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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 Ronald Kearns about his activities since the closure of the mill.

Interview with Ronald Kearns about this activities since the closure of the Eastern Corporation's Mill in Brewer, 2004.

**Amy Stevens:** Do you know what types of things mill workers did? I know you told me a little bit about what you've done, and tried to get into retraining, what other types of jobs?

**Ronald Kearns:** Oh, I know there was probably a handful of people who ended up going to Lincoln when they hired, when they started back up. A lot of them got retrained, I think a lot of them got retrained into the oil burner tech, got jobs with different oil companies now. I think there were some that got into heavy duty equipment like bulldozers and backhoes and all that stuff, and cranes. Some got their CDL's or commercial driver's license. Some are driving a dump truck or some even got their class A and are driving big rigs.

**AS:** Do you keep in touch with a lot of the folks from the mill?

**RK:** Not as much as I would like to. I see them once in awhile. Some of them went down to Bucksport. I worked with a few of them down there during the summer, but no, I don't really see them that much anymore.

**AS:** This is like a little personal so if you don't want to answer it from your own perspective, maybe you could just talk about it in general but how do you think people have adapted in order to continue on since the mill has closed? Has it been really hard on families in the area?

**RK:** I think a lot of them ended up tapping into their savings and wiped that out. I know it's true to me. I mean, my retirement account, I had to tap into that and that's gone. I'm sure a lot of them are in the same boat too. A lot of people who had money saved up, I think that ended up going to pay bills.