

Dartmouth College Oral History Project
The War Years at Dartmouth
Interview with Ruthe Berry (spouse of Chester Berry '40)
By Mary Stelle Donin
4/21/2008

DONIN: ...how your husband ended up going to Dartmouth? Was there a connection through the family of other people who'd gone there?

BERRY: No. But he had a friend he grew up with who went there and raved about it. And so he talked Chet into going there.

DONIN: Uh-huh. Where did he grow up?

BERRY: In Dorchester, Mass, and he went to Boston Latin School.

DONIN: Oh, yes. So he sort of followed a classmate up to Dartmouth.

BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: Yes. And it was a good experience for him?

BERRY: Oh, he loved it.

DONIN: Yes. Now when did you meet him?

BERRY: I met him the summer before he went. I was out in a boat in Buzzard's Bay rowing. And he was in another boat with a couple of guys. And it was the year that he graduated from high school, 1936. And he jumped into my boat and said it looked like I needed help.

DONIN: [Laughs] He was full of oats, it sounds like.

BERRY: And so we dated for four years, and I went to Dartmouth house parties and etc. And we were married in September of 1940.

DONIN: Oh, right after he graduated.

BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: Uh-huh. Great.

- BERRY: And he was getting his master's. He got a teaching fellowship with Professor Rayton. So we spent two years there while he got his master's degree.
- DONIN: So he was able to teach and also work on a master's degree at the same time.
- BERRY: Yes.
- DONIN: Was he teaching—in which department?
- BERRY: Physics.
- DONIN: Physics. Uh-huh. Was he like a TA or he was an instructor? He must have been an instructor.
- BERRY: No, he was just an assistant.
- DONIN: Uh-huh. In the classroom?
- BERRY: Yes. Mm-hmm.
- DONIN: Yes. Probably helped set up projects and grade papers.
- BERRY: Yes. Right.
- DONIN: Yes, yes.
- BERRY: And they did x-ray experiments and different things like that. Yes. Sometimes he had to get up at night and go over to the lab to reset things.
- DONIN: Oh, yes. He gets to do all the dirty work.
- BERRY: Right. [Laughs]
- DONIN: Where was the physics lab at that point? Was it in Kresge?
- BERRY: In Rockefeller.
- DONIN: Oh, it was in Rockefeller.
- BERRY: Yes. And I worked in the COSO.

DONIN: COSO standing for Committee On Student Organizations?

BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: Uh-huh. Where was that located? I'm testing your memories.
[Laughter]

BERRY: I can see the building facing the Green.

DONIN: Is it on the Green? So it was probably—

BERRY: The second one from the corner of—

DONIN: McNutt? Parkhurst. No, it's from the corner where the Inn is?

BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: So the first is the dining hall.

BERRY: Then there's—

DONIN: Yes, I'm having a senior moment along with you. It begins with R.

BERRY: Isn't that funny. It was on the first floor there. And they had the Outing Club was upstairs.

DONIN: Yes, yes. The Outing Club I think is on the ground floor now. But they're still in there. I can see it in stone, the name. But I can't pull it out of my brain. It begins with R. That's pathetic. Anyway, and then McNutt is next to it, which is now the admissions office.

BERRY: Yes. Uh-huh.

DONIN: So who was the staff person who was in charge of COSO? Was it a dean?

BERRY: Robert Lane.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

BERRY: Robert Lang, L-A-N-G. Yes. Uh-huh.

DONIN: And he was a dean of some kind.

BERRY: No, he was just the director of that.

DONIN: Of COSO.

BERRY: Yes, uh-huh.

DONIN: So was it hard for you to find a job when you got there?

BERRY: No, I applied for several. And I took that one. And it was nice because I got free tickets to the games and the concerts.

DONIN: Oh, because you were a staff person.

BERRY: Yes. Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Ah-hah. And I mean you were both staff people at that point.

BERRY: Right.

DONIN: That's great.

BERRY: Uh-huh.

DONIN: Where were you living?

