Oral History Interview of Patricia I. Brown

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Interview Summary

In this interview, Patricia I. Brown, librarian emeritus of Suffolk University Law School, reflects on her forty-year educational and professional career at Suffolk University. Ms. Brown discusses her early employment starting in 1951 at the bursar’s office; her experience attaining three degrees from Suffolk; and how the university has changed over the course of forty years. In addition, Ms. Brown also recounts her experience as a member of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League and the honors she received from the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Ms. Brown concludes by discussing her retirement plans.
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**Interview Transcript**

**WILLIAM COUGHLIN:** Today is December 6, 1991. My name is Bill Coughlin, director of undergraduate admissions at Suffolk University. Today I’m with Pat Brown, and what we’re going to do is do a little oral history of Suffolk University. I know a lot about Pat, but I’d like to have her give us some ideas and thoughts after a very long and successful tenure at Suffolk University.

Pat, as far as I can gather, you have three degrees, which is pretty good in itself. Just tell us about when and what the degrees were that you have.

**PATRICIA BROWN:** Actually, I have four degrees, and three of them are from Suffolk. In 1955, I received my BA [bachelor of arts]. In 1970, I received my MBA [master of business administration]. In 1965, I received my JD [juris doctorate], and these are all from Suffolk and Suffolk Law. In 1977, I received a master’s degree in theological studies from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

**COUGHLIN:** I know you can’t add them up all up right now, but how many years did it take to get four degrees?

**BROWN:** Well, I started in school in September of 1951, and my last degree was received in 1977. I did have a couple of years off in between.
COUGHLIN: So, at least sixteen [sic – twenty-six] years where you were working on your degrees.

BROWN: Off and on, right.

COUGHLIN: So you have a good, true impression of Suffolk being an undergraduate, MBA, graduate school, plus JD. I don’t think there’s anyone else like that. Have you heard of anyone else?

BROWN: I don’t think there’s anybody that has three degrees from Suffolk. There’s a lot of people that have two, but I have not heard of anybody who has three, as yet.

COUGHLIN: Pat, what has your position been? We’ll start recently and trace it back, the things you’ve done at Suffolk.

BROWN: Title-wise, you mean?

COUGHLIN: Yes, the work you’ve done. I know it’s libraries, and so forth.

BROWN: I’d really have to go from the beginning and work up.

COUGHLIN: Let’s do it that way.

BROWN: In 1951, I came here as a student, and I worked part-time the first year for Dottie McNamara¹ in the bursar’s office. Got to know her real well, and how the school did all the paperwork and things like that. The second year, I transferred as a student worker to the library,

¹ Dorothy M. McNamara (1910-2003) was employed by Suffolk University from 1927 to 1974, serving as bursar for twenty-five years before becoming alumni secretary; she was often referred to by students and co-workers as simply “Dottie Mac.”
and I was a student library assistant. At that time, I then quit as a part-time student worker, and I switched to night school and became a full-time worker in the library. You know, funds ran out, I needed money. I had a scholarship, but it wasn’t enough. So I became a full-time worker in the library. And I thought to myself, that was it, just until I graduate. And here it is forty years later, and I’m still here. From being a regular library worker, I really developed a love of libraries and library work. The college and law libraries were together in one room, in one building. Dr. Hartmann\(^2\) was the law librarian at the time, and he loved law library work. He loved teaching, but he also loved library work. So, he kind of instilled a degree of respect in library work so that you really wanted to continue on with it, which I did. And as I said, I’m still here.

**COUGHLIN:** So it’s really been the whole time from almost the second year on in ’52, your interest. Did you ever think that you’d want to get a degree in libraries? Did they call it library science? You probably didn’t need it from the experience you had.

**BROWN:** Well, the first few years that I worked there full-time; I was on the circulation desk first, the reserve desk. And then after a couple of years, I would work mornings at the reserve desk and afternoons in the processing department, so I learned how to process all the books. But I didn’t think at that time that I wanted to become a librarian, full-time. I liked it, and I liked the work, but I hadn’t decided to be a librarian, so I just didn’t enter into it. But school I loved, and Suffolk as you know makes it very good for its employees to be able to work full-time here and go to evening division. I guess I’m a perpetual student (laughs) because I wanted to go, so I went to—first I graduated with the undergraduate degree. I did graduate history work for about a year, but I decided I didn’t like that. All the time that was passing now, maybe five years, maybe six or seven I’m not sure exactly, I began to develop a real interest in law because both libraries worked together. The law library was un-catalogued and everything, it was just a mess of books. I

\(^2\) Dr. Edward G. Hartmann (1912-1995) was a history professor at Suffolk University from 1946 to 1978, specializing in the history of the Welsh in America. He began his Suffolk teaching career as an associate professor of history and retired as professor emeritus of history. In addition, Hartmann was the director of libraries for Suffolk University’s College and Law School from 1948 to 1958.
really began to develop an interest in the law field. So, I read things on it myself, I did everything myself to learn the best that I could because Dr. Hartmann wasn’t a law librarian, he was well versed in college libraries. And I became very knowledgeable through doing research, getting users to—helping teachers, and finding materials and stuff like that. In effect, I was sort of an unofficial law librarian. Everybody began to look to me for that material. So I said, Well, if I’m really going to be of any help in the law, I need to go to law school. And that’s exactly—I went to law school to enhance my capabilities and abilities as a law librarian.

COUGHLIN: So it was all practical training, better than anything you could have had in a course, I’m sure.

BROWN: By this time I decided, well maybe I better go to law school. I mean, to library school, too. I went to Simmons [College], and I checked on the courses, and I saw that there were things that I already knew how to do. If I were going to go, I would have to take courses in children’s books and things like that that I didn’t want to do. So, I went and took the state exam, and I passed it. I had my state librarian’s certification.

COUGHLIN: Pat, I came here in 1966 when the building opened on Temple Place. Can you trace us back a little bit before ’66? Tell me a little bit about the buildings and the space. I will always remember the bullpen. I remember one time I visited some professors here in probably the early sixties, and I saw them all [simultaneous conversation]

BROWN: Down the second floor of the Archer Building.

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3 Suffolk University’s Frank J. Donahue Building, named after Judge Donahue, a former faculty member, trustee, and treasurer of Suffolk University, is located at 41 Temple Street in Boston, down the street from the Archer Building. It was constructed in 1966 and was the university’s second building.

