

Dartmouth College Oral History Project
The War Years at Dartmouth
Interview with Peter Heneage '45
By Mary Stelle Donin
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DONIN: Okay. First of all, Peter, as I said, I think we need to explore a little bit of genealogy here to establish your lineage, so to speak, in terms of Dartmouth attendance. I went into the 1940 catalog and discovered that there are five Heneages. And after doing some poking around on the Internet because, as I explained, I was not in Webster Hall prepping for this, I found that... Am I correct that Harry R. Heneage, class of 1907, also known as Rip, was the athletic director here?

HENEAGE: Yes. And it's interesting. If you Google him, you find out that he was not the athletic director. What he was was supervisor of athletics. And they changed the title when my father retired. So when McArthur came in.... Well, the next guy came in, and they changed the title to director at that time.

DONIN: Oh, he was the last one that was called supervisor?

HENEAGE: He was the only one that was called supervisor because there was nobody in charge of athletics that wasn't just a coach or something, at that time.

DONIN: So he was the first person hired to do—to be the....

HENEAGE: He was the first person hired in to sort of organize the athletics of Dartmouth.

DONIN: Oh, interesting. And how long did he work at that job?

HENEAGE: It was either eight or nine years.

DONIN: Uh-huh. And what was his background to take that kind of job?

HENEAGE: He had no background to take that kind of job.

DONIN: Was he an athlete himself?

HENEAGE: Yes. He had been a college football player.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

HENEAGE: And he'd made...He had remained active in college—in football officiating. So that he spent a lot of time on Saturdays in white pants and a checkered shirt or whatever they wore in those days.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

HENEAGE: So.... And then—and he maintained his college connections. And he was... Well, he was an executive in a steel plant. I think the plant was in New Jersey, and his offices were in New York.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

HENEAGE: But that's what he was doing before he came up.

DONIN: And they enticed him to come back.

HENEAGE: Yes, they enticed him to come back. He must have taken a pretty good salary hit.

DONIN: I bet. [Laughter] I bet. It's not surprising, though, that they chose somebody who was a football player here since Dartmouth seems to have....

HENEAGE: Yes, football was the main thing he worried about.

DONIN: Right, right.

HENEAGE: He went through about three sets of coaches, I think it was.

DONIN: Gee, history seems to repeat itself, doesn't it?

HENEAGE: Well, my father took a terrible beating for football players.

DONIN: Oh, dear.

HENEAGE: He never beat Yale. First guy to beat Yale was Blaik.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

HENEAGE: And he was hired.... I'm not sure whether my father hired—my father might have hired Blaik. I don't remember that.

DONIN: Uh-huh. So it's fair to say then you grew up—most of your childhood was here in Hanover.

HENEAGE: Oh, yes, yes. I don't remember anything of New Jersey except one train set.

DONIN: Except what?

HENEAGE: A train set.

DONIN: Oh, yes. Right.

HENEAGE: I didn't remember that until I went back at 19 and went in this attic of a friend of the family's. They opened the door, and there was this train set that I'd been asking about all my life.

DONIN: Oh, wonderful.

HENEAGE: Because it was an early memory.

DONIN: Yes. So you just mentioned before we turned the tape on that you started out your life here in Hanover living at the Inn.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: Where did your family move to when they—

HENEAGE: We moved to the house, the stone house on East Wheelock, on Balch Hill.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

HENEAGE: And we were there for, oh, I don't know, about 30 years, I guess.

DONIN: Wow. And is it correct, the folklore I heard, that Rip Road was named after your father?

HENEAGE: Rip Road... The naming of Rip Road goes to President Dickey. My father went to see President Dickey and said he wanted to name the road Dickey Drive. And Dickey said to my father, "No Rip, I don't

think we should do that. Why don't we name it Rip Road?" And that was it.

DONIN: How did he get the name Rip?

HENEAGE: Family lore has it that my father was named Rip because he slept a lot. And it was Rip Van Winkle, was the full name. But my mother always said because it was a ripper. But that's the way he got it.

DONIN: So it stuck.

HENEAGE: Yes. Oh, it stuck. And it was Rip forever.

DONIN: Amazing. So this was Dickey—So this was after your father had retired?

HENEAGE: Oh, yes, yes.

DONIN: Uh-huh. And while Dickey was president.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: I see.

HENEAGE: Yes, yes.

DONIN: So that road was created later than I thought. So that road didn't exist when you were living in the stone house.

HENEAGE: Oh, yes. Well, what existed on the stone house was... That was part of the driveway to our house.

DONIN: Oh.

HENEAGE: And it just rode up and started and just rode down the street sort of. We owned to the Garipay land. So the road—Garipay owned the part that joined up with Reservoir Road. But we owned the part that went to our house.

DONIN: I see.

HENEAGE: But it was just a farmer's road, you know.

DONIN: Yes.

HENEAGE: Wagons and things like that.

DONIN: Yes. Interesting.

HENEAGE: Okay.

DONIN: Okay. So that's your dad, so back to the genealogy. So there was a Thomas, class of 1910?

HENEAGE: That's my father's brother, Tom Heneage.

DONIN: Right. And he did not graduate from Dartmouth.

HENEAGE: No.

DONIN: Okay.