BERRY: On School Street. It was Professor Silverman's house which is a three-story house. And they rented out rooms on the second and third stories. It was an old house.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

BERRY: And we lived there until the summer of '42 when we moved to College Avenue for just the summer.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

BERRY: Because I was pregnant at that point, and the doctor didn't want me walking up two flights of stairs.

DONIN: All those stairs.

BERRY: Uh-huh.

DONIN: Yes, yes. Is that the son that's at San Diego now?

BERRY: No, that's my oldest daughter.

DONIN: Oh, daughter. Oh nice. Uh-huh. Great. So was she born at Dartmouth?

BERRY: No, she was born at Cornell, Ithaca.

DONIN: Oh, because you'd left by then. Yes, yes.

BERRY: Right. Mm-hmm.

DONIN: But you probably were being cared for initially at Mary Hitchcock Hospital?

BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: Were you? Yes.

BERRY: And I acted in a Gilbert & Sullivan production, and the doctor was one of the directors of that. The hospital put on the Gilbert & Sullivan thing.

DONIN: Great!

BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: They probably needed—I know they were always looking for women to be in all the theater productions because....

BERRY: At that time there weren't many women around.

DONIN: There sure weren't.

BERRY: And we figured he knew every woman who was in the cast.

DONIN: Yes. And could take good care of you if you had any problems. [Laughter] That's great.

BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: And were those productions put on in Webster Hall, or where were they put on?

BERRY: Yes. Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Yes. Which is now the home of the Archives, as you probably know.

BERRY: Uh-huh. Mm-hmm.

DONIN: So let's talk about the two years that you were there. War was in the offing.

BERRY: Uh huh.

DONIN: Were you conscious that the students were all going to get ready to go up and enlist as soon as it was possible?

BERRY: Well, they had to because it was the draft. I mean they had to sign up because there was a draft. But they weren't ready to jump in there. Some of them were, and some weren't.

DONIN: Yes. And this was taking place even before Pearl Harbor, there was a draft. Is that right?

BERRY: I really don't remember.

DONIN: Yes. Because I know they really cleared out. Once December of '41 happened, I gather the place really cleared out.

BERRY: Uh-huh.

DONIN: You've got some pictures there.

BERRY: This one is one of Chet's fraternity brothers who was signed up in the Air Force, and his plane was ditched in the English Channel.

DONIN: Oh! So he didn't survive?

BERRY: No. Mm-mmm.

DONIN: Gee. And when was this taken. Let's see.

BERRY: It must have been during the two years we were there.

DONIN: Yes. So what fraternity was he in?

BERRY: Phi Sigma.

DONIN: Oh, yes. So he graduated in 1940. Ernest Martin Hopkins was president. Oh, while you were there, too.

BERRY: Yes, right. Right. Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Did you ever meet him or interact with him?

BERRY: I never interacted with him, but I knew him, you know, who he was and all.

DONIN: Was he a visible man around campus?

BERRY: Not too much. We knew where he lived and that, and where his office was. But I don't remember ever shaking hands with him.

DONIN: Right. And then when—You were still there after Pearl Harbor, right? After December '41?

BERRY: Oh, yes. Mm-hmm. Right.

DONIN: Things much have changed dramatically.

BERRY: I wish I could remember if they did or not. I remember being shocked, and I can remember where I sat when I was listening to the radio.

DONIN: Where were you when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

BERRY: In our apartment.

DONIN: Of course it was Sunday, yes. Mm-hmm. And at that point you were pregnant.

BERRY: No. Mm-mmm.

DONIN: Oh, you weren't pregnant yet.

BERRY: No. Mm-mmm. Linda wasn't born until February of '43.

DONIN: I see. Right. And then I gather Hopkins called a meeting at least of the undergraduates. I'm not sure your husband had to go because at that point he was staff. Although he was still a student as well. And they rather quickly announced they were going to start going

year round. They were going to eliminate summer vacation and such. And, you know, start educating these kids I think sort of around the clock.

BERRY: Yes. Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Pretty soon after '41. Did you stick around year round?

BERRY: Oh, yes. We lived there.

DONIN: And did your husband work in the summer?

