involved in it, but clearly I'm sure for numerous years you'll find the, the ups and downs uh, of the industry.

DD: [Inaudible]. So that, so you, you just ride it then? [Inaudible].

PO: Well, you know, we, our clients are oil companies, call "E and P companies," exploration and production. And, and when they're busy, we're busy with 'em; when they're less busy, maybe another company's busy or, or the nature of what we do changes. So we always stayed busy, but at a given time it was maybe somethin' different than I'm doin' at another time.

DD: But it's not so much when they drilling goes down, you don't, you're [short?] on work. I mean, it's not like [Inaudible].

PO: No, no, no. You mentioned the Gulf [Inaudible], uh, there is probably less legal work associated with the drilling in the Gulf than there is on land. For example, title issues just they don't exist. If we're talkin' -

DD: [Inaudible, overlapping speech] state or federal land.

PO: Exactly right. If it's within three miles, it's the state; if it's beyond three miles, it's the feds. And, and the, the responsible agency in both case, cases, MMS [is for?] the deeper waters if you will and the Mineral Board, state mineral board for in-, inland, if you will, they do a good job of, of being aware of when a given tract is or is not leased. So you virtually never examine title unless your company's buying an existing lease and making sure that the company selling the lease, hasn't been granted by the MMS or the state mineral board owned it. So there are many more needs and opportunities for a lawyer on land than probably offshore. Uh, offshore may give rise to disputes, as can happen onshore, but in terms of the title [phase?], there's less involvement for lawyers offshore than inland.

DD: [You never get involved in that?]

PO: I do when I, for example, I, I, my involvement would be a company is uh, buying or selling existing leases or getting into a dispute with the MMS over royalty evaluation. Which is, which is not a title issue, but it's a contractual issue, what the obligations are. Uh, many times we will represent say a bank from Houston who is lending money to someone and that person whose borrowing money will put up as collateral their interest in leases offshore. And so we hear them in the title or prepare a mortgage to [bear it in for leases?] [Inaudible]. It's a little more, the same type of thing you'd do onshore, but the involvement legally is a little less offshore, so to speak.

DD: That, that, so you're sort of [deciphering?] [Inaudible].

**Interviewee: Ottinger, Patrick**

**Interview Date: August 12, 2003**

PO: Correct. Right.

DD: [Inaudible]. 'Cause I've talked [with a company?] [Inaudible] land guys were abstract.

PO: Yeah, right.

DD: That's what they do. So, so as a sort of basic timeline, the geologists [sort of find where the place is?].

PO: Right.

DD: And then they go to the land man to get involved.

PO: Right.

DD: And-

PO: Well first the company evaluates the geologist's work and makes a decision that they will or will not pursue it. If they decide to pursue it, they will engage a land man or a abstract, will go see if it's leased to someone else or available or what have you. And then if they make a decision having found that it's available, they'll, they may commit money to go buy leases; leases are bought; and then they make a decision if they drill a w-, actually drill a well. And all these things can be, decisions made but then changed later. But if they decide to drill a well they will find out what tract it's gonna be on and then get an abstract to build an abstract, which is a compilation, a compilation of every written document that, that affects title. They'll bring it to a lawyer to examine. The lawyer examine and renders opinion. Then they'll cure it in the sense of tryin' to remove defects. Because the object is they don't want to spend money to put a, an expensive rig on property and run the risk of being trespassing and or find, even worse, find, find, you know, 100 million dollars worth of product and then, then find out they were trespassing. So it's money well-spent. I don't want to use the word "insurance," in the technical sense, but it's peace of mind, certainly, to know that, that the person from whom you've acquired a lease covering land under which you want to drill a well, does or doesn't own the property. And that's, that's kind of the time line that's involved.

DD: And you fit in the uh, you examine the title [Inaudible]?