HENEAGE: No. And nobody in his family graduated from Dartmouth.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

HENEAGE: But two other sons started.

DONIN: So we have two other Heneages in the class of 1937, William C. and Harry R., Jr.

HENEAGE: Yes. William C. is the son of Thomas, and Harry R. Jr., obviously, is the son of my father.

DONIN: I see. And then of course there's you.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: So there are five Heneages. Okay.

HENEAGE: What?

DONIN: What's that?

HENEAGE: What's wrong?

JACKIE: Well, your brothers are all missing.

HENEAGE: Yes. But she hasn't gotten to that.

JACKIE: Alright.

HENEAGE: Because this is the class of '40.

DONIN: Through '40. So....

HENEAGE: See, I had two other brothers who went to Dartmouth.

DONIN: Right. We'll get to those.

HENEAGE: Okay.

DONIN: But let me ask you one other thing genealogy-wise. And I'm embarrassed as a librarian to admit that I've been doing this on Google, but that's what I've been doing. Up keeps popping the name the sixth earl of Dartmouth, William Heneage Legge, 1854 to 1936.

HENEAGE: Okay.

DONIN: Is there a connection there?

HENEAGE: Not that I know of.

DONIN: Uh-huh. I mean that would be an amazing connection, given Dartmouth and the Earl of Dartmouth and all of that. But okay. I just had to ask.

HENEAGE: Well, I don't know that.

DONIN: Right. That would require some serious genealogical research I think.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: Okay. Alright, so now let's get to your generation. You are class of 1945. And you have two brothers?

HENEAGE: I had three brothers.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

HENEAGE: 'Thirty-seven, '38, and '40.

DONIN: Okay. So Harry Junior was '37.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

HENEAGE: And Richard H. was in '38. And John Howard was in '40. You know I don't remember. It's either '41 or '40. I forget.

DONIN: Well, we can look that up actually when we get to Webster Hall. So you were the baby of the family.

HENEAGE: I'm the baby. I was the baby of the family. And now I'm the last surviving. Everyone else is gone.

DONIN: Right. And growing up, was it just assumed that all these sons were going to go to Dartmouth?

HENEAGE: I guess so, yes. Yes.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. Did you ever think about going anywhere else?

HENEAGE: No. [Laughs] I didn't have very good grades, and I knew I wouldn't get in anywhere else.

DONIN: [Laughs] And you went to school here in the Hanover schools?

HENEAGE: I went to school in the Hanover schools 'til eighth grade. And then after that I went to a small prep school which was run in Hanover called Clark School.

DONIN: Oh, sure.

HENEAGE: The place was run by an ex-Dartmouth professor—or assistant professor, whatever. Because, what happened was my parents always went away every winter, and that took care of me for the winter.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

HENEAGE: And it just made it easier for them, I think. Didn't make it any easier for me. But it made it easier for them.

- DONIN: So it was a boarding school then.
- HENEAGE: Yes. It was a regular school.
- DONIN: The Clark School building is still right there on....
- HENEAGE: The Clark School building—some of the Clark School buildings—are still there.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- HENEAGE: Clark School... I think they built two buildings from scratch. But the rest of the buildings were just whatever was there.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. And that took you through to the end of high school then.
- HENEAGE: Yes.
- DONIN: Oh, good. Okay. And was it sort of assumed that anybody who went to Clark School was going to go to Dartmouth?
- HENEAGE: No, no. The students of Clark School went everywhere. And it was through the genius of the leader Frank Morgan that he managed to get most of us in college.
- DONIN: Into college, right. Great. So for you, there was no sort of mystery about Dartmouth because obviously you'd grown up in Hanover, and you had siblings who had gone before you.
- HENEAGE: Yes, yes.
- DONIN: And you must have been sort of just part of the Dartmouth scene your entire life.
- HENEAGE: Sort of. But before I was in college of course, I just was—I never got into the college swing of things. I poked around the downtown.
[Laughs]
- DONIN: And did you go to all the, obviously, athletic events because your dad was—

HENEAGE: I used to go to athletic events. And my father took a parochial view of things, and he gave us all passes so I could go to any. But I never was really interested in athletics.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

HENEAGE: Everybody noticed that, if there was a chance... If I was watching a champion basketball game, for instance, I left and didn't bother to see who won. I'd walk home. [Laughter] So, I've been a non-athlete all my life.

DONIN: How about your siblings?

HENEAGE: Oh, older brothers all played golf. Butch tried at hockey. They didn't do winter sports very well. They never really started in skiing, which they should have. I guess Harold Hilman did. Anyway.... We didn't— My father didn't push us very hard to be in athletics or anything.

DONIN: Well, that's probably lucky. One would assume since he was the director, he would have pushed you.

HENEAGE: Yes, but he didn't.

DONIN: And you didn't grow up to embrace the outdoors, as they all say around here.

HENEAGE: My father tried. But he wasn't really a full-bore outdoor man.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. How interesting.

HENEAGE: He loved to fish. His idea of fishing was getting in a boat with a friend and a case of beer and going out and sitting in the middle of the lake. [Laughter] Or river, as the case may be.

DONIN: Right.

HENEAGE: But we did not have a true outdoor nature ethic in the family.