BERRY: The first summer we did not. We came down his folks' home in Buzzard's Bay, in Wareham. And the second summer we were there.

DONIN: You were?

BERRY: Yes. Mm-hmm.

DONIN: And that's the summer that you lived on College Street.

BERRY: Yes. Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Now did he stay active in his fraternity once he became a grad student?

BERRY: Oh, yes. Yes. We even chaperoned them a few times. [Laughs]

DONIN: Oh, yes. It's funny, you make the transition from the undergrad to the grown-up adult pretty quickly. So what were the sort of things you had to work on in your job at COSO?

BERRY: Stenographic work. And sometimes I'd type papers for some of the professors on the side.

DONIN: Oh, yes. Earned a little more money. Yes. Everyone was trying to earn money. It seems like every woman that I've talked to that was there in those days was doing some kind of work.

BERRY: Right.

DONIN: Whether it was babysitting or—I mean they weren't necessarily all employed by the College.

BERRY: This girl on—This is Chet and me—and then Ruth Trott and she worked for Haven Falconer; I've forgotten exactly what his job was. But he was director of films, the film department.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

BERRY: And she married Hans Baldwin who was a Hitler Jugend. His father came over here and brought the family over here, and Hans went to Dartmouth. And his father was the person who had a factory for the boten flex material. I don't know if you know that.

DONIN: Mm-mmm.

BERRY: It's synthetic upholstery material. And I think it was in Andover, Mass.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: So this is—You guys were all going skiing.

BERRY: Oh, yes, we did a lot of skiing, every weekend.

DONIN: Did you?

BERRY: My husband was an avid skier.

DONIN: Where did you go? Did the Skiway exist then?

BERRY: Oh, no.

DONIN: Oh, Oak Hill. You went to Oak Hill.

BERRY: Well, we went to lots of places; we went to Vermont a lot to places in Vermont.

DONIN: Looks like happy times. [Laughter] Now let's see. What are you standing in front of? You can almost see the street number.

BERRY: It's probably down on School Street.

DONIN: Yes.

- BERRY: Because she lived there, too.
- DONIN: Oh, did she? Yes. Happy times. So did you work full time for COSO?
- BERRY: No, I worked half days.
- DONIN: That's perfect. Did you know how to cook when you got married?
- BERRY: Oh, yes.
- DONIN: Oh, did you?
- BERRY: Yes, uh-huh.
- DONIN: It's funny because virtually every woman I've interviewed, mostly because of their age, you know, they were fresh out of college and had never had to do any cooking, so many, many of them said they didn't have a clue how to cook.
- BERRY: Really?
- DONIN: And they'd go down to Tansi's on Main Street and asked Mr. Tansi, you know, how to boil peas or something. So you were much better prepared for this married life.
- BERRY: I guess so. Even my husband could cook.
- DONIN: Oh, could he?
- BERRY: He could make breakfast things.
- DONIN: Right. Plus you had a real—you had access to real cooking facilities, I assume, where you were living.
- BERRY: Yes. I had a kitchen that was under a slanted roof, and I was the only one who could stand in there and do the dishes because I was short. [Laughter]
- DONIN: So what was the mood on campus after '41? Did you interact with students much when you were doing your COSO work? Did you get to see many students?

- BERRY: Well, I was active with the fraternity brothers of my husband's. And there were some students who came in there all the time into the office.
- DONIN: Right. And was everybody sort of raring to sign up and go into service?
- BERRY: Some were, and some weren't.
- DONIN: Yes, you mentioned this woman who came to campus to speak, Dorothy Thompson?
- BERRY: Yes.
- DONIN: Forgive my ignorance, but I don't think I know who she was or is, Dorothy Thompson. Was she some kind of activist?
- BERRY: She was a lecturer. And I can't remember just what her topic was. Anyway.
- DONIN: I'll have to go research. But as a result—
- BERRY: She may have been a journalist.
- DONIN: Oh, that's possible. And it sounds like she was obviously against the war since she influenced some students to go to Canada. Is that right? Is that what you were saying?
- BERRY: She was for it. I don't know whether she was for the war.
- DONIN: Oh, I see, because you could go to Canada and sign up for service sooner.
- BERRY: Right.
- DONIN: Oh, interesting. Because that was before the US was in the war.
- BERRY: They were already in it.
- DONIN: I see. I didn't read it properly. Yes, right.
- BERRY: We took a trip up through Canada, and there were some ports we couldn't go into because they were at war.

