

Dartmouth College Oral History Project  
The War Years at Dartmouth  
Interview with David Donaldson '43 TU '46  
By Mary Stelle Donin  
September 26, 2008

DONIN: How did you choose Dartmouth?

DONALDSON: My father knew some Dartmouth men. I was born and brought up on a ranch in Wyoming. And I lived for a while in Mount Vernon, New York, the time I was six to 11. But when I went back out West, one of my aunts wanted me to go to Stanford. And I had good friends from Buffalo, Wyoming, who went to Ann Arbor. And also the University of Wyoming was my other choice. So I applied for a scholarship to all of them, and I got the best one from Dartmouth.

DONIN: Terrific. Well, that was an easy decision then, wasn't it?

DONALDSON: But we were... That was in the middle of the drought and the Depression. And you can't beat that. I needed the money.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. And had you seen Dartmouth, actually looked at it physically?

DONALDSON: Never seen it.

DONIN: Wow!

DONALDSON: I was born and brought up in Wyoming. I did live in Mount Vernon, New York which is outside New York City, for a short time.

DONIN: Pretty brave to come all the way across country to go to college.

DONALDSON: I had a lot of New York antecedents. My father was a New Yorker, and we had a lot of relatives around Manhattan.

DONIN: So you didn't feel totally alone here on the East Coast.

DONALDSON: No. My father actually was on the East Coast trying to keep bread on the table while my mother was trying to save the ranch.

DONIN: Oh boy. Those were tough times. Were you the first member of your— Were you the oldest in your family to go to college?

DONALDSON: I was the only member.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

DONALDSON: I'm an only child.

DONIN: Uh-huh. So do you remember the day that you arrived at Dartmouth? What your impressions were?

DONALDSON: My father drove up. I was, you know, I hadn't been to any college. [Laughs] So my father drove up, and I got my freshman cap down near the—I've forgotten; I think it was down near the power plant.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

DONALDSON: And they brought me up to my room, and it had a rug on the floor.

DONIN: Wow!

DONALDSON: And there was a toilet in the room. Our toilet was in the privy. [Laughs]

DONIN: Was it hard adjusting to being here?

DONALDSON: No.

DONIN: No? Do you remember all the stuff that they made freshmen do in those days?

DONALDSON: We didn't get hazed. Our dorm was South Fayerweather. And it was mostly freshmen. But some of the other '43s used to come to our room and hang out.

DONIN: Oh, yes. But I heard there was a group of upperclassmen who called themselves the Vigilantes? Does this ring a bell? And how they walked around and make sure that you guys were being respectful?

DONALDSON: We were wearing our caps.

DONIN: That's all that mattered was as long as you had your beanie on?

- DONALDSON: Yes. And that was because they wanted to get to know our classmates. It made a world of sense.
- DONIN: You were very identifiable. And there were other traditions in the beginning, weren't there for the freshmen? Having to run the gauntlet across the Green, I guess.
- DONALDSON: Oh, yes, I guess they did that once.
- DONIN: But it wasn't a scary experience for you then, being here?
- DONALDSON: No.
- DONIN: What was your impression of President Hopkins the day you matriculated?
- DONALDSON: I didn't see much of the president.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- DONALDSON: I wanted to tell you the first time we were in Webster Hall, when we heard him speak and was very impressive, and we were glad to be there. And then they sang "Men of Dartmouth."
- DONIN: Oh, yes.
- DONALDSON: And I was standing in the back on the stairs right next to a Newell post, when I heard, "And the granite of New Hampshire in their muscle and their brains," I almost broke up.
- DONIN: You didn't like the idea of having...
- DONALDSON: No, I thought it was funny as hell. [Laughter]
- DONIN: Rocks in their heads. So how were the academics, how were the classes?
- DONALDSON: Fine.
- DONIN: Did you have any particular teachers that, you know, that....
- DONALDSON: Well, there was a freshman English professor by the name of Jensen.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

DONALDSON: And I would speak up in class. And he always could top me, whatever it was. And I realized there were always two sides to everything.

DONIN: Yes. Indeed.

DONALDSON: But he was a very good professor for me. He was the only one that I really every appreciated as well as I should have.

DONIN: Now I know you went on to Tuck afterwards. But did you—What were you thinking about as a major back in the beginning there?

DONALDSON: Well, I always figured I would go to business school.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

DONALDSON: And I always liked to sell, so I always figured I'd be a salesman.

DONIN: I know a lot of students in those days had part-time jobs while they were students here. Did you have a part-time job?