DONIN: Right. Now when you were, say, at the Clark School, did you have other Hanover friends that were coming to Dartmouth when you came? I mean, your pals from high school or whatever.

- HENEAGE: No, no. But we had the largest contingent of freshmen at Dartmouth, I think, from the Hanover region.
- DONIN: Really!
- HENEAGE: When we went in. You saw that letter, the thing in the.... And there was a mob of us that went in in the class of '45. It had something like...I don't know, nine or 11 kids from—from Hanover kids.
- DONIN: And it's safe to assume they were probably all children of faculty?
- HENEAGE: Most of them were.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. Did you find that your sort of group of friends were all Dartmouth-related people when you were growing up?
- HENEAGE: No, I never—I'm a loner.
- DONIN: So you didn't pal around with a group of faculty kids.
- HENEAGE: No.
- DONIN: Uh-huh.
- HENEAGE: No. Not really.
- DONIN: Did you sense any sort of distinction made by people about whether you—if you were a townie versus not a townie? Was there any—
- HENEAGE: Well, I was an in-between. I was neither a townie nor I was faculty. And I relished that. That was a good position.
- DONIN: Oh, really!
- HENEAGE: Yes.
- DONIN: Because it allowed you to be part of both?
- HENEAGE: Yes, I was halfway in the middle. Yes.
- DONIN: Yes.

HENEAGE: I remember my class got together and told me I should talk to this boy who was in my class. They thought he wasn't behaving the way he should be. And I was supposed to talk to him.

DONIN: Oh, this was when you were in high school?

HENEAGE: No, this was in grade school.

DONIN: [Laughs] Oh.

HENEAGE: So....

DONIN: I see.

HENEAGE: I don't think I've ever told her that. So that's part of the cross I bore.
[Laughter]

DONIN: Yes. So before you entered Dartmouth, were you familiar with people—I mean did you ever cross paths with President Hopkins, for instance? Did you ever meet him or—

HENEAGE: Oh, yes, yes. I was familiar with all those people. I mean, there was a social group that all the.... The professors had their group of friends, and the townies had their group of friends, and then there's a bunch of intermediates like the administrators were sort of not really that friendly with the professors. And likewise, the administrators were not really that friendly with the people on the street. Yet we belonged to a place called the Faculty Farm that had everybody in it.

DONIN: Oh, where was the Faculty Farm?

HENEAGE: The Faculty Farm was on Reservoir Road in Lyme.

DONIN: Oh!

HENEAGE: And that group was just what I'm talking about. You had a group of people that just got together. They wanted a sort of a meeting place and hold picnics and things like that. And that's what they did.

DONIN: Was the farm owned by the college?

HENEAGE: No, the farm was owned by this group.

DONIN: Oh, really!

HENEAGE: Or maybe they rented it.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

HENEAGE: I don't remember that.

DONIN: Was it a real farm?

HENEAGE: It had been before they rented it.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. So there weren't animals living there and crops and all that.

HENEAGE: I think the buildings were there, but the animals weren't.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

HENEAGE: We had animals at home, of course. I had animals at home.

DONIN: Up on East Wheelock?

HENEAGE: Oh, yes. Yes.

DONIN: Oh.

HENEAGE: We had places for cows. We had places for two horses, but we never had two horses. We only had one.

DONIN: Oh.

HENEAGE: I was brought up on a one-horse farm.

DONIN: Oh, how interesting. Uh-huh. Well, apparently President Hopkins was quite a horseman in his day.

HENEAGE: I don't know that much about President Hopkins.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

HENEAGE: I was too young.

DONIN: Yes, you were too young. Right. He was a horseman I think in his youth when he was courting his wife.

HENEAGE: Oh!

DONIN: I think that was abandoned later on when he was president, so....

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: You probably never saw him on horseback.

HENEAGE: I never saw him on a horse.

DONIN: [Laughs] Right. Okay. So let's... Oh, wait, I have to ask—that brings to mind.... I interviewed Barbara Dent Hinman.

HENEAGE: Okay.

DONIN: Or maybe I should talk to Mrs. Heneage about that.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: Okay.

HENEAGE: She would know all about Barbara, much more than I.

DONIN: Okay.

HENEAGE: You see Hanover's a small town, about 2500 when we were growing up.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

HENEAGE: And two years is a generation in a small town, among kids.

DONIN: Oh, I see. Right.

HENEAGE: You don't cross... One year you might get a little interchange between them. But two years? Ah, they're kids or they're grownups. You see. So that was the way it went. My wife's sister was two years older than me.

DONIN: Right.

HENEAGE: And that was a bunch of girls we used to watch run around, you know, as boys. We could watch, but we couldn't touch, you know.

DONIN: Right.

HENEAGE: They were just outside of the...

DONIN: Now it must have included Mary Mecklin Jennings.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: Okay. I get the picture. So let's jump now to matriculation and the beginning of your college life.

HENEAGE: Okay.

DONIN: You didn't really arrive on campus because you were already on campus. It probably was anticlimactic for you compared to all the other freshman, your class of whatever it was—725.

HENEAGE: Something like that.

DONIN: Something like that.

HENEAGE: It's over 700.

DONIN: Yes, it was. Do you have memories of matriculation and shaking hands with President Hopkins and all that?