DONIN: There were some what, forts?

BERRY: Ports.

DONIN: Oh, ports. Yes. I bet.

BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: So your husband also had to sign up for the draft.

BERRY: Mm-hmm.

DONIN: And he got number 13.

BERRY: Right.

DONIN: And because of the—Oh, didn't get called until 1944.

BERRY: And someone had contacted him and told him if he ever got—Well, a couple of organizations contacted him, told him if he ever got called up for the draft, to let them know.

DONIN: Why?

BERRY: Because they wanted him to come and work for them.

DONIN: Oh, because of his training as a physicist.

BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: Oh, yes. They were looking for skilled officers.

BERRY: Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Oh, that's interesting.

BERRY: There were other people down at Oak Ridge where the Manhattan Project was in Tennessee, who were drafted, and they were soldiers, and they couldn't bring their families there or anything. He was able to bring his family down.

DONIN: That's lucky.

BERRY: Well, as a civilian.

DONIN: Right. So you guys went down. But you went— So after Cornell, after he got his Ph.D. at Cornell—

BERRY: No, no, no. He had to go back and finish later.

DONIN: Oh, I see. So he was working on his Ph.D. and then he got called?

BERRY: Mm-hmm.

DONIN: I see. So his service was interrupted—I mean his education was interrupted just like everybody else's.

BERRY: Right.

DONIN: That was tough for—

BERRY: Have you seen those?

DONIN: Oh, the ration books. That's amazing. So gas was rationed, food was rationed.

BERRY: Meat was rationed. When we were down in Oak Ridge, we ate a lot of oysters because by the time I'd get to the top of a line at the butcher shop, the meat would be all gone because they couldn't tell anyone how many people were living there.

DONIN: They couldn't tell anyone?

BERRY: No, it was a secret operation.

DONIN: Oh, I see. So they didn't get enough supplies.

BERRY: Right. Uh-huh.

DONIN: And where did you get your food when you were in Hanover using these ration books? Was it Tansi's?

BERRY: Every place had it.

DONIN: There wasn't a co-op in those days, was there?

BERRY: No, no.

DONIN: Look at this: war ration books. And this is something different. Or these are—Oh, they're gone. Look at this. Yes.

BERRY: Yes, Linda had to have one.

DONIN: That's good then. That entitled you to more food.

BERRY: Right. Mm-hmm.

DONIN: So some of these are from Ithaca.

BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: These. And then these are from Hanover.

BERRY: Right.

DONIN: Oh, yes. So every person in the family had a book.

BERRY: Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Yes. And you used them all up. Although you've got some stamps left here.

BERRY: Mm-hmm.

DONIN: And could you spend this on anything, these little stamps?

BERRY: No, just certain things that were rationed, like butter and meat and I can't remember what else it was.

DONIN: Life was hard. And gas was rationed, too.

BERRY: Sugar, I think. I think sugar was rationed.

DONIN: Right.

BERRY: Yes. Uh-huh.

DONIN: But I assume most people in those days didn't have automobiles.

BERRY: We had one.

DONIN: Did you really?

BERRY: Yes. Chet's grandmother gave him one for a present.

DONIN: Isn't that nice.

BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: Was it hard to get gas?

BERRY: No.

DONIN: And you probably didn't have to use it much when you were in Hanover anyway.

BERRY: For going skiing we did.

DONIN: Oh, that's right.

BERRY: I can remember walking to work in the morning when it was 20 below, rubbing my nose all the way. [Laughs]

DONIN: It got really cold up there. It still does. You guys must have been very popular if you had a car.

BERRY: There were other people who had cars, too.

DONIN: Really?

BERRY: Fraternity brothers.

DONIN: Right. So your social life there was made up of grad students or staff or—

BERRY: And fraternity brothers.