PO: I, I, that's something we do as well as preparing a contract. Maybe the landowner is very sophisticated and has particular demands that need to be met in terms of the lease. We'll prepare the lease clauses. We'll examine the title. We will uh, uh... assist the company if they're bring in partners to share the risk and prepare contract with another oil company [Inaudible] participant to share that risk. We, if they make a well, if successful, they will form a unit. We might do unitization. That is if they go to a state agency that's involved in creating unit around the well. So whatever the needs of the company are we generally are ready to do it.

DD: What about the distribution of the royalties?

PO: Yeah, once they make a well, norma-, well every company's different. Some companies will only examine what's called the drill site, the tract of land on which they put the well. Others will

**Interviewee: Ottinger, Patrick**

**Interview Date: August 12, 2003**

examine more than the drill site. Or if it's a very small tract, many companies might create a buffer around it just for protection. But if they make a well, then they form a unit and then they come back and examine all the tracts, so that we can advise them what to do on the royalties to be distributed. 'Cause they wanna make sure they're paying the proper person to maintain the lease.

DD: Now that I understand [Inaudible]?

PO: Well, it's called uh, in Louisiana has uh, what's called a mineral [servitude?]. It is not possible in Louisiana to own minerals outright as in the state, as is the case in other states. Uh, in Louisiana all you may own is the right to go on a tract of land, uh... let me rephrase that. A landowner whose land is not burdened by a servitude in a sense owns his own minerals and he can grant a lease on them. If, however, that landowner has a tract which is burdened by a servitude in favor a third person, it is that third person who has the right to grant leases, which authorizes someone to go on the tract of land to drill. That right is in the nature of a servitude, which proscribes in a 10-year agreement, it'll extinguish and go away unless it is used, put the word "use" in quotes. Used within 10 years. And a use means drillin' a well or, you know, [a dry hole will, will break, will break the prescription?]. So "use" is the operative word for mineral, mineral servitude. It's a good faith effort to find minerals, whether you're successful or not. That [sufficient?] [Inaudible].

DD: And being that there's different [Inaudible].

PO: Right, right.

DD: Would you say that there, that's the reason why you have more oil towns in [southern, in these parts?] [Inaudible].

PO: Not really because uh, what, what determines where your, where your returnings are is what activity's going on. I mean there are many wells drilled in Texas, which has nothing to do with the mineral servitude, and thus there's a need in Texas for, Texas oil and gas lawyers. The fact that we have a servitude doesn't, in my mind, have any bearing on quote, how many lawyers there are doin' work. It's just that we have a different, unique institution that's called the mineral servitude, you see.

DD: Yeah. 'Cause I noticed that there are quite a few, there quite a few oil and gas [lawyers?] in Lafayette-

PO: Actually our view is that we don't have many.

DD: We don't have many?

PO: No, I don't see the oil and gas phase of practice growing any. Uh, I'm not sayin' we don't have enough, I mean, uh, I don't necessarily want many more. [DD chuckles] Uh, uh, [I say the joke is right?]. But, but there aren't m-, there are not many new, brand new lawyers getting into the oil and gas practice for whatever reason. They just don't see it as very uh, uh, sexy, you say that way, they don't see it as having a long-range future, I don't know that I agree with that. But, but the young lawyer coming out of law school doesn't see it as somethin' that he or she wants to do career-wise. Many of 'em will gravitate to other phases of the law.

**Interviewee: Ottinger, Patrick**

**Interview Date: August 12, 2003**

DD: [Inaudible] recent trend?

PO: Um-

DD: 'Cause I noticed there's not quite as many people even on just the physical roustabout, [Inaudible] get into oilfield.

PO: Right. That's probably true.

DD: 'Cause they don't see a future in the industry.

PO: It's the, for those who don't really know looking from the outside in, would seem as being cyclical or maybe more of a f-, 'cause it's a finite product that they, that they don't want to commit their career to somethin' that in five, or six, or seven years will be destructive to 'em. I, I, and I'm guessing, as to what they, what their thought process [might be?].

DD: But the time when you got into it, it was, it was-

PO: There was probably a little spurt back then, because it was really a booming industry.