4 Suffolk University’s Gleason L. and Hiram J. Archer Building, named after the university’s founder Gleason L. Archer and law professor, treasurer and trustee Hiram Archer, is located at 20 Derne Street in Boston, across from the back entrance to the Massachusetts State House.
COUGHLIN: Yes, tell us a little bit about what we had for buildings back, you know, maybe earlier. What did you come too, what was at Suffolk as far as the area?

BROWN: Suffolk was one building. It was the Archer Building, and the main entrance was on 20 Derne Street. That was the main entrance, and the floors were labeled correctly. Right now, they changed the labels on the floors to coincide with the new Donahue Building. But on the second floor—first of all, the library was right where we are now. This is the Pallot Library, which is sort of just an adjunct to the regular law library now. It was the entire library, college and law, together. The college was upstairs around the mezzanine or the little balcony there, and the law was down below, just a few shelves and everything like that. And downstairs on the second floor of the Archer Building were two rooms filled with desk after desk after desk in both rooms. That was the faculty, college and law. That was it.

COUGHLIN: All together?

BROWN: There were two phones, one in each room. Then a faculty member would have to leave his or her desk and come up and answer the phone there if they got messages or anything. That was the bullpen.

COUGHLIN: How happy was the group?

BROWN: Very. Very happy, believe it or not. I think most of us here at Suffolk—maybe I have an unusual loyalty to this school, I don’t know. We’ve had our ups, we’ve had our downs. I’ve been through the whole women’s bit where our salaries were lower and the insurance pension plan was based upon a gender bias type thing where women live longer so they get less even though they pay as much. I’ve been through all that, but throughout it Suffolk has always tried to

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5 The E. Albert Pallot Library in the Archer Building, together with the Stephen P. Mugar Library in the Donahue Building, made up the Suffolk Law Library until 1999 when it moved to Sargent Hall at 120 Tremont Street.
better it. Sometimes they’ve been a little slower than what we would like to have seen. But they’ve always tried to better it. And most of the people that work here realize it was circumstances that created that type of situation. No faculty member was delighted to be sitting in a whole room with everybody else, but they realized where else is there a place to do it? So what I’m saying is they accepted it, they accepted it graciously. It was inconvenient, it was awkward, but they did accept it. In fact, they were quite a compact, friendlier group. Anytime you have a smaller group, I think that [simultaneous conversation]

COUGHLIN: Where were the classrooms? We had Law School and undergraduates and thousands of students.

BROWN: Right. What happened was you didn’t have the—probably deans and things could answer this question better than me—but we didn’t have the number of law classes that we have now. At times there would be no university classes, but there would be law classes. I don’t mean they alternated or anything, but even now they have to. All the first year classes are from 1 [p.m.] on in the afternoon because they can’t all get in here at the same time.

COUGHLIN: It wasn’t alternation, but it was a space available type of thing.

BROWN: When I went to law school at night, my classes would be like a Monday and a Wednesday, and a Tuesday and a Thursday, but no classes on Friday. Now I think they have classes every night.

COUGHLIN: I remember even in ‘66 we were called the largest law school in the country because of our day and night, over two thousand students. Were we that crowded back in the fifties? Did we have more than sixteen hundred students? Over a thousand students?
**BROWN**: I don’t know the figure at that time. In my evening class, for example, I don’t think there were more than sixty or sixty-five students. Again, the records would have to be checked to clarify, but it was a small group where everybody knew everybody. And there were only two women in the group, myself and somebody else. There weren’t many women in law school here at all.

**COUGHLIN**: There were only two women at the time?

**BROWN**: Not in the entire school, just in my class. When I look around now, and see so many girls around, I think it’s great. But it was very unusual in my time to see that many women. There were no women administrators.

**COUGHLIN**: So it wasn’t until 1966 that we added a new building on—I was going to say Derne Street—but I mean Temple Place.

**BROWN**: The Donahue Building on Temple Street.

**COUGHLIN**: What used to be there? Someone told me there was a church. Do you remember at all that building going on? What was that like?

**BROWN**: Well, it’s like it is now. When they put new sprinkler systems in and everything it was chaotic. But nobody had to move from here. I mean, everything was still here the same. So in the Archer Building it didn’t change anything. We just proceeded the same as always, we weren’t being uprooted or anything. Not until they got that building done, then they began to do renovations here because now they have more space and everything. That bullpen downstairs that used to be in the Archer Building, I watched that go from a faculty room to a reporting/training room for French and German and things like that. It was a language lab, back to faculty offices, to a student lounge, and it is now back to law faculty offices—then to a
computer lab, and it is now back to faculty offices. Although they’re much better offices because they’re individual private offices. It’s sort of going around like in a cycle.

COUGHLIN: It’s amazing how they’ve changed the building and made at least six uses. (Brown laughs) It obviously came full cycle at some point. Even when we opened in ’66, the law school did not get the whole building, they were just sharing it.

BROWN: That’s right.

COUGHLIN: I think that admissions and the registrar offices were maybe on the sixth floor. Or the fifth floor?

BROWN: The office that I have now, that was the law registrar’s office. And inside—if you walk in my office today, you see a big vault door, like a big safe, floor to ceiling. You would see the door there, that’s where student records used to be kept. It was the registrar’s vault for keeping all student records in case of fire so they wouldn’t be damaged. But now on the other side where that vault would be is our camera room for taking ID [identification] pictures. They just never removed the door from the wall. (laughs)

COUGHLIN: You’ve already mentioned Dr. Hartmann and his influence and interest and Dottie Mac. Can you think of some of the other names back in the fifties, they could be deans or professors, that you can remember. Let’s try the undergraduate. Who were some of the ones in the undergraduate?

BROWN: Well before that, I don’t know, the story—first of all how I even came to Suffolk, I wanted to study journalism. This is what I thought, I never did get it. I wanted to study journalism. I looked in the telephone book. I saw Boston University had a journalism course, and Suffolk University in the Yellow Pages listed journalism. I came to—I made an appointment to
see Dean Goodrich. You remember Dean Goodrich? I made an appointment to see Dean Goodrich. I came in and I said, “I want to go to college, but I haven’t got any money.” Because I had been supporting family and everything, you know a mother and everything even in those early days. From playing ball, I didn’t have that much money saved, and so it seemed like I was never getting anywhere, never getting to go to college or anything. I just walked in, and said, “I want to go to college, but I haven’t got any money.” That’s just the way I blurted it out. He was so good that he said, “Well, let’s talk about it.” He covered everything, you know, having me send in my things from high school and everything like that. And he sent me to talk to Dottie McNamara, and they helped me get a scholarship to go here. I can’t think of—where else could you walk in off the street and say, “I want to go to school, but I haven’t got any money.”