DONIN: Who were younger than your husband, right.

BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: But there's that bond between the brothers, so to speak. Right?

BERRY: Right.

DONIN: Now were the fraternities rowdy in those days?

BERRY: Oh, yes.

DONIN: Were they?

BERRY: Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Same kind of stuff that goes on today probably.

BERRY: Well, I don't think they were into drugs as much as they are nowadays. It was mostly alcohol.

DONIN: Were women allowed in there, in the fraternities?

BERRY: Just when they had the social events.

DONIN: Uh-huh. Were they held in the basement or in the back room or something?

BERRY: Well, they had living rooms, too.

DONIN: Oh, did they?

BERRY: Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Yes. Uh-huh.

BERRY: And when I went up there for like Green Key or Dartmouth Night, they'd put the women up in the fraternity house.

DONIN: Where did the guys go?

BERRY: They had to double up with somebody who had an extra bed in their room or something in a dormitory.

DONIN: Right. Uh-huh.

BERRY: Mm-hmm.

DONIN: And wasn't there a house that was run by a woman that was sort of like a social house that girls could go into with their dates? It was Mrs. Somebody's—they didn't call it a party house. Her social house or something like that? Does that ring a bell?

BERRY: Mm-mmm.

DONIN: No. Well, you guys didn't need to have that because you were already married.

BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: So back in those days the sculptures I gather were magnificent.

BERRY: Oh, yes. Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Every house did one?

BERRY: Yes. Mm-hmm. Don't they do that anymore?

DONIN: I don't think with as much pride.

BERRY: Oh. Mm-hmm.

DONIN: You know they're very proud of the one that goes up on the Green. But my understanding was back in those days every fraternity house did one.

BERRY: And they had a competition.

DONIN: Yes, yes. And they don't do that so much anymore. I don't think they have time.

BERRY: This is pictures of the Navy group that must have trained.

DONIN: Oh, marching on the Green.

BERRY: The summer of '42.

DONIN: These were the officers they were training.

BERRY: Yes. Right.

DONIN: Were these what they called the "90 day wonders"?

BERRY: I don't know.

DONIN: Did you hear that term?

- BERRY: No. Mm-mmm. But one of them was a friend of ours.
- DONIN: Oh, nice. But these weren't—These were people from outside Dartmouth, weren't they?
- BERRY: Oh, yes. Definitely. Yes. Mm-hmm. It was the college contribution to the war, I guess.
- DONIN: Well, they did this, they did this officers' training, I think, for a year from '43 to '44.
- BERRY: This was '42, the summer of '42.
- DONIN: Oh, so then they started earlier then. Maybe it was the summer of '42 they started. They did the officer training, it's my understanding, for—oh, look at that—for a year. And then they started these, you know, the V-12 and the V-5 and the V-7, I think, groups, training not officers but what do you call it? The noncommissioned soldiers. Here it is, right in front of Collis Hall.
- BERRY: You want one of those?
- DONIN: Oh, no. I don't want you to give them up unless... I mean I don't want to feel like I'm taking them from you. They're great pictures, though.
- BERRY: I have a printer if you want to print anything.
- DONIN: Oh, do you.
- BERRY: Yes. Uh-huh.
- DONIN: Well, you keep them. And then if your kids don't want them, though, tell them that Dartmouth would—we'd like to have them.
- BERRY: Okay.
- DONIN: I always feel badly taking anything in case children are interested in having this. So you had a friend in that group.
- BERRY: Yes. And his son lives in Orleans now.
- DONIN: Amazing!