DONALDSON: You know I had a big part-time job. Well, freshman year, yes, freshman year, they gave me a job boiling fossils for 75 cents an hour. They had mud. I was down in the geology lab.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

DONALDSON: And they'd give me mud, and I had a Bunsen burner, and I put water with the mud, and boiled it. And I kept boiling it until it got pretty well... I boiled the mud off; I kept pouring the mud off. And then there were little white things about the size of small rice cubes—or rice seeds—and I used a little paintbrush, a watercolor brush, on my tongue; and then I'd pick out these seeds. And I did that for 75 cents an hour. And I could make up to \$15 a month.

DONIN: That went a long way in those days then.

DONALDSON: Well, it certainly... My father and mother were just broke. It certainly helped. But at the end of that year, I figured—and that was a government job, the United States government. I figured there must be a better thing to do. And we had a guy by the name of Waldorf, who was our laundry agent, and he'd come around, and he'd shoot

the bull with us. And so at the end of the year, he was graduating. I said, "Can I buy your route from you?" And he said, "Uhn." I said, "Well, I'll give you \$10." He took it. And I went down to Mr. Williams, who had a little shop, and I said, "Mr. Williams, can I work for you? I bought Waldorf's route." And he let me work for him. And I built it up, and it became very, very good paying, as you know. I think I might have overestimated. But I certainly made more than a thousand dollars a year.

DONIN: That's fantastic! That is a lot of money.

BROOKS: A lot of money in those days.

DONIN: Mmm. And this was collecting laundry from each of the students?

DONALDSON: What happened was that first thing in the fall, I'd get here early, and the freshmen would be here. And they were wearing those hats. And so I'd say, "Hey, '44, come here. Who's taking your laundry?" And they'd say, "Well, I'm going to send it home." Okay. Fine. If they weren't going to send it home, I said, "Can I take it?" And I'd find out where their room was and go over and give them a Williams laundry bag, and then once a week on Sunday nights I'd go around to all the rooms of my clients, or customers, and get their bags and take them down. And Williams Laundry had a big basket, about 3x4, underneath the stairs. And I'd throw them in. On Wednesday all the laundry would come back, and I'd go and write down the charge from each one and take them back to the rooms.

DONIN: That's a lot of work. I mean how many on your route at a time?

DONALDSON: Well, I ended up with probably 60, 70, 80.

DONIN: Whoa!

DONALDSON: You know Sunday nights were pretty well shot. However, I learned how to get into every room with a coat hanger. And if they weren't home, I'd go into the room, and I'd take the bag.

DONIN: Great!

DONALDSON: Only one time I took the bag from a guy who was the son of a big rancher down in Mexico. I'll think of his name sometime. But I took it, and for a week I was bringing back tennis shoes and tennis

racquets and baseball mitts and everything. He had cleaned up his room for the fall house parties, belts.... [Laughter]

DONIN: And thrown everything into the laundry basket. So generally did the kids either have you take their laundry or mail it home?

DONALDSON: Well, they mailed it home in fiberglass 2x3 boxes, eight, nine inches deep. And they mailed it home. I wasn't going to mail it home to Wyoming. My mother had to do it with a hand... We didn't have electricity.

DONIN: Right. I remember those scrubber boards they used to use. Well, you probably were the highest-earning part-time worker that the college had, I would think.

DONALDSON: Well, there were other Williams Laundry guys.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

DONALDSON: I was doing very well. Nobody knew anything about it except Mr. Williams. I went in there one day, and he says, "Dave," he says, "do you think you could collect some of this stuff up? Say, you owe me \$2500." I said, "I sure can." Everybody paid.

DONIN: Yes.

DONALDSON: Except at the end. The last fall I was at Tuck School, and I was still running the laundry. And I'd be walking downtown. And the guy would walk up to me, and he'd say, "Dave, I've got to say goodbye to you. I'm going into the Army or Air Corps or something, or the Navy or Marines tomorrow. And how much I owe you?" And he paid me. And everybody did it except two guys. And I wrote to the mothers of those two guys, and one of them paid me \$15. The other owed about \$10 so that's all the loss I ever had.

DONIN: That's pretty good.

DONALDSON: But I was so busy that I had to stay after the close of school at Tuck to finish my big report. For two days I was all alone doing that. But I'd collected everything. [Laughs]

DONIN: What percentage of the campus, do you think, had part-time jobs?

DONALDSON: Oh, I don't know. I'd say 15 percent, 20 percent.