COUGHLIN: What high school were you coming from?


COUGHLIN: Were they able to help you with money for the four years?

BROWN: Yes, because what I did is—

COUGHLIN: I know you worked here.

BROWN: Yes. I worked here and then I worked in the library, but I also in my spare time founded the first girl’s basketball team at Suffolk that they ever had. As you know, there weren’t many girls here.

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6 Donald W. Goodrich (1898-1989) was a Suffolk University administrator and dean emeritus for twenty-two years. Goodrich began his career as registrar in 1947 and later served as dean of the college in 1956. The Board of Trustees appointed Goodrich university vice president in 1966 and awarded him an honorary doctor of humanities degree upon his retirement in 1969.
COUGHLIN: And where did you play?

BROWN: We played schools, you know, like Salem, and all colleges—

COUGHLIN: You played them, but—

BROWN: Oh, Cambridge. We had to rent the Cambridge Y [Young Men’s Christian Association].

COUGHLIN: Cambridge? Even up until recent years?

BROWN: Yes. The girls had nothing to start with, so I had to—this is kind of scary for a freshman, but I had to—Dottie McNamara arranged for me to meet with Judge Donahue7 over in the courthouse, in his office. So I went over there and told him that we wanted to start a girl’s basketball team. There was no physical education program here for girls at all, and we needed money. My understanding was that wasn’t such a good thing to always ask for in the early days. And he okayed it. I came out of there feeling well, what a great guy, you know? He seemed so stern and everything, but he really wasn’t. He okayed it, we got the money, we got the money to rent the Y in Cambridge, and we formed our basketball team. And it’s been going ever since.

COUGHLIN: Were you coaching?

BROWN: Yes, I was coaching and playing.

COUGHLIN: As a student?

7 Frank J. "Daisy" Donahue (1881-1979), Suffolk Law School class of 1921, served in several state and local political capacities, including Massachusetts Secretary of State, before being appointed to the Massachusetts Superior Court in 1932. He was a life member of Suffolk’s board of trustees and served as treasurer of the university from 1949 to 1969. Suffolk’s Donahue Building at 41 Temple Street is named in his honor.
BROWN: Yes. Because I was a student, so I played both. Then when I graduated in ’55 I stopped. I couldn’t—

COUGHLIN: How many would you have on the team, carrying maybe eight or ten?

BROWN: When we first started we had eight. We were lucky then, we were lucky to get our—see in girl’s basketball in those days you had to have six on a team, so we were lucky to get it. But we did it, we made every game. We didn’t do too bad. Then they got officials and coaches and everything like that. I think there may have been one or two years when it lapsed, but it picked right up again.

COUGHLIN: Think of some of your professors, in your major or otherwise, people who come to the top of your head that you had in class who you kind of still remember. Is anyone still here that you had? Let me put it that way.

BROWN: Oh yes, Ben Diamond. (pause). Dean Sargent, President Sargent now, I had him for torts and a few other courses. Professor Maleson, I had him for law. The college ones, there weren’t too many left in the college because I had Dr. Vogel and he’s retired now. Dr. Hartmann was my history teacher, he’s retired now. Dr. Murphy and Dr. Hannay, and they’re deceased now.

COUGHLIN: How about math, did you have to take math?

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8 David J. Sargent graduated from Suffolk Law School in 1954, then served as a law faculty member from 1956 to 1973, dean of the law school from 1973 to 1989, and has been president of Suffolk University since 1989. OH-016 in the Moakley Oral History Project is an interview with President Sargent.
BROWN: The only thing I lacked in high school was I didn’t have algebra, so I had to make it up. I had to take it summers, and Art Less taught it summers so people could make it up. I had Art Less for that. I had Art Less for biology, and he’s retired now.

COUGHLIN: You talked about Dean Goodrich, can you think of some of the deans? What about the presidents? Who was the first president you remember?

BROWN: I’ve been here through every president, except number one, Gleason Archer.9

COUGHLIN: Gleason Archer. Okay, so let’s take number two.

BROWN: Walter Burse.10

COUGHLIN: Tell us about Walter.

BROWN: I was too young at the time to really get to know him. A lot of people don’t know it, but the president’s office used to be in the library. The library and Archer Building had two entrances up the front, and they’re the two entrances that come up the stairway of the Archer Building. The reserve desk was at the front, so that if you came into either door you were right at the reserve desk. But behind the reserve desk on one side was the librarian’s office, and on the other side was an inner office where the president’s office [was]. Because the President had to

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9 Gleason L. Archer (1880-1966) was founder and president of Suffolk University. After graduating from Boston University Law School and passing the bar examination in 1906, Archer founded Suffolk University Law School. The school expanded its mission during the 1930s to include undergraduate education with the formation of the College of Liberal Studies (1934) and the School of Business Administration (1937). In 1937 Archer became the president of the newly incorporated Suffolk University. Archer remained at Suffolk University until his retirement in 1948. In addition, Archer published fourteen law textbooks and also became a popular radio broadcaster for NBC in the late 1920s and early 1930s. An amateur historian, Archer wrote many articles for various journals and was especially interested in colonial New England history and specifically his ancestry as a Mayflower descendant. Gleason Archer’s personal papers, MS108, are housed in the Suffolk University Archives.

10 Walter M. Burse (1898-1970) served as president of Suffolk University from 1948 to 1954.
come in and out through the library, we got to know him a little bit. But I really didn’t have too much to do with Walter Burse.

COUGHLIN: Who was the third?

BROWN: In order I can’t remember them.

COUGHLIN: Was it Haley?¹¹

BROWN: Yes. Haley—well we had—I can tell you who they were. There was Robert Munce.¹²

COUGHLIN: He would have been before Haley.

BROWN: Then there was Burse, Munce. Then I think there was Haley, not sure. Then there was Fulham.

COUGHLIN: It would be Fenton.¹³

BROWN: Oh yes, Fenton.

COUGHLIN: John Fenton.

BROWN: Fenton, Fulham,¹⁴ Perlman,¹⁵ then Sargent.

¹¹ Dennis C. Haley (1893-1966) served as president of Suffolk University from 1960 to 1965. He has previously served as superintendent of the Boston Public Schools for twelve years.

¹² Robert J. Munce (1895-1975) served as president of Suffolk University from 1954 to 1960. Munce began his career at Suffolk as director of the evening session and lecturer in social studies in 1948. He was appointed dean of the college of liberal arts in 1950, chancellor of Suffolk University in 1960, and chancellor emeritus in 1970.