- BERRY: Well, it's more amazing than that, because he was a teacher—or better than that; I've forgotten what his position was—in an academy, Storm King Academy I think it was, on the Hudson River.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- BERRY: And he went. After that—I can't remember what year it was, but probably four years later, he became a dean of the University of Rochester, so they moved to Rochester. So we used to have Thanksgiving dinner together with him and his family.
- DONIN: Incredible.
- BERRY: And now his son's living in Orleans.
- DONIN: Small world.
- BERRY: Right.
- DONIN: Did your husband maintain close ties with members of his class?
- BERRY: Yes. We went back to reunions whenever we could.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- BERRY: And the mini-reunions.
- DONIN: And because they were all there together for most of their undergraduate years, they didn't suffer the sort of, the splintering of the classes that happened in the later forties. You know these kids in the classes of '42, '41, '43, didn't finish their undergraduate years.
- BERRY: Right.
- DONIN: You know they went off to do their service and then came back and finished. And that splintered the classes.
- BERRY: Yes, when we were living there, they had those Quonset huts and things set up for people coming back with their wives and so forth.
- DONIN: Exactly.
- BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: Some of them, I think, were put into the only existing dormitory where they housed the married veterans, I think the Fayerweathers: North Fayerweather, South, Middle Fayerweather. But most of them ended up over in Sachem Village and Wigwam.

BERRY: Right. Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Which I guess was pretty tough living.

BERRY: Yes, that didn't exist when we were there.

DONIN: No, they hadn't put them up yet.

BERRY: No. Mm-mmm. No.

DONIN: So did your husband come away with any particular teachers or deans who mentored him in his career or in other areas of his life? Did he maintain any ties to—

BERRY: Well, he did with Will Rayton, but Will Rayton died early.

DONIN: Oh.

BERRY: And I can't remember.

DONIN: He was the only one.

BERRY: Oh, Neidlinger. He lived on the Cape here, so we saw him a few times before he died.

DONIN: Oh, did he? Yes. I think a lot of people were terrified of him.

BERRY: Oh, really?

DONIN: Yes. He was the dean of students, right, or dean of the college, I guess. I gather you did not want to get in trouble and get called into his office. [Laughter] I don't know if your husband ever had to go through that. But I gather he was a pretty stern fellow. Did you ever meet when he was, you know, in his prime?

BERRY: Yes. Mm-hmm.

- DONIN: Well, because your husband was a member of the staff at that point, I'm sure it was a very different relationship.
- BERRY: And anyway. And the house where we lived was Professor Silverman. He was a math teacher.
- DONIN: Oh, yes.
- BERRY: And Chet had had him, too.
- DONIN: Oh, really. Is that how you arranged to live there?
- BERRY: No, we were just looking for a place to live.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. Did a lot of the faculty take in students or young staff or young graduate students?
- BERRY: Some of them did. I don't know what the percentage was.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. There was not enough housing for everybody.
- BERRY: Probably not.
- DONIN: What else did you— Oh, yes, you talk about— This is a nice story that I wanted to remember to get you to tell into the tape. The Naval officers who were training there in the beginning. They had to run through some kind of calisthenics course every morning that took them past our living room window on College Avenue.
- BERRY: Yes.
- DONIN: And as we knew one man, Herb Fitton, in that group, we invited his wife to spend some time with us. And she slept in the living room and could see Herb running by in the early morning.
- BERRY: Right.
- DONIN: Was Herb the one that was training in that picture that you mentioned?
- BERRY: Yes. Mm-hmm.
- DONIN: Oh, I see. And of course they weren't allowed to have their wives with them.

BERRY: No, no. Mm-mmm.

DONIN: Oh, so she came up and stayed with you.

BERRY: Yes. Uh-huh.

DONIN: Oh, isn't that nice. Was he able to interact with her at all?

BERRY: I don't think so.

DONIN: Yes. They were pretty strict.

BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

BERRY: Well, it was very military.

DONIN: Well, that's the idea.

BERRY: Right.

DONIN: And what was the overall mood of the men in terms of going off to war? They were anxious to do it? They were enthusiastic? They were—

BERRY: Well, it varied. Some people felt it was their duty. And some people looked forward to it as an adventure, I suppose.

DONIN: Not a lot of resistance, though, probably.

BERRY: My husband didn't want to go, be in the Army.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. He was probably consumed by the work he wanted to do, the physics?

BERRY: Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Yes. Well, it's easy to understand. So he went off and worked on the Manhattan Project.

BERRY: Right.

