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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 Lois Andrews about working as a woman in the paper lab.

Interview with Lois Andrews about working as a woman in the paper lab of Eastern Corporation's mill in Brewer, ca. 1967.

**Lois Andrews:** I think it was 1967 there was an opening in the lab for a technician who would be testing pulp and I applied for it and got the job and did not get warm responses from any men because it was strictly a male dominated department and they thought a woman had absolutely no place there.

**Pauleena McDougall:** That's interesting.

**LA:** Yes but I did it and I proved to them that I could do the work. The one thing you were required to do was make hand sheets from the little, small beater that was up there and in order to do that you had to weld this thirty pound, it was like a rolling pin

**PM:** Oh was that what it was

**LA:** Yes, to roll out, you know you would get some of the stock on this round screen and then you would have to roll it with the rolling pin to get the water out of it so you would end up with a sheet of paper and then from that paper you would do all the physical tests on it to find out the strength, the opacity, the brightness of the sheet, the whole nine yards and I did that for awhile and I really liked it and I learned how to do all the physical tests on paper.

**PM:** Was it a little more pay for that job then you've gotten

**LA:** Yes

**PM:** Now who trained you to do it?

**LA:** Well it was the technicians that were out there at that time; one of them was Hank White who was a brilliant man and he taught me the fine tuning of the department and there were a lot of different people that worked out there and each of them had their own little separate thing that they did in the lab.

**PM:** And was, everyone else there were men?

**LA:** Yes

**PM:** And did they all treat you kind of like you didn't belong.

**LA:** Well it's like you got these little snickers or like, kind of eyebrows raised. I knew I wasn't wanted out there but I think they all...

**PM:** But it wasn't anything really blatant as far as

**LA:** Oh no, no

**PM:** Just an attitude

**LA:** It was an attitude but I think they all you know as they got to know me I think they really did like me and they were very, very helpful.

**PM:** Now who made the decision to put you in the lab? Who was the person who actually hired you for the job?

**LA:** Well at the time we had a personnel manager. His name was Larry Lynch and I actually think that he was still there although I'm not sure but you know they couldn't refuse me because we were unionized and I had the right to bid on that job however it was very short lived because the pulp mill closed down

**PM:** When did that close?

**LA:** It was sometime, lets see...

**PM:** Was it in the 70's or was it before?

**LA:** No it was before that. I think that closed sometime in 67'.