DD: [Inaudible].

PO: Right. Right. Right. But you never know, I mean, who knows in one year, two years, three years, 10 years, how much oil's gonna be left in Louisiana. They may, the technology may be such to drill deeper, and who knows what's deeper so to speak. Uh, so it's a combination of uh... how much has not yet been drilled, and what the technology is that allows you to drill deeper, more remote location. Now the mineral servitude I described has nothin' to do with the Gulf. Because that is owned by the state within three miles or the feds beyond there.

DD: It changes all the royalty and-

PO: Right. It's just owned by that entity and they, there's no such thing, so to speak, as a mineral servitude in the sense that I've described it.

DD: [Inaudible] [it's comfortable, though?]. [Laughs]

PO: It's [comfortable?], yeah, right. My partner, [Latham?], has been down with, he has a bad back.

DD: Well, what's changed in, in the way that uh, in your job function and the things you [perform for?] companies since the '70s and through the '80s 'til today?

PO: Uh... my practice has really never involved representing any major companies. And my practice has tended to be smaller independents. And that's by both design and otherwise. But what has changed in the industry is all the uh, mergers and acquisitions. There are, certainly in the major side, there are fewer and fewer of them because, I'll give you an example, there, 'couple years ago there was a company called Exxon, a company called Mobil; now it's one company. 'Couple years ago there's a company called Chevron and a company called Texaco; now it's one

**Interviewee: Ottinger, Patrick**

**Interview Date: August 12, 2003**

company. Uh, there was a BP and an Amoco, now it's one company. So that's six companies I've named which are now replaced by three. And-

DD: And those are big companies.

PO: Big, big companies, never been clients and that's fine. Uh, but, but what has changed is there is probably a herd mentality uh, where people are more comfortable doing what the industry does and so acquisitions and the [vesvitures?] and, and what have you, there's, there's so much consolidation and, and cost savings have come into play here maybe people are now trying to do things in-house that they didn't do before. So, it's never been necessarily to my detriment in so far as my practice is concerned, but that has been something that changed [Inaudible].

DD: And I, you can see that [in Alaska?] through the years.

PO: Probably so, yeah.

DD: [Instrumental?] [Inaudible] they're trying to [run their losses in the '80s?].

PO: Right.

DD: So they keep drilling [Inaudible].

PO: Right. Yeah, there's much more profit, I guess, in, you know, now you have what's called 3-D seismic, which the old school of geologist look upon with some disdain, because they were taught in days when you didn't have computers, you didn't have all these modeling devices, and, and uh, monitors where you can see it all. And so they, they are, they're, everyone's very uh... that generation of geologists that are before the current generation, and I'm not speakin' bad about the current generation, but, but it's much more scientifically driven, whereas more judgment came to play I think, or personal judgment came into play in the older generation of geologist.

DD: [Inaudible].

PO: Some companies for fear of embarrassment or not wanting to be responsible for losing money, will not drill a well unless they have 3-D. So you never know what wells that are not being drilled because someone is not able to get 3-D seismic, you know. So, that's another factor.

DD: There might be oil there.

PO: There may or may not be, but, but because it's not being drilled, we'll never know until someone comes around and shoots a 3-D shot ,you know.

DD: What about, what about the number of wells out there that, that could be fairly good producing wells, but big companies won't invest in it because it's too much overhead for them to operate?

PO: Well, my clients have tended to be the beneficiary of that, because a big company has, has such a [whopping?] overhead and smaller independents work on uh, less overhead. And so it may

**Interviewee: Ottinger, Patrick**

**Interview Date: August 12, 2003**

be profitable for one of my clients, for example, where it is not profitable for the big majors. So there, there's something that a lawyer would be involved in is the vestiture of the sale that, of that property and it's still produced, but at a smaller uh, a greater profit margin because a le-, because of a lesser overhead structure [Inaudible].

DD: That makes a lot more sense, because they're more flexible in that.

PO: Right. Right.

DD: And, of course, that's their niche.