- DONIN: For how long?
- BERRY: Until the war was over.
- DONIN: Oh, happy day! Yes.
- BERRY: Where were you on VE-Day and VJ-Day, at that point?
- DONIN: Down in Tennessee.
- BERRY: Oh, with him. Of course.
- DONIN: Must have been joyous times then.
- BERRY: And I called him up and told him the bomb had been dropped at work, and he was working for a third cousin of mine, Wayne McCusick, and Wayne said, "How did she know what we were doing here? It's supposed to be a secret." [Laughter] But the reason I knew was that another friend of ours had been interviewed down there and decided not to go. And had told us what was going on down there.
- DONIN: Oh, so you were— But your husband must have known anyway, right?
- BERRY: Oh, he knew.
- DONIN: But you weren't supposed to know.
- BERRY: I wasn't supposed to know.
- DONIN: And he kept it from you.
- BERRY: Oh, no. He knew I knew. Mm-hmm.
- DONIN: You sort of were careful, I'm sure, everybody was careful about who they shared it with, I'm sure.
- BERRY: Right. Well, he also was teaching a class at the University of Tennessee for them. And he had to write a report each week and send it to someone whether there'd been any suspicious people in the class.
- DONIN: Oh. Why? Say that again. They were looking for—

BERRY: Anything that was suspicious.

DONIN: That might be considered to be spying you mean?

BERRY: Yes. Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Oh, I see.

BERRY: It was very secretive.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. Yes. For good reason.

BERRY: When I flew down—He flew down there first and got settled and got a place for us to live and all. And when I flew down there with Linda, he didn't meet me at the airport right away. And I went up to the desk and asked them how I could get to Oak Ridge. And they said they didn't even know where it was. I flew into Knoxville.

DONIN: Is that right!

BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: So they purposely kept it completely secret.

BERRY: Yes. Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Uh-huh. Well, it makes sense.

BERRY: Uh-huh. Yes.

DONIN: So while you were down there, you had your baby so you couldn't work anyway probably.

BERRY: No. I didn't need to.

DONIN: He had a good job by that point.

BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: You learned to skate on Occom Pond, or you already knew how to skate?

BERRY: I already knew how. [Laughs]

DONIN: You said you attended lectures.

BERRY: Yes. Mm-hmm.

DONIN: These weren't class lectures? These were like open to the public lectures.

BERRY: The ones, you know, for the whole college.

DONIN: Right. And those took place in Webster Hall?

BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: Mostly?

BERRY: And they had musicians.

DONIN: Oh, yes. Right. Concerts and that sort of thing.

BERRY: Right, mm-hmm.

DONIN: And you probably took advantage of the library and everything else the college had to offer.

BERRY: Yes.

DONIN: Yes.

BERRY: Mm-hmm.

DONIN: And your husband, I know, you said he liked skiing. Did he do any kind of intramural sports with the college?

BERRY: He belonged to the Sahara Ski Club. That wasn't intramural. I think that was a private one. And he went out for the—he had played hockey in high school. He went out for that, but they turned him down. So....

DONIN: Mmm. You know they had amazing teams back then, I think, too. Once they had the older men on campus that were doing the military training, they had some pretty good teams, I think. They fielded good teams because these guys were two or three or four years older and, you know, bigger, stronger, better players. So they

had, I guess, some good games. Some famous football game against Cornell back in... I've forgotten. But a lot of people talk about it.

BERRY: There was one thing— I don't know if it would be interesting for you from this point of view, but when we went back for the tenth reunion—we couldn't go back for the fifth, but we made it for the tenth—and we were trying to sleep that night. And the men who had been in the war were out there were beating on the drums and making—having bombs dropping all night. [Laughter] They were still fighting the war.

DONIN: Reliving the war. Probably having a great time.

BERRY: Oh, yes.

DONIN: Yes. That's nice. Was it your sense that there was a distinction—in later years, when you would get together with the classes, the class reunions—was there a distinction made between the people that had, you know, been in the war and gone off to fight versus people who did research like your husband versus those who couldn't go for some medical reason? I mean was that ever made a big deal of?

BERRY: I don't think so.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. There was real unity in the class.