¹³ John E. Fenton, Sr. (1898-1974), a Suffolk Law School graduate (JD ’24), served on the Suffolk University Board of Trustees for sixteen years before serving as president of the university from 1965 to 1970. He had previously served for twenty-eight years on the bench of the Massachusetts Land Court.
COUGHLIN: What kind of students were coming in ’51? I’m not really trying to say academically, but here we were sort of a commuter school in the heart of Boston not tremendously well-known. What kind of students were flocking to our school? Who were they really? Local people? Did they live nearby? What do you remember them to be?

BROWN: I remember them to be mostly local, very few out-of-state people at that time. Suffolk had a good reputation in the law because the legislature was filled with Suffolk students and the government was filled with Suffolk alumni from the law school. The university, I believe it started in ’36 and the first class graduated in ’40, so in ’50 it was really in effect only ten years of graduates going out. There weren’t that many—it was mostly local. Another bad feature about it was they weren’t able to do all the clubs and everything like they do because it was a working school. I mean, you came for classes. Your first year you had classes from nine to twelve on Monday, and nine to 12:20 on Tuesday and Thursday or something, and then you went to your job. As they began to spread classes out at different times so you could get a mix, then that began to change. More clubs began to form, and people could stay for them. We didn’t have student lounges or anything like that like they’ve got now. I go over to the Fenton Building and see them playing all the little games there and my mouth drools (inaudible).

COUGHLIN: So the amenities were lacking in what we call the social spaces, and the clubs and activities. The fact that you started a basketball team is interesting. A lot of veterans? I know the veterans would have been coming back in ’46. Was there still a residue of veterans here at Suffolk back then?

14 Thomas A. Fulham (1915-1995) served as president of Suffolk University from 1970 to 1980. Except for Suffolk founder Gleason L. Archer, Fulham held the longest presidential tenure of any of his predecessors. Prior to his presidency, Fulham served on the board of trustees for nine years and continued to serve until his death in 1995.  
BROWN: No not too many because the Korean War started in 1950. My brother and some others had gone off into the service. I’m not too sure again, but I think that school enrollment goes up or down according to wars, and the economy [simultaneous conversation]

COUGHLIN: Can you remember any fellow students that were in your era that are still around that we might know? I know Lou Connelly is a graduate. Was he anybody you ever came across?

BROWN: Oh yes, I’ve known Lou for years and years and years. The one problem with being at Suffolk for forty years is you can’t remember the years people graduated. You must know a little bit about that, Bill. People come back and say, “Oh, hi, anybody around that I know?” And you say, “Well wait a minute, what class did you graduate in?” Paul Benedict\(^\text{16}\) is one of the more famous ones who went out to Hollywood to be in that story with the Jeffersons or something like that.

COUGHLIN: I always remember he had a visit back here one time, and he was friends with Dick Jones.\(^\text{17}\)

BROWN: Yes, Dick was (inaudible). We had Paul Benedict and a few other people—we had Dr. Murphy hold a seminar, and we got to know each other really well going over reports and things like that. And also, we were active in the drama club. The clubs were fewer, but still [there] were some pretty active ones. Drama club was one, the Suffolk Journal was another. I don’t remember any law newspaper at that time. They used to come out with something called The Lex every once in awhile, which was sort of like a yearbook-type thing.

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\(^\text{16}\) Paul Benedict (1938-2008) graduated from Suffolk in 1960. He was a regular at the Theatre Company of Boston from 1963 to 1968 before building a successful film, television, and Broadway career. Benedict is mainly known for his role as Harry Bentley on the television sitcom “The Jeffersons,” a role he played from 1975 to 1985.

\(^\text{17}\) Dick Jones was a 1956 Suffolk graduate and appointed director of the archives at Suffolk University in 1966.
COUGHLIN: I always remember there was debating that went on. Do you remember the days of forensic and clubs? That was pretty strong, was it not?

BROWN: Right. That was a little after—I don’t know the exact dates again. From ’50 through ’55 when I graduated, I think it was just a little later that the debating society became really active, and it did very well. That’s why I say when I first came in ’51, there weren’t too many in the way of the clubs. As I was going through school, the clubs began to develop and grow, and the curriculum began to change. The classes began to spread out more.

COUGHLIN: Thinking of studying back in the fifties, what do you remember as far as where you were located? Of course the State House predominates in the area, do you remember any little stores or places around the area?

BROWN: Oh yes, this area has changed.

COUGHLIN: What do you remember? What was the street like? Temple Street?

BROWN: Temple Street was filled with rooming houses where you could go rent a room by the week, except for the individual, private homes. There was a lot of rooming houses. Now, they turned half of them into condominiums and whatnot. With inexpensive rooming houses, people would take rooms and they would live there for three, four, five years, and then it deteriorated. The same thing with Myrtle Street and around in there, and the Beacon Hill Chambers for men. You know—

COUGHLIN: Yes, I remember that burnt down.

BROWN: Yes, they rebuilt it now and it’s for elderly people, but I guess it’s men and women now. What happened afterwards was the [Beacon] Hill began to deteriorate and then you got
transients. You got people renting a room or renting a place for a few months and then moving out. It got kind of rough on the Hill for a little while. It did. Then they came in with all this redevelopment again, and it improved.

COUGHLIN: I was thinking earlier when I talked to you that you said Rudy Vallée had been a teacher. That may not mean an awful lot to some people, but just tell us what you remember. Who was Rudy Vallée, by the way? Or why was that (laughs) a thing to remember?

BROWN: All right, the thing about that is he had left before I came here, but the reason it stuck in my memory is because I had been on the Heritage Committee for many years working with Dave Robbins and other members of the committee and writing the history of the school. So, we did a lot of research, and I found a lot of pictures. One of the pictures that I found was a picture of Rudy Vallée and Gleason Archer. It said how Rudy Vallée—first he came here I think to take a course or something, and then he got to talking with Gleason Archer, and then they asked him to teach a course in journalism. I don’t know why journalism, but he did, so he did teach here for either a semester or a year, I’m not sure which. And Rudy Vallée was a famous ladies man singer, but in the thirties, which is before my time. There isn’t much here before my time, but that is. (laughs)

COUGHLIN: Wasn’t his great song, “Your Time is My Time?”

BROWN: Something like that. And he used to sing through a megaphone type of thing.

COUGHLIN: He had the megaphone.

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18 Rudy Vallée (1901-1986) was a popular American radio host, crooner, musician, and actor who rose to fame in the late 1920s. He enrolled in Suffolk University Law School in 1932, but did not complete the law degree.