- DONIN: Oh, that's all? Gee.
- DONALDSON: Well, how many jobs can there be around?
- BROOKS: Well, you could get something if you worked at the college cafeteria. That kind of thing.
- DONALDSON: Well, I have no idea.
- DONIN: Following the Depression, you'd think there would be a lot of kids...
- DONALDSON: I've always had the impression, I might be wrong, that half, about half of us, had scholarships.
- DONIN: Yes, yes.
- DONALDSON: I don't know what it was.
- DONIN: Did you have a sense of people's financial status as students?
- DONALDSON: Money didn't show.
- DONIN: It didn't show.
- DONALDSON: It didn't show.
- DONIN: So kids didn't come to campus with cars.
- DONALDSON: Well, some of the kids had cars. But remember, we had gas rationing pretty soon. Yes, I would say that probably half of the class were very well fixed. And the other half, like him and I, only he was much better fixed than I was. I wasn't fixed at all.
- DONIN: You showed early on a skill for a career that you had for life; i.e., sales, right?
- DONALDSON: Yes.
- DONIN: So what about the rest of your life on campus? We're talking before the war now. It was pretty busy if you had a job and all your school work. Did you participate in sports?

DONALDSON: I went out for lacrosse, but I wasn't a good runner. I grew up on a horse. [Laughter]

DONIN: But you were active as a cheerleader, weren't you?

DONALDSON: Yes, I was the head cheerleader senior year.

DONIN: And I think you won a prize of some kind for the lyrics to some of the cheers?

DONALDSON: Oh, well, I won a prize for a cheer that I developed. But it wasn't a very good cheer, and I don't remember it. We had some great cheers, though.

DONIN: Yes, yes. So you appeared at all the games?

DONALDSON: Yes.

DONIN: Football and everything else, or just football?

DONALDSON: No, we only were at the football games.

DONIN: And of course you had no women to be cheerleaders in those days, right? It was just men?

DONALDSON: We were cheerleaders. We didn't do acrobatics.

DONIN: I see.

DONALDSON: And we had a fan.... I'll tell you one other thing. [Laughs] I would go out there, and we had a cheerleader every two sections. So that there would be five cheerleaders, and that covered the whole Dartmouth side. And when I walked on, the guys would jump up and say, "Yeah, Williams Laundry!" [Laughs]

DONIN: So what was—did you rush for a fraternity?

DONALDSON: I did a little bit. But I wasn't very attractive as a candidate. And eventually I was very friendly with Phi Psi and I could have joined them junior year. They invited me. I figured I was on a scholarship and, you know, that was additional money—

DONIN: Expensive. Mm-hmm.

- DONALDSON: Well, I didn't feel justified.
- DONIN: But your social group... I mean your friends were in the fraternities?
- DONALDSON: Yes. But the fact is at Dartmouth in that time, you could walk into any fraternity on Saturday night if you knew somebody in that fraternity. And you were welcome anywhere. And you see if you walked in and they had a keg, you pitched in on the keg. And if they didn't have a keg, you played ping-pong or just sat around. Saturday night was the social night. You'd say, "Let's go over to the Psi U" or whatever. Where your main friends were.
- DONIN: Now what about the sort of social weekends that were the big events like Homecoming—did you call it Homecoming or you called it Dartmouth Night?
- DONALDSON: No. We didn't have any. There might have been Dartmouth Night when they had a big—they had a bonfire, but the three in the fall were the Fall House Parties, and the winter was Winter Carnival, and the spring was Green Key. And that was it.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. And did you invite girls to campus to be your date?
- DONALDSON: Once in a while, but I didn't have much money until after the war when I had more. [Laughs] When I came back. But I had only one or two dates.
- DONIN: During the week it was all work and school and stuff.
- DONALDSON: Well, we used to play stoop ball in the fall. The steps, and get up and bat.
- DONIN: Oh, stoop, yes. Uh-huh.
- DONALDSON: And what it was you threw a tennis ball. And you had three throws. And if you hit one of the steps right here, the ball would fly up. If you could get it to bounce against the next building, you got a run. So we did that in the fall. In the winter we skied. We went out to Balch Hill; we skied out and skied back. And we played golf.
- DONIN: Now was the golf course where it is now?
- DONALDSON: Yes.

DONIN: The same golf course.

DONALDSON: Oh, yes. Well, we also had a nine-hole golf course.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

DONALDSON: But we always played the 18-hole golf. Then we'd play maybe seven holes.

DONIN: I thought there was a ski jump out there.

DONALDSON: Yes.

DONIN: In the middle of the golf course?