BERRY: Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Nice. When this military business started—when the military training started on campus, the campus must have felt very different. I mean didn't they start, they started calling everything by its military name. Were you conscious of that, that feeling that the campus was really run by the military? It wasn't really run by President Hopkins anymore.

BERRY: Oh, I think we felt it was run by President Hopkins.

DONIN: You did?

BERRY: Yes. I think this was just an addition. I don't remember that.

- DONIN: You see these pictures of them doing their formations on the Green, and President Hopkins is standing there. But then so is the high-ranking military person reviewing all the marching that was going on. It was very much a— It gives the impression that it was sort of a co-leadership arrangement with President Hopkins and the Navy person or whatever.
- BERRY: Uh-huh.
- DONIN: But your sense was that he was still very much in charge.
- BERRY: Oh, yes. The graduation was the same. And they had the party weekends the same.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. They tried to keep it as much—as normal as possible. I gather they did have to cut back on some of the social stuff that was going on. The fraternities shut down for a while. That was probably after you were gone.
- BERRY: Must have been.
- DONIN: 'Forty-three, '44, '45.
- BERRY: Yes. Mm-hmm.
- DONIN: And the fraternities were empty. They couldn't fill them up, and they couldn't heat them. Then as soon as the war was over, of course, they cranked everything back up again.
- BERRY: Mm-hmm.
- DONIN: But that was probably after—
- BERRY: After we left.
- DONIN: After you were gone, yes.
- BERRY: Because they had the big bands come for Green Key weekends and all still.
- DONIN: Do you remember that there was a bandstand on the Green? Was there a bandstand on the Green?

- BERRY: Well, these were playing indoors at Hopkins—was it the Hopkins Center? Yes.
- DONIN: In those days it was before the Hopkins Center. Where did they do the concerts? Was it in Webster Hall maybe?
- BERRY: No. Mm-mmm. It was at whatever building was there where Hopkins is now.
- DONIN: Next to the Inn? Somebody mentioned that there was a grandstand, they remembered a grandstand—not a grandstand, what am I thinking—a bandstand on the Green. And I had never heard that before, nor have I seen a picture of it. So I was just wondering if anybody else remembers it other than this one person who told me about it.
- BERRY: I'll have to look in the 1940 graduation book, and see if there's a picture in that.
- DONIN: Look in the book. Yes, that's a good idea. I should look in the yearbook; you're right. That's a good idea. So you went to his graduation?
- BERRY: Oh, yes.
- DONIN: Yes. And did they hold that on the Bema or on the Green. The Bema was that place up in the woods, you know, that was sort of surrounded by trees.
- BERRY: Yes. I don't think they had it there. I think it was on the Green. I'm quite sure. But I'm not really positive. But I know my son's was on the Green.
- DONIN: Right. By then they were definitely doing it on the Green. Because I think the Bema wasn't big enough by then.
- BERRY: I don't know. Maybe it could have been at the Bema. Because I've been in there.
- DONIN: Yes, they still hold some activities there if it's not involving a really, really big group.
- BERRY: Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Did your husband—If he liked the outdoors, did he join the DOC, the Outing Club?

BERRY: Oh, yes.

DONIN: Did he like that?

BERRY: Oh, yes. Mm-hmm.

DONIN: All that canoeing and hiking and climbing Mount Moosilauke.

BERRY: Oh, yes.

DONIN: Did you enjoy that stuff, too?

BERRY: Yes, mm-hmm. Yes.

DONIN: That's part of what makes Dartmouth, Dartmouth, I think.

BERRY: I remember going mountain climbing with them after the hurricane, and it was—

DONIN: Oh, the hurricane of '38!

BERRY: 'Thirty-eight. And lots of the wood was still on the ground, and you had to climb over stuff and everything like that.

DONIN: Was Hanover badly—I mean I know it was much worse down here, down south.

BERRY: We were hit, too.

DONIN: Hanover was hit, too?

BERRY: Yes. Mm-hmm. I lived in Newton, Massachusetts, and I wrote to him and told him about, you know, my experiences in the hurricane. And he said, "Oh, we had it up here, too," in his letter that came back.

[End of Interview]