HENEAGE: No.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

HENEAGE: I don't remember shaking.... Let's see. I don't remember shaking—I might have shaken hands. At that time we were shaking hands with the dean. And that would have been—

DONIN: Neidlinger?

HENEAGE: No, no. Neidlinger was the dean of men. You had a dean of freshmen then, too.

DONIN: Was that Mr. Strong?

HENEAGE: Yes, it was Bob Strong. Yes.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

HENEAGE: So I probably shook hands with him. But I don't remember.

DONIN: And did you go on the DOC?

HENEAGE: No, no.

DONIN: Oh, too athletic.

HENEAGE: Too woodsy, outdoorsy.

DONIN: Okay. Great. I find this refreshing because you're not really a green blood like so many of these other guys.

HENEAGE: No, no. I'm not.

DONIN: It is refreshing, I have to say.

HENEAGE: But you see, I grew up here.

DONIN: Right. That's the real irony of it, though.

HENEAGE: And for being outdoors, I farmed; I was a farmhand for three years, and then I quit. I quit at 16.

DONIN: Uh-huh. [Laughs] So you started off as a freshman wearing a beanie, right?

HENEAGE: Oh, yes.

DONIN: Did all that stuff.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: And of course the reality of what was going on in the world was knocking on your door at that point.

HENEAGE: Sort of, but....

DONIN: You at least had that first semester that was normal, so to speak.

- HENEAGE: Yes, it was. The first semester was normal, and the second semester was normal. And then summer school was brand new.
- DONIN: Yes. First thing.
- HENEAGE: And then the fall came along, and I was stopped walking down the street one day by the head of the board of—draft board.
- DONIN: Oh, yes.
- HENEAGE: And asked how were my grades.
- DONIN: I said they weren't very good.
- HENEAGE: And he said, "Well, we'll be calling you up in February."
- DONIN: Because your grades weren't good?
- HENEAGE: Because my grades weren't good and let's see. I had—one brother was in, the oldest brother. The Heneage boys are known as a group, and they couldn't show any partiality or anything. Of course they lost my middle brother's records. So [laughs] that was a claim for Bob. I had three— Two brothers were in the service along with me. And so there were three brothers in the service. And one was in and out and the other one stayed in. I stayed in. My other brother, they lost his records.
- DONIN: So he got off the hook.
- HENEAGE: He got off the hook.
- DONIN: Unbelievable!
- HENEAGE: But it didn't do any good because, you know, he's off the hook, he's the wrong age, and he couldn't get a— He got a nice job, but it wasn't firm. The guy came back, whose job it was, came back from the war, and he was looking for a job.
- DONIN: Oh, I see. Yes.
- HENEAGE: So....
- DONIN: So do you remember Pearl Harbor Day?

HENEAGE: Oh, sure.

DONIN: Were you on campus?

HENEAGE: No, I was up the hill.

DONIN: Uh-huh. Because it was a Sunday.

HENEAGE: Yes. And I was listening to my radio.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

HENEAGE: And I had to run downstairs and tell my parents that they'd bombed Pearl Harbor.

DONIN: Now, you weren't living at home, were you?

HENEAGE: Oh, yes.

DONIN: Oh, you didn't live in a dormitory?

HENEAGE: That was December.

DONIN: Seventh.

HENEAGE: It's '41?

DONIN: Yes.

HENEAGE: I don't know why I was home, but I was home.

DONIN: So you were living in a dormitory.

HENEAGE: I lived in a dormitory, yes.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

HENEAGE: I don't understand that.

DONIN: Right.

HENEAGE: I don't know the....

DONIN: Right. But you were home anyway.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: Uh-huh. So was there a big move by lots of your classmates to go off and sign up right away?

HENEAGE: Not particularly. I mean, it was goings-on, it was different, things like that.

DONIN: Yes, yes. And then they announced that they were going to do the summer session, right? So you went through the summer.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: So how many semesters did you do before you enlisted—or before you...

HENEAGE: I guess that would be two and a half. I don't know how they graded that summer.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

HENEAGE: But it was two semesters then. I went off in February of—

DONIN: 'Forty-two?

HENEAGE: 'Forty-three.

DONIN: Oh, '43, right. Yes. And then when did you come back?

HENEAGE: February of '46.

DONIN: Wow, you were gone three years.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: What was the agreement with Dartmouth when you left?

HENEAGE: No agreement.

DONIN: Just I mean everybody....

HENEAGE: Well, I had flunked out.

DONIN: Oh, you had flunked out!

HENEAGE: Oh, yes.

DONIN: Oh, I missed that piece. Okay.

HENEAGE: Well, that comes later.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: So tell us about that.

HENEAGE: How long a story do you want? [Laughter] I'll tell you about my leaving Dartmouth in '46. I was having an exit interview with Pudge Neidlinger. And I called him "Pudge," and he called me "Peter." We'd known each other for... I don't remember not knowing him because he was part of this group of my parents' friends. And Pudge is carrying—I don't know what the piece of paper is, but there is... And in those times, your college record was on a hard piece of manila paper.

DONIN: Card, right.

HENEAGE: Card.

DONIN: Yes.

HENEAGE: And he was walking around and talking to me. During the conversation, he looked at it, and he said, "My God!" he said, "Peter, you've been going to Dartmouth long enough to graduate."