DONALDSON: Oh, yes.

DONIN: That's crazy.

DONALDSON: Yes, that was at about the 14<sup>th</sup> hole.

DONIN: You sort of just played around it?

DONALDSON: Well, what happened is you played down into that hole, and then you had a nasty shot out of the hole.

DONIN: It all changed on December 7<sup>th</sup>, didn't it, 1941.

DONALDSON: Well, Pres and I were talking about it. I remember very well because I had gone to Boston. And now I think I was invited down—very seldom was I ever invited anyplace. But I was invited down to a girls' school.

BROOKS: Pine Manor.

DONALDSON: Pine Manor.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

DONALDSON: I think that's what it was, when there were about three or four of us. We started back on Sunday morning. And about ten o'clock, we're driving through some New Hampshire town... I don't know what it was. But anyhow, we went past the theater that was playing "White Christmas" with Bing Crosby. Just before we got there, we heard

the news. And we looked at each other and said, “Let’s go to the movies.” So we stopped right there and went to the movies. Got home, I collected my laundry. I went over to the library which was always jammed on Sunday night because everybody was taking care of things. Nobody was there. There were about four of us in the library that I saw.

DONIN: Wow.

DONALDSON: And there was a guy by the name of Johnny Muchemore in our class, who came from Hawaii. And everybody was calling him up to say, “Where the hell is—Where is Pearl Harbor?” We all knew that was the end.

DONIN: So that was December ’41. So you were juniors.

DONALDSON: We were sophomores—the fall of ’41, we were juniors.

DONIN: Yes, you were juniors.

DONALDSON: And from then on we went around the clock until we graduated.

DONIN: That’s right. So you went home for Christmas, and then came back and went all the time.

DONALDSON: Went steady until the following December, December 20<sup>th</sup>. We graduated, and we had our graduation over in—

BROOKS: Thayer Hall.

DONALDSON: Thayer Hall.

DONIN: So there was no real ceremony, was there? Was there just a dinner?

DONALDSON: Oh, yes. We had a talk from....

DONIN: Okay.

BROOKS: One of the Sulzbergers who was at that time the head honcho of the *New York Times*, that Sulzberger. He came and addressed the group.

DONALDSON: The owner.

- BROOKS: I guess he was the owner of the *New York Times*. I remember that some of us sat around and tried to listen to him. But we were so preoccupied with other things, the war and so forth, I don't think he had a very attentive audience.
- DONALDSON: And I had just drunk a half bottle of rum. I wasn't listening too well.
- DONIN: You weren't hearing much either.
- DONALDSON: I had had a very busy fall with Tuck School which... They gave us big assignments. Two or three hours for each course. So when we took our last exam, the guys were going down to get some liquor, I said, bring me a bottle of rum. Do you remember that?
- BROOKS: I remember that was about the first time you ever had hard liquor liquor I think.
- DONALDSON: I didn't drink very much.
- BROOKS: He did it up brown.
- DONIN: Now what was the status of... Were you waiting to be drafted or were you going to enlist.
- DONALDSON: I was from Wyoming. Everybody was enlisting in Wyoming. So they didn't need to draft anybody. So I wrote to them, and they said, "Take another semester." I said I could take a semester. So I took the first semester of Tuck—the first graduate semester. I graduated December 20<sup>th</sup>. I had to stay a couple days because I was so busy collecting up my laundry—
- DONIN: Your laundry and your money.
- DONALDSON: Yes.
- DONIN: So you stayed on and did a term of your graduate year at Tuck.
- DONALDSON: Yes, until the 20<sup>th</sup> of May.
- DONIN: And then went home and enlisted?
- DONALDSON: I would go to the... They had all sorts of guys out recruiting, and I'd go to all the recruiting things because they were always on the

billboard. And I'd say, "I'm interested in this program, but I have 20/200 eyesight." And they'd say, "Oh, no, this program isn't for you." So I couldn't find anybody that wanted me except there was one guy that came, and I think he was in civilian clothes—I'm not sure. But if not, he would have been in enlisted men clothes. We weren't very sophisticated about that. But he talked to us, and he said, "Fellows," he says, "I can't tell you what we do." He said, "I know you guys want to go and do your part. But if you ever get stuck anywhere in the service, just write me a letter." And I ended up going—I was drafted. I transferred my draft to Mount Vernon, New York, and I was gone in a week.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

DONALDSON: And I went out to the reception center, and the guy that was interviewing me said, "Oh, you graduated from Dartmouth." He says, "Wait a minute." And he went, and he got a guy out that was Roddy Robards, one of our classmates. Roddy said, "I can get you into any service you want." And I said, "Well, I know a lot about horses. How about the cavalry?" And he went for quite a while, and he came back. He said, "Dave, they don't have any horses anymore." As a matter of fact, they did. They had mules, and I would've been great working mules because I know how to work mules. But anyhow, he said, "I've got this great deal for you, the ASTP."