PO: Exactly. Right, yeah.

DD: So it's possible, people talkin' about dry ups [Inaudible] big companies, but there could be a lot more oil out there in different spots.

PO: Could be, but I, I don't, I don't know whether it has [Inaudible] [common man?], you know. That's [really just in?] geological or reservoir issues [Inaudible] geologist while interested in, is not willing to [Inaudible].

DD: What about uh, I saw a number in our research, we've done a lot of research before we even went to talk to people, we did a whole thing on [Inaudible] just to learn about how it affected this area. Uh, saw a number, I think it was 1981, 1982, uh, the amount of severance taxes and other uh, [Inaudible] taxes paid to the federal government and the State of Louisiana in 1981 was close to a billion dollars. Just blew my mind.

PO: Yeah.

DD: Where did this money go?

PO: Well, that's another story still. That's, that's a question-

DD: Where did it go? [Was?] it being extracted from the economy or the, or were oil company's taking it out of the state? [Pause]

PO: I, I don't know how to answer that. I mean, someone who is a skeptic would say that because of uh, some of the government, [governors or the administrations we had?] the money was squandered or uh, [Inaudible]. But [Inaudible, overlapping speech] it's easy to say, I don't know. At one point they did change the manner in which severance tax was calculated. They went from a, you know, [pennies per MCF?] to some percentage of value. So that the state was able to participate and [Inaudible] some of the value. So the, the measure of that tax has changed a number of years ago and that led to uh, perhaps greater revenue generation to the state. As prices went up, whereas in, if you, if you just locked into x-tenths per MCF or y-tenths per barrel, regardless of what it's being sold for, that's all you get is the x or the y. Whereas you, when they convert it to some percentage of value basis, it's, it opens, it allows the state to ride with a price that's going up or down.

DD: [Inaudible]

**Interviewee: Ottinger, Patrick**

**Interview Date: August 12, 2003**

PO: I think so, sure.

DD: It's just, it's just always a question [Inaudible]. The state's so rich in minerals but [Inaudible] poor.

PO: Right, right.

DD: So it's a difficult question.

PO: It is.

DD: But all the money that came in at uh, in the, the late '50s and '60s and '70s, there's money coming into the Oil Center here, and just the industry was expanding. What other e-, avenues in Lafayette, in this [region?], did you see that the money permeated other industries, anything like the auxiliary uh-

PO: Oh clear-

DD: [Set off from that?].

PO: Clearly the service industry. I mean, I, I have always said that, I think a lot of people would agree, especially in the boom days of Lafayette, everyone was in the oil business. If you were in the restaurant business, your customers were... you know, busy and making money and spending money. If you're in the dry cleaners business, you know, you'll get the benefit of the industry and whatever. So clearly there's a secondary or tertiary or beyond wave of this, but, but more directly is the service industry. You know, th-, those who sell oilfield equipment or services or whatever-

DD: [Inaudible, overlapping speech]

PO: Exactly. That, that clearly something that, that has uh, uh, you know, grew another industry. And more recent years with all the interest in, in maintaining environment, a new phase of the industry has come up which are companies whose job it is to remediate or repair land after wells have been drilled or abandoned, you see. So that, that's relatively new, in 15, 20 years I guess [Inaudible].

DD: Right. I've heard from geologists, they say that that's a good, something that could be explored.

PO: Right.

DD: I mean, again, [you had just created?], somebody's willing to take a risk.

PO: Sure. Right, yeah.

DD: And. [Pause] I think that pretty much covers it. Uh, I've got just a couple of sort of opinion questions. Unless you had something else-

PO: No, I'm fine, no, I'm-

**Interviewee: Ottinger, Patrick**

**Interview Date: August 12, 2003**

DD: Got [Inaudible] [your family?] [Inaudible]. What did oil and gas do for south Louisiana?