DONIN: Oh.

HENEAGE: I'd put in eight semesters, but I had never become a sophomore.

DONIN: And that's because you got credit for your....

HENEAGE: I got credit for things, but I never got any good grades.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

HENEAGE: But I test marvelously.

DONIN: Oh.

HENEAGE: I'm one of those people.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. So you got a Dartmouth degree?

HENEAGE: No.

DONIN: Or not?

HENEAGE: No, no, no, no. I flunked out three times.

DONIN: Amazing. [Laughter] Amazing.

HENEAGE: But I was in the 93rd percentile when they gave you a freshman quiz. I found that out.

DONIN: Wow.

HENEAGE: It took a while, but I found that out.

DONIN: We've probably got your cards still in the Archives.

HENEAGE: Oh, probably.

DONIN: Yes, we should pull it out.

HENEAGE: Don't bother to look it up. [Laughter]

DONIN: So during that conversation with Dean Neidlinger, it was agreed that you would not come back.

HENEAGE: Oh, he said this is it. And I agreed. No, there aren't many three-time flunkies.

DONIN: Right. That was a distinction.

HENEAGE: I'm along with Harold Hillman.

DONIN: Oh, is that right? Okay. [Laughter] So this was in '46?

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: That you decided to call it quits.

HENEAGE: Yes, yes.

DONIN: Right, right.

HENEAGE: So that's when my college career in Hanover ended.

DONIN: Came to an end. Right, right. So let's just back up a little bit.

HENEAGE: Sure.

DONIN: And see if we can mine some of your memories of your college career at Dartmouth.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: Did you for instance, did you try to sign up with a fraternity?

HENEAGE: I was a member of a fraternity.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. Which one?

HENEAGE: Deke—Delta Kappa Epsilon.

DONIN: So they were doing rushing even after the war was on.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

HENEAGE: Yes, yes, yes.

DONIN: And was that a good experience for you? Briefly as it was.

HENEAGE: It was a learning experience for me.

DONIN: In what sense?

HENEAGE: Well, again, I'm a non-athlete.

DONIN: Right.

HENEAGE: And I was there when all these guys were...they came in for— I don't remember what the—the football team all came up, and there were maybe four members of the football team that were Dekes.

DONIN: Wow.

HENEAGE: And all the rest were ADs, I guess.

DONIN: Yes.

HENEAGE: Some things haven't changed in a long time. And so I hung around that place for a long time. And just finding how these guys worked. And it was fun. I learned a lot about athletics—athletes.

DONIN: Did you learn a lot about social life, too? Or did you already have that?

HENEAGE: I already knew quite a bit about social life. I have big eyes.

DONIN: I see. Uh-huh.

HENEAGE: And big ears.

DONIN: And older brothers.

HENEAGE: And older brothers, yes. Older brothers are very helpful on that.

DONIN: Right. Was that your sort of core social group when you were on campus here, your brothers at Deke?

HENEAGE: No.

DONIN: Who was your core social group?

HENEAGE: I don't think I had a core social group.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

HENEAGE: I'd say that the accident of what fraternity—dorm—I was in was my core social life.

DONIN: Uh-huh. And what dorm was that?

HENEAGE: It was Topliff.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

HENEAGE: And I got to know quite a few guys from the Chicago area because they'd moved in from New Trier, which is—still is—a good high school, you know. They send a lot of guys to Dartmouth. And I met these guys and another guy I met. Let's see, did I meet him.... I met another guy, and I'm trying to remember when I met him. I think I met him—I just don't remember when I met him. But it was at that time. He was part of the Topliff group, and we got to be very good friends.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

HENEAGE: Because he was—his history was southern Vermont. And we just got along fine. He had a car on campus, which was unheard of.

DONIN: Right.

HENEAGE: But he had one.

DONIN: He must have had a lot of friends then, if he had a car.

HENEAGE: He had numerous—yes.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. And what did you do for social life with your pals? Did you— I mean did you do road trips down to the other girls' schools?

HENEAGE: Gasoline was a problem in those days.

DONIN: Oh, yes, rationing.

HENEAGE: We didn't do many road trips.

DONIN: They must have looked to you to find girls to date because you knew all the locals.

HENEAGE: Most of them, if they were interested in locals, they were too young for me to even know.

DONIN: Oh.

HENEAGE: [Laughs] I never worked on that sort of deal.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

HENEAGE: We just didn't do that. I just never did. I don't know.

DONIN: I mean didn't Dean Neidlinger have twin daughters about your age?

HENEAGE: Oh, they're younger than me.

DONIN: Oh.

HENEAGE: They're younger than you are, aren't they? Yes, they're about three or four years younger than I am.

DONIN: Oh, yes, off limits. Oh, yes, to be sure. Off limits.

HENEAGE: I mean this two-year barrier that exists.

DONIN: Two years is huge when you're a teenager. Huge.

HENEAGE: But you see the patterns are laid down before you're even a teenager.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

HENEAGE: So that's the way it goes.

DONIN: Right. So when you started out here, let's talk about academics a little bit. Did you have ideas about what you were going to major in?

HENEAGE: Oh, I started in what's called chem—it was premed.

DONIN: Uh-huh! Did you have favorite professors that you remember?