19 Two 1932 photographs of Rudy Vallée with Suffolk University president Gleason L. Archer can be accessed at the Suffolk University Archives (SUI/4.05-08).
BROWN: Yes, I like that. But it shows that, to me it shows—their’s even a picture of him in the history book that we did—it shows that the school is trying to get prominent people to make the school a little better known and everything like that.

COUGHLIN: Joe Strain\(^{20}\) (laughs), certainly had a great memory, right? What do you know about Joe?

BROWN: Well, I never had Joe for a teacher. He used to teach mostly education, and that wasn’t my field so I never had him as a teacher. Later on he became the dean of the evening division. I’ve attended meetings with him and everything like that. One personal outstanding event I really couldn’t say, but overall he was a person who really had the school’s interest at heart, and the students’, and an open-door policy. You don’t see that in some places now, you have to make an appointment ten days in advance and everything. I was surprised when he retired.

COUGHLIN: Was it two years ago? Was it ’89, or in that area?

BROWN: Yes, I was surprised. I thought he would long outlast me here. (laughs)

COUGHLIN: He was also a Suffolk graduate, undergraduate, as I recall. I think he may have gone on to Harvard for a doctorate. We think of Joe Strain certainly in the history of Suffolk. Certainly the stories about Dottie Mac, and how the people loved her and how she loved them, are legion. How about Dottie’s sister, Evelyn Reilly?

\(^{20}\) Joe Strain was a 1943 Suffolk University graduate who began his forty year career at Suffolk as an English instructor in 1946. During his tenure, Strain chaired served as director of summer sessions and associate dean of the evening division. In addition, Strain chaired the Presidential Search Committee in 1979-1980 that led to the selection of Suffolk’s seventh president, Daniel H. Perlman. For his long-time service to Suffolk, Strain was recognized by Perlman at the 1986 Deans’ Reception.
BROWN: She was the president’s [President Thomas A. Fulham] secretary, so I don’t think people knew her as well. I know that through Dottie Mac I owe my scholarship to because she’s the one who helped me get the job. When they didn’t need any more student help in the Bursar’s office, she helped me get into the library. She’s the one that arranged for me to see Frank Donahue. Quite frankly without Dean Goodrich at the start and Dottie McNamara at the start I wouldn’t be here at Suffolk. I know it’s my own studying and everything that kept me here, but—

COUGHLIN: How do you judge the academic strength of Suffolk? Go back to your days, I know it’s hard to compare (inaudible).

BROWN: I think that Suffolk is a much underrated school.

COUGHLIN: Underrated?

BROWN: I don’t think that people realize the ability of some of the faculty members here. Now I know that we were weak in many areas. I know that we didn’t have PhD’s and everything. There are some departments, like the education department, that were not built up as yet. But if you came here and you wanted a good education at that time, and you took people like Dr. Hannay, Dr. Murphy, Dr. Vogel, Dr. Fehrer for French, and things like that, you got a really outstanding education. Then later on they built up the philosophy department, the education department, and everything like that, but it wasn’t—there weren’t that many doctorates, either, floating around while I was here.

COUGHLIN: However, there were a few fringe benefits. They had some very strong professors, and it was a really strong classical curriculum, was it not?

BROWN: Um-hm.
COUGHLIN: Even today, I think there’s a whole lot of subjects that are still very strong, and the professors carry on that tradition. Tell us a little bit about your background in sports. I know you’ve had some great honors coming to you from Hall of Fame onward.

TAPE ENDS
-TAPE RESUMES-

COUGHLIN: We’re talking to Pat Brown, and we’re continuing our conversation. It’s an oral history of Suffolk University. Pat will be retiring at the end of January 1992 after forty years of great service to Suffolk University. We’re on the part of her sports abilities. As a baseball player, I’d like to trace a little bit, Pat, how it all started and how you—it wasn’t ended up in the Hall of Fame, but you were honored by the Hall of Fame and threw a ball out at Fenway Park in the last few years. Tell us a little bit about that history.

BROWN: I was a tomboy, and I had three brothers, and they all wanted to play baseball. Winthrop was a very small town at that time. Lots of fields, lots of open spaces, everything like that. So baseball was big thing. As I say, it was either play baseball with my brothers and the rest of the people on my block, or play dolls by myself. And I chose baseball. I started playing, and at first it was very difficult even as a youngster, and I was very, very young. The boys were at this stage where, We don’t have anything to do with girls. So they didn’t want you to play on the team, so my brothers would just say, If she doesn’t play, we’re not playing. So they let me play, and I did, I became a fairly good player. But as you get—as most girls, even the girls today find out, when you reach a certain age you can’t play with the boys anymore. You can’t play high school baseball or anything like that. You reach a certain point, too, where your physical abilities wouldn’t allow you. Like I could not compete with Carl Yastrzemski for example, we’re physically smaller and weaker and everything. But we should be able to play little league, we should be able to play pony league as a girl if you’re able to, at least that’s my belief. I had to
stop playing at a certain age. I switched to softball because there were girl’s softball teams. But at high school I played tennis, basketball, and field hockey, and then softball in my spare time.

One day, I read in the newspaper about this fantastic girl’s baseball league out in the Midwest and that they were looking for ballplayers. I wrote them a letter and told them I was like a female Ted Williams, you know and all this kind of stuff. They sent me a letter back, and they arranged a tryout for me in New Jersey.

**COUGHLIN:** What year are we talking about?

**BROWN:** This was in 1949. They arranged a tryout for me—to join a tryout in New Jersey. So I went to New Jersey, and I tried out, and I didn’t make it. I got a letter back saying I needed more experience, to get more experience, and then try out again.

**COUGHLIN:** Were you pitching?

**BROWN:** No, it was just a tryout. I never pitched in my life. I played outfield and first base. My dilemma was how was I going to get any years experience when women weren’t allowed to play baseball? I just thought that was the end of it.