DONIN: Oh, yes.

DONALDSON: So you go down you take basic training. And then when they need some special talent, they pick you up, you know. If you have engineering background, if you're good at languages, if you're, you know, whatever. So I did. And at the end of the cycle they gave us a test in languages. I think it was Esperanto. And they called me, and they said, "Donaldson, you got one of the lowest grades we've ever seen in that test. [Laughs] And we're going to offer you a job as a platoon corporal, give you your stripes. And so I took it. And then the guy and I ran a 40-man platoon, taught them riflery, we taught them everything. It was a terrible job. Looked like I was going to be in Camp Wheeler, Georgia, for the rest of my life. So I wrote this letter. And about a week later the captain of my company, who I'd never met—and I was working for this guy, and I'd never met him—called me in, and he says, "Donaldson, they're shipping you to Washington. The general wants to see you." And I knew there'd been talk about, if you tried to pull strings to get out of

the infantry, they'd put you in the stockade. So I went up to see the general, and I didn't care at that point. He said, "Donaldson, it's none of my business, but how did you do it?" [Laughs] "We've never had a one-man shipment out of this post." So that's it.

BROOKS: That's how you became an OSS.

DONALDSON: Oh, and so I went to Washington. I didn't know where I was going or anything. They told me to go to 25<sup>th</sup> and E Street on Monday morning. And I think I slept on the park bench next to the Washington Monument the night before; I'm not sure. I reported at eight o'clock in the morning or seven, whatever it was. I was in the OSS.

DONIN: Amazing. That was the spies, wasn't it?

DONALDSON: Yes.

BROOKS: Oh so secret.

DONALDSON: And my mother, by that time she'd come back East and my father had been working on a company down in North Carolina and they were living in Mount Vernon, New York. And she got a letter saying, is David in some sort of trouble? She said guys out here are asking him, what he did and all this stuff. And they checked me out that fast. And I had top clearance. But, see, they knew all about me because I'd been at Dartmouth for four years. It was very easy—

DONIN: To find out about you. So when you were discharged, you came directly back to Dartmouth?

DONALDSON: Yes. Pres was back. I had a lot of points because I was in Europe long enough to get a lot of points. And never been shot at. [Laughs] Bombed once or twice. And Pres, who had a lot more points than I did, he was back. And so I was going to go up to see him one weekend to go to a football game. And he said, "Why don't you stay and take courses?" I said, "I don't need anything until next—I can't get my last semester until next summer." He said, "Come and take courses." And I did. So instead of going to the football game, I was doing some back—it was the middle of October—so I was about a month behind and I was doing some stuff to catch up.

DONIN: Did you guys start rooming together when you got back?

DONALDSON: Yes.

BROOKS: Yes.

DONIN: That's great.

DONALDSON: Again, he and I had roomed with....

DONIN: Sure. Now, and of course at this point the GI Bill kicked in.

DONALDSON: Yes. Well, that's the only reason I could come back.

DONIN: That's terrific. Dartmouth must have been a very different place when you came back. It was very crowded I understand.

BROOKS: I don't think it was.

DONALDSON: No, we were back there early.

DONIN: Oh, you were early. That's okay.

BROOKS: Well, one of the reasons I came back was because the GI Bill. And I got up here, and my purpose was to come up and find out whether Tuck was reopened. Because I had not had second-year Tuck at all, and I wanted to go to second-year Tuck. And they said, well, they're not going to reopen until February. And this was September. But you can come back and, you know, GI Bill will allow you to take courses. So that's what I did. I took some courses that, you know, never had a chance to take courses.

DONALDSON: Wonderful courses.

DONIN: Terrific!

BROOKS: This is when he... I said, you come on up. And he arrived, and I conned him into staying around, too.

DONIN: Great.

BROOKS: So that's how that worked out.

DONIN: So this was in '45.