HENEAGE: I can remember Ballard was really a great guy.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

HENEAGE: And there was a guy by the name of Crow who was a geneticist. Let's see. Oh, and, well, chemistry professors. I knew the chemistry professors. Fletch Low and what's the next one I want? I remember the guy who taught physical chemistry, and I've forgotten his name. Well, anyway....

DONIN: And was there a professor who sort of, you would turn to as a mentor or an advisor?

HENEAGE: No.

DONIN: No.

HENEAGE: No.

DONIN: That wasn't done so much in those days, was it?

HENEAGE: I don't know.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

HENEAGE: Let's see. No, I don't think it was being done. But your fathers got grades for mentoring; but that's freshman English. You see that's different.

JACKIE: He wasn't a mentor.

HENEAGE: Huh?

JACKIE: He didn't mentor.

HENEAGE: No, they didn't mentor.

DONIN: Yes, I think that's something that has developed in years since then, I think, where the school is expected to provide some sort of support to the students in terms of advising them on what to do.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: I mean if anybody gave advice, I assume it was the deans, right? But you didn't want to have to go to see the deans. [Laughter]

HENEAGE: Nobody wanted to go see the dean. I did see him occasionally.

DONIN: Uh-huh. Because of your grades.

HENEAGE: Yes, yes. Of course.

DONIN: Now did you have—I know a lot of students back in those days were working part-time jobs.

HENEAGE: Oh, yes. Yes. The guys in my fraternity house, two of the guys in my fraternity house held down one job in a bakery in West Leb.

DONIN: Uh-huh!

HENEAGE: Each one would go in every other night, and they would go in and work.

DONIN: Yes.

HENEAGE: And the guys in the bakery really teased them and goaded them into saying, "Wow, you're doing half the work this guy did last night."

DONIN: Oh, that's funny.

HENEAGE: They just worked them hard.

DONIN: Yes.

HENEAGE: But they enjoyed it.

DONIN: And probably got some free food, too.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: Speaking of food, there was rationing at that point, or had it not started yet by the time you left?

HENEAGE: Oh, yes. It had started.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

HENEAGE: It had started.

DONIN: How was the food in the dining hall?

HENEAGE: I don't remember.

DONIN: You don't remember.

HENEAGE: Food is not one of my big interests.

- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- HENEAGE: Unfortunately. Or maybe, fortunately.
- DONIN: Yes, yes. You didn't notice.
- HENEAGE: I didn't notice.
- DONIN: Or care.
- HENEAGE: Or care.
- DONIN: Right. Seems like a lot of the students worked jobs that allowed—that provided food for them in the dining halls and in the local restaurants. You know, there was a place called Mac's, I gather.
- HENEAGE: Yes.
- DONIN: Mac's that used to be.... Did that used to be Lou's, what Lou's is now?
- HENEAGE: I don't know. Let's see. See, the one I know was the Wigwam, and it doesn't exist anymore.
- DONIN: Right. There was another one called the Indian Bowl? Is that right?
- HENEAGE: That was what the Wigwam—Did the Wigwam turn into the Indian Bowl? I don't know. I don't know the— See, we moved out of town. So we don't have really a serial way. We'd just come back up off and on.
- DONIN: Right. So let's see here. You dropped out in '46.
- HENEAGE: Yes.
- DONIN: So how is it that you're still a loyal son of Dartmouth? How does that happen?
- HENEAGE: I don't see how it cannot happen. I mean we were here for—I left town maybe at 19. But that puts 17 years of being here. Okay. So that gets me a certain... That's a bloodline. You can't get away from it.
- DONIN: But was your loyalty to the college or was it to your class?

- HENEAGE: Oh, my loyalty is to the college, it's not to the class.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- HENEAGE: I'm not a loyal member of the class really.
- DONIN: Because a lot has been written about how, you know, sort of dispersed the class of '45 was, simply by history, not by choice.
- HENEAGE: Yes, it is. It is dispersed. And they don't.... If you look at, as I do, you sort of look at the amount the '44s give and the amount the '45s give, the amount the '46s gives, the '45s are pretty low on the list. That's the list to go.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- HENEAGE: But I think we took a hit.
- DONIN: Right. Because of the way everybody went off to war.
- HENEAGE: Yes.
- DONIN: And you had no graduation really. I mean....
- HENEAGE: No, no.
- DONIN: But they've managed to sort of maintain their sense of unity since then.
- HENEAGE: Yes. Sort of.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. But your sense.... I mean your allegiance really isn't to the class. It's really to the college itself.
- HENEAGE: Yes.
- DONIN: Did you have children who attended here?
- HENEAGE: No.
- DONIN: Is there anybody in this generation—The generations following you, have there been Heneages that have attended Dartmouth?

HENEAGE: Who? Two?

DONIN: Katherine's two daughters came here.

HENEAGE: Oh. Kathy?

DONIN: Kathy Heneage's two daughters.

HENEAGE: Oh, okay.

JACKIE: Graduated.

HENEAGE: I didn't know both of them had.

JACKIE: Oh, you might be right. Maybe one went to Stanford now that I think about it. One for sure.

HENEAGE: Okay.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

HENEAGE: And that's my brother Bob. He's the '37.