**COUGHLIN:** There’s nothing here in this area?

**BROWN:** Nope, and the letter specifically said to spend another year playing, get some more experience, and try out again. And I couldn’t, there was no place to do it, so I thought that was the end of it. But I got a postcard the next year, which said there was a tryout in Everett if I would like to attend. So I did. I went. I hadn’t played ball for a year. So I went to Everett and I tried out, and I made that tryout. It a little bit of luck though. There were six [hundred] to seven hundred girls there and it was held in a gym, in a big gym over in Everett somewhere, I forget.
the name of it. So you’d get out on the gym floor, and there would be a fellow up there and he’d be hitting ground balls to you. We did fielding and you’d throw them back, and I’d field them and I’d throw them back. I had a strong arm, and I guess I threw the ball so hard the guy dropped his glove. He had a fielding glove, and he dropped it. I didn’t make any errors, thanks for that. So they called me aside after they finished the tryout and asked me if I had ever pitched. It’s extremely difficult to find women to pitch baseball because of their arms, and they’re not used to it, and they’ve never been trained. I said, “No, I’ve never pitched, but I’d be willing to learn.” So about a month later I got a letter from them to report to spring training at a parochial school in South Bend, Indiana. The spring training, and I did.

COUGHLIN: How many seasons?

BROWN: Two.

COUGHLIN: Two seasons?

BROWN: Two seasons.

COUGHLIN: How many people would come to the games?

BROWN: Probably (pause) between five to six thousand per game, and the parks were small. When I was on the touring team, which was the equivalent to a major league’s farm team, we had two touring teams that would play each other, playing exhibition games. We went all around the country, through Canada, and we would play in the minor league ballparks, the men’s minor league ballparks. They would always say to us, the people, they would say, Oh, when we come to see the men play, there’s about six hundred people here. And we’d fill the ballpark, but it was only because we would only get two or three nights, whereas the men played all summer. We
used to have to go on shows, and in some cities parade down Main Street in a car waving in our uniforms.

COUGHLIN: How many teams were there in the league?

BROWN: Twelve.

COUGHLIN: There were twelve. I’m going to guess you got a thousand dollars for every year?

BROWN: The salary was anywhere between fifty to one-hundred and fifty per week at that time. I had left a job paying thirty-two a week.

COUGHLIN: Thirty-two dollars a week. (laughs).

BROWN: It was a time when even men were only earning fifty and sixty a week to support a family. Also, you got your expenses extra. You got your meal money, your expense money extra, if you didn’t spend it all for meals, that was fine. It probably was the equivalent to a person who—if the people were earning a hundred you’d be earning five hundred in equivalency, so it was higher than you could earn at any place else.

COUGHLIN: Was it a long season? Was it six months?

BROWN: It was about one hundred and thirty ball games, and it was all-night games. It was from—spring training started in April and it went right through to the first week of September.

COUGHLIN: Do you remember how many [games] you won [as a pitcher] the first and second year?
BROWN: The first year I remember expressly, it was 13-5 [thirteen wins, five losses]. And after that I just didn’t pay as much attention.

COUGHLIN: But were you also a good hitter?

BROWN: Yes. That year I batted .298. In the girls’ league you had to sometimes be a pinch hitter, and you also had to double up on other positions. The teams weren’t as affluent as the men’s teams. (laughs)

COUGHLIN: Is there anybody that you played with that became famous in sports since the female league?

BROWN: In women’s sports, yes, but in men’s sports no. For example, Sophie Kurys, she played for—I don’t remember now if it was Battle Creek or what—but, she stole more bases in a season than any man has ever stolen. They had a write up a year and a half ago in Sports Illustrated about her.

COUGHLIN: Tell us about the Hall of Fame. All of a sudden you’re a big Hall of Famer.

BROWN: I know, after so many years I never thought that my past would come back to haunt me. A lot of people here at Suffolk never even knew I played ball.

COUGHLIN: True.

BROWN: And all of a sudden one day we got a letter, and it said that they were going to do a presentation of the women’s baseball in the new wing of the Baseball Hall of Fame. They wanted the girls—somebody—to get a committee together and start getting all the material
together necessary for the display. So it was about a year before the presentation that we knew it was going to happen because we’ve formed a player’s association now. We’re in fact keeping it going, we pay dues and everything. We gathered up all the memorabilia and everything like that, which went through the Hall of Fame to be put in. Then they had a whole weekend ceremony for the opening of the display. Each one has their name there with their town and the years that they played, right on the display. Obviously, they couldn’t do an individual thing like Carl Yastrzemski or Ted Williams or something. It’s just about time. I think the committee finally realized that this women’s league existed for fifteen years, and it was real baseball. It’s a part of the history of baseball much the same as they just honored the Negro League and they have a display. It is a part of the history of baseball.

COUGHLIN: Were you a good bunter?

BROWN: Yes. (laughs) I don’t want to sound egotistical but—

COUGHLIN: What is the trick to bunting?

BROWN: Well, the trick to bunting is to first of all see where you want to bunt it. If the third baseman is playing deep, just lay it down the third baseline. If the first baseman’s playing deep, just lay it down the first baseline. If the pitcher’s a slouch or he can’t throw the ball very well, just right in the center, a little tap.

COUGHLIN: Did you ever get hit or hit [anyone]?

BROWN: Oh yes. (laughs)

COUGHLIN: (laughs) Yes, are those people in the Hall of Fame, the ones you hit? (laughs)
BROWN: (laughs) You asked me my record the first year I played, it was 13-5 [Brown’s win-loss record as a pitcher]. When I was on the touring team, they had one pitcher too many. Baseball is like the men’s team. They’re just suddenly released, no explanation, no nothing. When we went to rookie school, we had ten buses full of women going from the hotel to spring training field every morning. At night the chaperones would come knocking on the door and sending people home, so the buses were less and less. Every night coming back from spring training we’d be singing “There’s No Tomorrow.” The buses were less and less unless your contract was picked up, which I fortunately was. The same thing happens even when you get it made. Even when you got your contract, you can be released. Anyhow, our team had one pitcher too many. It was a touring team, and it was the Springfield Sallies and Chicago Colleens. They put one girl pitching for the Colleens and one girl pitching for the Sallies. I was pitching for the Colleens, she was pitching for the Sallies. One of us was going home that night, and it wasn’t me. But I struck out about twelve, and I hit about four, and I walked about three, but I pitched no runs. So I was wild because I had never pitched. I had a very strong arm, I’d hit it all over the backstop. I did learn. I learned to throw a curve, and a hook, and a knuckleball. Everything.

COUGHLIN: That’s history in itself. Then the day at Fenway Park, tell me what that was about.

BROWN: Actually, you know, I kind of owe that to Suffolk, too. Lou Gorman came here to Suffolk. Suffolk has a legal sports group—I don’t know the exact name of it—but some of the law students here, they’re interested in sports law, and they have a little group. One of the girls works for NESN [New England Sports Network], who goes to law school here. And she asked Lou Gorman if he would speak to this law group. Of course it was open to other students and everybody, too, so I went. She grabbed me after he spoke and she introduced me to him and said that I was a former baseball player and in the Hall of Fame. He surprised me, he heard all about it. He said, “Oh, are you one of those wonderful women baseball players?” I turned red and everything, and I said, “Yes I am.” She said, “Why don’t we do something for these women?”

