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Date: Interview recorded in 2006 about events surrounding the Eastern Corporation's Mill in Brewer Maine before it closed in 2004.

Description: Interview with Mike Woodbury about his thoughts on the impact of the mill on the local community.

Interview with Mike Woodbury about the impact of the Eastern Corporation's Mill in Brewer on the local community, 1978 to 2004.

**Amy Stevens:** Yeah. Gosh, how do you think the mill contributed to the community at large?

**Mike Woodbury:** Originally that mill was the only thing in that city. It kept the city going. It donated the land where the sewage plant is and helped pay for the rebuild and the city of Brewer just rammed it right down their throat every time they turned around. It was a major tax payer in that city. I mean it kept the taxes down. You can have all the Wal-Marts in the world but if you've got a big factory in there and you've got people who work, who live in the area, who are going to spend money in the area, I mean economically. It was a mill town. I mean they did have other things going I grant you. They used to have a shoe factory and other stuff.

**AS:** So how do you think the communities been affected since it closed down?

**MW:** I don't think the community cared.

**AS:** Really?

**MW:** I think they cared you know, to somewhat but I don't think anybody really paid attention to it when the mill was there.

**AS:** Those that weren't involved with it.

**MW:** Yeah, because now you have the Wal-Marts, people who go to work at Wal-Mart and the restaurants.

**AS:** So it's kind of expanding out.

**MW:** Brewer's expanding and that's a good thing don't get me wrong with that but I don't think the people realized, you don't realize something until it's gone. And then if you never worked in the mill setting then you don't know what it's like because we were like a big, happy family and it is like a divorce but it's like, you know I'm not going to see a lot of these guys ever again. I've seen more of these guys at funeral's than at a wedding. A couple of guys have died since the mill went down and of course I'll go to a wake or a funeral and that's about the only chance I get to see them.