DONIN: Right. So the legacy thing wasn't pushed in your family, it sounds like.

HENEAGE: No, no.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

JACKIE: We had daughters, and the college was not accepting—

HENEAGE: Oh, yes, yes.

JACKIE: —daughters until....

HENEAGE: I had three daughters.

DONIN: I see, right. That could do it.

HENEAGE: That took care of my family's.

JACKIE: Two of them, they had gone coed. One wouldn't go because it was the first year of coed, and she knew what she would go through, and she didn't want to do it.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

JACKIE: The other one never wanted to, probably didn't get the marks. I'm not sure.

HENEAGE: Cynthia?

JACKIE: Cynthia.

HENEAGE: No. They probably didn't have a gymnastics team either.

JACKIE: Yes, that's right. [Laughter]

DONIN: So you stayed in touch with some classmates, though, obviously.

HENEAGE: Yes, yes, a little bit.

DONIN: Not just classmates, but the Jennings are obviously not in the same class with you.

HENEAGE: No, no, they're just local. Mary [Jennings] was best friend of Jackie's sister. So they've just known each other forever.

DONIN: Right, right. But are you friends with any '45s? Do you stay in touch with '45s?

HENEAGE: I've only stayed in touch with one of them, and I haven't seen him in years, something like eight years.

DONIN: So is this unusual that you're coming back to this reunion?

HENEAGE: Yes. We've only really been back to one reunion.

DONIN: Oh, really!

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: Oh, this is a big deal.

HENEAGE: Fifty.

DONIN: Oh, yes. Oh.

HENEAGE: I think we stopped by for the 20th.

DONIN: So was your 50th reunion that very moving event where you were all given diplomas by President Freedman?

HENEAGE: No.

DONIN: That was a different class. Uh-huh.

HENEAGE: If I'd known that, I would have shown up. [Laughter]

JACKIE: Bill Clinton was the speaker.

HENEAGE: Yes. Bill Clinton was the speaker.

DONIN: That's right. That was a different class that....

HENEAGE: And it was a horrible rainy day.

DONIN: And I understand they wouldn't allow umbrellas in the football arena because of security. So that they issued some kind of plastic—

JACKIE: Blue.

DONIN: —poncho or something.

HENEAGE: Ponchos, yes.

DONIN: Right. Yes, that must have been torture, torture. Okay. Let's see here. What have I not remembered to ask you? Hmm. I guess that's it. We talked about the rationing, where you were on Pearl Harbor [Day]..

HENEAGE: Yes, I only have one rationing story.

DONIN: Oh, let's hear it.

HENEAGE: Well, let's see.

DONIN: Is this food rationing or gas rationing?

HENEAGE: This is food rationing.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

HENEAGE: Gas rationing, my short story on that is my friend Ed was up at my house after I had gone away. And he said to my father, he said, "I don't think I've got enough gas to get back to Rutland." Or to get back to southern Vermont. My father said, "Don't worry about that. Bring your car around." [Laughs] He had an extra five gallons tucked away.

DONIN: Oh, that's very generous.

HENEAGE: Well, Dad was generous.

DONIN: Yes. Now how long did your parents stay in Hanover? How long did they continue to live here?

HENEAGE: Forever.

DONIN: Oh, did they?

HENEAGE: My father died on the hill; my mother died in Hitchcock.

DONIN: Oh, so this was— So you continued to come back to Hanover obviously after....

HENEAGE: Oh, yes, yes. We spent a long time going back and forth to Hanover.

DONIN: Did you go on to graduate from college?

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: Where did you go?

HENEAGE: I went to the University of New Hampshire.

DONIN: Oh, yes. Great. How long did that take?

HENEAGE: Well, a couple of years.

DONIN: You must have gotten a lot of credits from Dartmouth.

HENEAGE: I got some, yes.

DONIN: Uh-huh. So you would continue to come back here obviously for many, many years.

HENEAGE: Oh, yes. Yes. We've been coming back as long as I can remember. Forever?

JACKIE: After all, my family was....

HENEAGE: Her family was here.

DONIN: Yes. So this was a real magnet for both of you.

HENEAGE: Yes. See, I don't remember when Dad died, but....

JACKIE: It was '50.

HENEAGE: 'Fifty? My father died at 50, Mother died five....

JACKIE: Not at 50, 1950.

HENEAGE: Nineteen fifty. And Mother died maybe five years later—five years later?

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

JACKIE: Ten at least.

HENEAGE: Ten? Okay.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

HENEAGE: Then her parents lived into their eighties. So we were coming here for a long time.

DONIN: So Dartmouth really is in your blood even though you don't feel—right, you don't feel attached to the class. You feel attached to the college. It's easy to understand why.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: Yes. As both the child of an employee and a student here.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: On both sides. You and your spouse.

HENEAGE: Well, the spouse had sort of closer ties to the college.

DONIN: Right. Well, we're going to explore that right now.

HENEAGE: Okay.

DONIN: Any closing thoughts?

HENEAGE: No, not really.

DONIN: Okay.

HENEAGE: I hadn't prepared for this.

DONIN: No, nor had I.

HENEAGE: And I don't do well, even with preparing.

DONIN: Well, I think we did pretty well since we both were unprepared and flying by the seat of our pants. [Laughter] And if you think of anything while we're talking with Jacqueline, you can chime in.