- BROOKS: Yes, '45, yes.
- DONIN: Oh, nice. So that was before the real influx and they were really overcrowded. I guess that started in '46.
- BROOKS: And what had happened at Tuck School, the reason Tuck didn't reopen until February was those guys were worn out.
- DONIN: Sure.
- BROOKS: The teaching staff down there, they'd been teaching V-7 or V-5 or whatever it was, V-12.
- DONIN: So did Dartmouth feel different to you when you got back?
- DONALDSON: No. You know we were all a bunch of veterans. So it was different. We were older, and we'd had a lot of military experience.
- DONIN: Sure. Were you a better student?
- DONALDSON: We went right back into the courses.
- DONIN: Were you a better student when you came back?
- DONALDSON: I don't think so. I was delighted to be back, you know. It was wonderful to be back. And I took the kind of courses, like creative writing.
- BROOKS: Yes, it was a great transitional time for us.
- DONALDSON: I took the courses I would never have been able to take.
- DONIN: Right. Now of course when you came back then, Mr. Hopkins was winding up his term, and John Dickey was starting. So you guys straddled two of the great presidents of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Did you have any impressions of Dickey?
- DONALDSON: Well, seemed like a good man, like Hopkins. I mean Hopkins was sort of a father figure.
- DONIN: Yes.

DONALDSON: When I got to Dartmouth, mail was delivered to our room. And the janitors came in and cleaned our rooms and made our beds. Of course, they just pulled up the covers as they walked through. The way we made money stretch a little bit was we always bought a \$5 meal ticket at the Hanover Inn coffee shop. Or at the college cafeteria.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

DONALDSON: And you'd get five-fifty worth of food for \$5.

DONIN: That's pretty good.

DONALDSON: So that's the way we all lived that way.

DONIN: Stretched it out. Yes.

DONALDSON: And we always ate at the Hanover Inn coffee shop.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

DONALDSON: And the 55-cent special. No matter what it was, that's what we got.

DONIN: That's what you got.

DONALDSON: There was a waitress there, lovely gal, by the name of Sophie, and she waited on us every night. No matter what it was, we'd get her to bring us plenty of butter and baked potatoes.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

DONALDSON: And as far as... We used to take sunning on the South Fayerweather roof.

DONIN: Oh!

DONALDSON: That would have been the fifth floor there. And I worked for a while as a waiter when the V-5 and V-12 guys were in there. And we would come out with these big trays full of five big pitchers of milk, about six or seven of them. And we'd come out and they were heavy. And we'd walk up to these tables, [laughs] shrinking back because they only had three uniforms. [Laughter] One was on, one was in the laundry. And once in a while it was slick. A guy would come out, and he would slide and he'd miss.

DONIN: Oh, my gosh!

DONALDSON: It only happened once or twice. But that was one way I made money.

DONIN: Now was this waiting before your service or after?

DONALDSON: Yes, after—before the service.

DONIN: Before the service. So in addition to your laundry job, you were doing the waiting job.

DONALDSON: Yes.

DONIN: Whoa! You were a busy guy.

DONALDSON: Well, it was only once in a while.

DONIN: Yes.

DONALDSON: And the water... The wastepaper baskets in the rooms were all open. But there were a few that were solid. And once in a while some guy would fill it with water and throw 'em down when the guy came in through the front door. Stan Calder was one of the—He was a great golfer, and he used to stand out in the road between North Fayerweather and Dartmouth Row, and he'd chip golf balls over North Fayerweather.

DONIN: Wow!

DONALDSON: When I went to the library, I'd always go up to the tenth floor of the stacks because I wanted to be able to look a long way. That was one thing I missed from Wyoming, everything was....

DONIN: Oh, the views.

DONALDSON: I could look clear up to the river.

DONIN: Yes, yes.

DONALDSON: We used to be able to, when we came in, we could get furniture from the college. They had all the guys that left, just left their furniture.

DONIN: Uh-huh!

DONALDSON: And they'd store it in the basement, and we could go down and pick out what we wanted.

DONIN: Help yourself, yes. To furnish your room.

DONALDSON: Tuition, \$450 a year. We did most of our studying in the library. But we also studied in the room. And a lot of us had these study boards. So you'd just sit on a chair or on a couch and a big study board.

DONIN: Oh. Sure, sure.

DONALDSON: I still do it. That's the way I do it. Oh! Cider in the fall.

BROOKS: Oh, okay. I was wondering when you'd get around to that.

DONALDSON: Farmers would bring in big loads of gallons of cider, and we'd go out and buy them. And then we'd put them on the windowsills to keep them cool. And if you were good, you could take a hockey stick with a coat hanger and steal the one from down below.  
[Laughter]

DONIN: Very creative. Sounds like you had a lot of fun.

DONALDSON: We did.

**[End of Interview]**