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21 Lou Gorman (1929- ) was general manager of the Boston Red Sox from 1984-1993.
He said, “You know, you drop me a line after things get in place for Christmas. You drop me a line after the New Year, and you remind me that I met you at Suffolk, and we’ll do something.” I did. I dropped him a line and reminded him where I met him and everything like that, and so we had a night at Fenway honoring the women. I asked him if three of the local girls that played in this area could come with me, and he said yes, and they did, and we had a great night. They introduced us from the—Sherm Feller from the thing and we were up on the scoreboard with pictures and announcements and everything. And I got to keep the autographed ball from Tony Peña.

COUGHLIN: Did you show up the president throwing the ball out? (laughs)

BROWN: I tell you, I felt better than the president because he could only throw it out from the box. And I think that we were the first professional women athletes on the field at Fenway Park. We threw it out from the field.

COUGHLIN: From the pitcher’s mound?

BROWN: No, from the Red Sox dugout, and we were right beside the Red Sox dugout. In fact NESN had their cameras going, and Tony Peña was on the infield, like right past first base. I just threw it from there to there. Most people throw it from the box to the catcher.

COUGHLIN: Like loop it in the air?

BROWN: Yes, yes.

COUGHLIN: Okay.

BROWN: In fact, I might have thrown it a little too hard, a little too far. (Coughlin laughs)
COUGHLIN: Back in the day, in the gym knocking the glove off the—

BROWN: My little nephew was at the game. He was thirteen at the time, and he kept saying to me over and over, “What if you miss, Aunt Pat, what if you miss?” I said, “I won’t miss!” (laughs)

COUGHLIN: That was the confidence you had. That’s certainly a part of you, a part of Suffolk, and I think it’s all part of the oral history we’re doing here.

BROWN: Right. If Lou Gorman hadn’t come here, and that girl hadn’t asked me and introduced me, that event would not have taken place.

COUGHLIN: It almost makes you think that so much happens by chance. I’m sure the history of Suffolk has a lot of chance to it. A certain person in a certain area and it all develops. My feeling is that it’s the people that we need to still need to talk about. Buildings are fine, but it’s the (inaudible) and the Joe Strains and the (inaudible). Of course the times have changed and the economy has changed. Have you seen any radical changes in the students, in the undergraduates? I know you deal with law students now, how do you see—I should say the law students—any changes?

BROWN: I think that kind of goes in cycles, too. I was here from the first—as far as staff goes, there’s never been a strike at Suffolk, except twice. Once, the maintenance staff went on strike, and they were pacing up and down the street out here. Once, the students went on strike. That was in the sixties when that radical activity was taking place. They went through the halls with their big signs up and everything like that, you know. Right after that the general class of students seemed to be cutting their shorts, ripped t-shirts, casual attire. Then within two to three years it would seem like they would come in with their suits and neatly dressed. The reason it
become obvious to us is because we have to do registration every year. We see them as a group, we see them all together waiting in line. Polite or impatient or what. I think it’s a normal—they gradually became more mature. Not country-oriented, but America-oriented, like interested in not just themselves, but interested in the environment, in society, in wanting to do something. Just the whole outlook was different, and I think it was an improvement from the early days when people came in just to become a lawyer and go make money.

COUGHLIN: That’s good news. You alluded to affirmative action, and how women were paid fewer dollars in insurance. You said in a sense that there was an attempt at fairness. How would you summarize—the word affirmative action is new I suppose—but how cosmopolitan has Suffolk been through all people, races, nationalities, religions?

BROWN: I have to be honest, I think they’ve been slow. I think they’ve been slow, and I think in the past few years the changes have really come about. I don’t want to sound prejudiced, but I think some of the changes have come about because women have gotten into higher places in the school. In all the years I’ve been at Suffolk, I’ve never felt that somebody has said, Well, lets not give this to Pat Brown because she’s a woman. It’s only been circumstances that have been that way. Like Cathy Judge for example, she wanted to teach law school in the worst way, but there were no women law professors, so she couldn’t do it. She was registrar, and then she graduated from law school and everything. She had already graduated and passed the bar, but she still couldn’t teach. She couldn’t be the first woman teacher. One year she volunteered to take a LPS, a Legal Practice Skills course. She did it on Friday evenings, and she did it free, and she liked it. She did very well. Gradually another shortage came up. You always have to be here at the right place at the right time. They asked her to teach it, and she then began to teach this for pay until gradually—in fact she is the first full-time woman who ever became a full-time professor. I don’t

22 Catherine T. Judge (1928-2006) served Suffolk University for fifty years. She began her Suffolk career as the first law school registrar in 1955 while a student in the evening division. In 1957, Judge was the only woman in her class to graduate with a Juris Doctorate. Judge became the law school’s first full time-professor in 1966 and was awarded tenure in 1970. Judge received the Heritage Medallion for her for her outstanding contributions to Suffolk.
think she’s the first teacher because they had instructors. Once in awhile they would have a guest instructor that was a woman. But she’s the first, official woman faculty member at this school.

COUGHLIN: Of course she was the registrar and also she’s still teaching, is that correct?

BROWN: Yes, she gave up registrar as soon as she could get a teaching position.

COUGHLIN: Who else persists in the law school that you remember?

BROWN: It was just her and me.

COUGHLIN: Just the two of you?

BROWN: It was just her and me. I was a lot longer before I could get to move up the ladder, because Suffolk didn’t have positions. They didn’t have titles, the library didn’t have titles. A lot of the places were like that. Our placement office for example—I’ve forgotten the gentleman’s name—but he was the placement for both law and college. And he had one secretary, so it was hard for him to do things, to accomplish things. As far back as I can remember, it was Cathy Judge and me were the only two women administrators at Suffolk. And then she moved to become a full-time faculty member, and then of course, I don’t know the dates or anything, but then more women administrators were hired and things like that. It’s traditionally in most colleges in the early days for a woman to be a registrar or you know, something that’s kind of clerical-like. But to be an associate dean or to be the head of placement, like we have now, or anything like that, no way. I’m happy to see it now.

COUGHLIN: Well the academic world is the key world (inaudible) the shift in teaching. The other things were ancillary and the administrative situations are kind of jumbled, I always
remember this, well this was more true of Suffolk, but the registrar and admissions was one and the same. They broke away from that at one point.