PO: Oh, I think clearly oil and gas has been a tremendous uh, force in, in the development of this part of the state. It also, in a cultural sense, has brought in people from out of state. One could argue that that's good or bad. But, but, you know, uh, one would wonder but for the oil and gas industry in this area, how much more pure would this area be in terms of the French or Cajun [Inaudible]. Whereas, you know, we have so many people here who went to school in Oklahoma, or Texas, or beyond, who were brought here because at one time there was a major oil company here. That company may have already left, but those people have stayed behind. And so in many senses, uh, I, I'll give you a political example. In this, I'll give you a political and two ways of saying the same thing. The predominant religion here was probably Catholicism. And now with people comin' from Oklahoma who may not tend to be Catholic, but rather tend to be Protestant, or Texas, anywhere else, you know, you had in a sense a proliferation of some Protestant communities. I'm not able to support that statistically, but it makes sense.

DD: Right, [Inaudible].

PO: Right. As, as Catholics were predominant, so were Democrats, if you will. But people from Oklahoma or Texas or elsewhere may tend to be Republicans. So a person that works for an oil company on the weekends are gonna go to church, which may or may not be Catholic, and, in terms of political interest, you know. So those are two illustrations that an oil man or, now, oil woman may bring his or her religion and cultural and political views that, that are a little different than what might have been a pure uh, such views but for the industry. Is that makin' sense?

DD: Yeah, I, I kind of feel that way too, but it's hard to support that statistically.

PO: Right, right.

DD: You can see it [Inaudible].

PO: Exactly right. But what-

DD: It wasn't the same when my parents were [Inaudible]

PO: That's the truth.

DD: And so, yeah, you can, yeah, that's why it's an opinion question, but it makes perfect sense.

PO: Uh hm.

DD: Sort of a, I guess the word is diversified-

PO: I would think so.

DD: [Inaudible].

PO: And I think for the better. You know different views are always good.

**Interviewee: Ottinger, Patrick**

**Interview Date: August 12, 2003**

DD: It's not so homogenized.

PO: That's exactly right.

DD: Yeah, I agree that that changed things and, like you said, there was people comin' from Texas and Oklahoma and, and some parts of California, too.

PO: Probably so.

DD: From all over.

PO: The two main oil-producing states outside of Louisiana come to mind would be Oklahoma and Texas, you know. So.

DD: [Inaudible] Spin the question around, what has Louisiana done for oil and gas industry? That could be the people that work in oil or anything.

PO: Well... politicians certainly recognized where their, you know, bread and butter and, and what [sort of tax dollars?] or, and so they tend to, to try to promote the oil industry by hopefully not being punitive in the taxing devices and supportive in regulatory manners, although we can't carry that too far because we've had other legitimate concerns such as the environment. And so [Recording breaks off for a few seconds] fine line if you want to promote the industry but not at the cost of the environment, which is so important. So uh... I, I would, for all the reasons that a politician is, is [wrong towards?] promoting or enhancing an economy, I think that they would tend to do those things that, that would have that reserve without jeopardizing other important uh, facets of life, such as the environment.

DD: [You got any examples?] [Inaudible] Uh, how 'bout the arts? [Inaudible] Heymann. Uh, center there. Back to the question about oil benefiting other avenues, I know I'm backtracking, so-

PO: Yeah. So I think, you know, uh, oil people and companies like [Inaudible] Corporate Citizens and I think that uh, they would tend to uh, find value, enhancing anything cultural and I would, often cultural in the community and they'll support it financially. Uh, again, the, the dehomogenization, if that's even a word, that's brought about by these Oklahoma people or Texas people comin' in, they bring their interests and uh, and so I think that, that uh, is necessary, there's a natural association with supporting cultural and art-type uh, issues. And so I, I think, I can see that, I think that's [Inaudible].

DD: Tha-, that's how [Inaudible] even if it's not just money, [Inaudible]. But it does, it does permeate other parts of life and I think that's correct. [Inaudible]. Mister Ottinger, I think that's about it.

PO: Well good, I enjoyed it. I hope it was helpful.

DD: Me too. Like I said-

[END OF RECORDING]

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