BROWN: But I must say that Suffolk has caught up rapidly. It was slow getting started, but once they got going, I think that they’ve been pretty fair.

COUGHLIN: You said that they were able to help you pay your way. What was the tuition? What was it then? I know that our tuition now is $8,475.

BROWN: Would you believe seven-hundred and fifty dollars a year?

COUGHLIN: Per year? That would do it. Seven fifty would get you through, huh?

BROWN: Well remember, like I said, when I left my job to go play ball my job was about thirty-something a week. So, to pay seven-hundred and fifty dollars or something if you’re still working was pretty hard.

COUGHLIN: Do you remember any people who have, not become famous, but still on your mind through the years that have come back to say hello?

BROWN: Oh, a lot of them do. A lot of them. Dick Voke [JD ‘74] who’s chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. Patty McGovern [BA ‘62, JD ’66, LLD ‘88] she’s chairman of the Senate, and they’re always fighting each other. Patty McGovern hasn’t been back at all, but we did go to school together. Johnny Powers\textsuperscript{23} who was the clerk of the Supreme Court for many, many, many years. I don’t know him that well, but I did know him. He was just graduating when I was just starting at law school.

\textsuperscript{23}John E. Powers (1910-1998), a Democrat, represented South Boston in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1939 to 1946 and in the Massachusetts State Senate from 1947 to 1964. He served as Senate President from 1959 to 1964.
COUGHLIN: Do you have any memory of Mayor Collins²⁴ and his relationship to Suffolk?

BROWN: No. No. (pause) He graduated from Suffolk?

COUGHLIN: Yes, graduated from Suffolk, and also a trustee. He did quite a few things.

BROWN: No, my first four years at Suffolk I wasn’t in the trustee category. (laughs) Now I know a lot of the trustees.

COUGHLIN: Probably didn’t know they existed in those days.

BROWN: But I know them know because they came through Suffolk and everything like that.

COUGHLIN: So here comes January, and what are you going to do? What’s happening in your life?

BROWN: Well, the first three months I don’t have any plans at all. It’ll be the end of the winter, and I don’t want structure. Like if this is Tuesday I got to do this and Wednesday I got to do that. I just want to do some work around my house, I own my own home. I’m going to do some work around my house. Then after that, once I get adjusted to that, I’d like to do a lot of writing.²⁵ I used to do a lot of writing and had a few things published from when I helped with this, the Heritage Committee thing and—

²⁴ John F. Collins (1919-1995) served as mayor of Boston from 1960 to 1968. Prior to serving as mayor, Mr. Collins served in the Massachusetts State Senate and Boston City Council and also ran unsuccessfully for attorney general of Massachusetts in 1954; Collins graduated from Suffolk Law School in 1941.

²⁵ Brown has published several books and articles within the last ten years, including a memoir of her experiences in women’s baseball.
COUGHLIN: What other interests do you have in writing? I know you’ve got a lot of areas.

BROWN: I like short stories. I write science fiction. But I’d also like to do some legal articles, and I’d like to do some on libraries. I’d even like to do a mini retrospective on Suffolk. Whether it’ll ever get published or not, I don’t know. (laughs)

COUGHLIN: Do you want me to change the title so you can be Juris Doctorate? Did you ever call yourself doctor?

BROWN: Yes.

COUGHLIN: (laughs) How did that feel?

BROWN: Well, some people—every once in awhile we would go someplace and someone would insist upon it. Or, for example, I’m listed in Who’s Who in American Women, Who’s Who in the East, Who’s Who in the World would you believe that one? That’s a Marquis publication, too. I’m waiting for Who’s Who in America, but they haven’t done that yet. And Who’s Who in American Law. Now, the reason I mention that is when they send the letter because you put J.D. on your list of degrees, they’ll send the letter [to] Doctor Patricia I. Brown. I don’t think in the United States they use it that much. It’s mostly in the Latin countries. I don’t know about Europe, but I know in Spanish-speaking countries they all use doctor.

COUGHLIN: I know in Germany if you get two doctorates it’s “doctor doctor.” [simultaneous conversation]

BROWN: To tell you the truth I think it would be a good thing if they’d start using it.

COUGHLIN: A little bit more than they do? (inaudible)
BROWN: Especially in academic circles.

COUGHLIN: Sure, I think that if you are teaching a certain kind they’d say doctor. On the outside you get some of the other terms, barrister, and you name it. There’s a lot of things to call you.

So where are we right now, Pat? Is the school—would you say, has come along more so in the last few years?

BROWN: Oh, yes. It’s gone from one building, to one, two, three to about five or six buildings to having its own gym. I was there at the dedication of the gym.

COUGHLIN: That must have been a great day for you, huh?

BROWN: Yes. It was really good.

COUGHLIN: That took a long time. They tried for twenty-five years, it wasn’t easy.

BROWN: It’s fantastic now.

COUGHLIN: Well, this is our first oral history, Pat. I’m sure there are a lot of other things you may think of later, but if you’re satisfied that we’ve got a good summary of all the things you’ve done, I’m sure—

BROWN: Yes, I didn’t think I’d be able to spout off as much! (laughs) Especially just, you know, ad-libbing and everything along the way.
COUGHLIN: It’s truly unusual to have somebody only forty-eight years old spend forty years at Suffolk. (laughs)

BROWN: (laughs) Forty-eight? Thanks a lot!

COUGHLIN: Doesn’t forty get by, I mean, is that even comprehensible that you’ve been here forty years?

BROWN: It sounds like a cliché, but to say you don’t know where it went is the truth. It’s only when you sit down and talk like this that you realize the momentous things that have happened that you didn’t even know. Like for example, when I played professional baseball I never dreamed it was going to be in the Hall of Fame. When I came to Suffolk, I never dreamed forty years later I was going to be retiring, and as associate law librarian to boot, I never even thought I was going be a law librarian. So yeah, you’re right, it just zooms right by.

COUGHLIN: And you have your most famous days ahead, right? (Brown laughs) Thank you very much, Pat.

END OF INTERVIEW
Appendix A: Biographical Information about Pat Brown

Additional Resources:

http://www.thediamondangle.com/archive/aug04/brown.html

http://alegueofmyown.com/qa1.asp

http://www.aleagueofmyown.com/bio1.asp

http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_llj_v93n01/2001_08.pdf

http://search.barnesandnoble.com/League-of-My-Own/Patricia-I-Brown/e/9780786414741/