HENEAGE: Okay.

DONIN: Okay. Thank you. Now, I'm just going to turn this off so we have two separate digital bodies here.

[Pause]

DONIN: Okay. We've got a P.S. here.

HENEAGE: An addendum?

DONIN: Yes, an addendum. Let's just make sure we've got the documentation. Peter Heneage. This is an addendum.

HENEAGE: HEN-EDGE.

DONIN: Sorry, Heneage. All right. We seem to have forgotten one aspect of Peter's social life that we need to document here. Now one thing

you learned that you forgot to talk about, as part of your social life, was the consumption of alcohol.

HENEAGE: Well, most of the consumption of alcohol on Dartmouth was done with beer. I wasn't—I didn't drink a lot of hard liquor. I did drink quite a bit of beer. And one of the problems I had with drinking beer was, I can drink one of those small glasses of beer in two swallows. And my fraternity brothers, they thought this was really great. And I got stuck as an anchorman as the last guy on the row of glasses because I was good for a five-second spot there. Pick up the glass and put it down, and that's it.

DONIN: Amazing. Now this was all—of course in those days that was legal because the drinking age was 18, right? Or you don't remember.

HENEAGE: I don't think so. I don't think it was 18. That was passed during the war I guess.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

HENEAGE: Eighteen was passed during the war? I don't know. I don't remember.

DONIN: Well, had you been drinking when you were at Clark School?

HENEAGE: No.

DONIN: Had you been sneaking beer?

HENEAGE: No, never.

DONIN: In high school?

HENEAGE: No.

DONIN: Oh, so you really did learn this at Dartmouth.

HENEAGE: Oh, yes.

DONIN: Once you became a fraternity brother?

HENEAGE: Started even before.

DONIN: When you were a freshman.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: Where did you get the beer?

HENEAGE: Most of that came from Tanzi's.

DONIN: Oh, yes, Tanzi's.

HENEAGE: Tanzi had a lot—filled a lot of kegs of beer. Now I can remember one day Jack—now what's his last name? The son of the famous author. Hemingway. Jack Hemingway was a fellow Deke.

DONIN: Was he!

HENEAGE: Yes. And he came in, and he was a strapping, handsome young man.

DONIN: Like his father was.

HENEAGE: Yes, I guess. Anyway, he came in with a case of beer—I mean a keg of beer—on his shoulder he'd carried from Tanzi's. And he said that he wasn't going to do that again. [Laughs]

DONIN: Too heavy.

HENEAGE: Too heavy. Too much work.

DONIN: Tanzi's used to be right on that Main Street here, didn't it?

HENEAGE: Yes, it was on the bottom of.... Let's see. It was right opposite the bank building. There was the bank building, and then there was another building, and then there was Tanzi's. Or maybe there was a road in there; I forget.

JACKIE: Same side, Peter.

DONIN: Same side, same side of the street.

JACKIE: Not opposite.

HENEAGE: It was beside it, yes.

DONIN: Was it a greengrocer or a real market?

JACKIE: It was a real market.

HENEAGE: I think it was a real market.

JACKIE: Yes.

HENEAGE: They did everything. Because you could call them up, and then they delivered.

DONIN: Wow.

HENEAGE: Because I remember them delivering to my house. They didn't deliver much. But they would deliver.

DONIN: Those were the days. And of course they were making a ton of money with these beer kegs, right?

HENEAGE: Oh, God! I have no idea how many they did, but they claimed it was one of the biggest sources. They were the biggest beer people north of Boston. [Laughs]

DONIN: Right.

HENEAGE: Single beer people.

DONIN: Really. That's amazing. Yes.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: And that became the activity in the basement of Deke house, right?

HENEAGE: The basement of all fraternities.

DONIN: Yes.

HENEAGE: Not just the Deke house.

DONIN: Right.

HENEAGE: And any fraternity gets staggering, too.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. And what about when you'd have the—before they were eliminated because of the war—when you were having sort of your, the big weekend events....

HENEAGE: Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Party weekend or whatever they called it—house party weekend.

HENEAGE: House parties, yes. All house parties.

DONIN: Carnival, Green Key.

HENEAGE: Green Key.

DONIN: And you had dates on campus.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: Was there still a lot of drinking going on?

HENEAGE: Oh, yes, yes. It was....

DONIN: With the women.

HENEAGE: It was very wet, yes.

DONIN: Very wet. [Laughs]

HENEAGE: It was definitely wet.

DONIN: Uh-huh. And where did the women stay when they came?

HENEAGE: You know, I don't know. I know where one woman stayed once because she was in the room with me. But I was 16 at the time and—

DONIN: Oh, my!

HENEAGE: And not drinking or anything else.

DONIN: Right.

HENEAGE: And they thought I was asleep.

DONIN: I see.

HENEAGE: But I was wide awake and anxious to know if anything exciting was going to go on. And it never did.

DONIN: [Laughter] What a disappointment.

HENEAGE: It was terrible! [Laughter]

DONIN: But wasn't there sort of a proper ladies' guesthouse here run by Mrs. Somebody-or-other, somebody's wife?

HENEAGE: I don't know. I don't know about that.

DONIN: Oh.

HENEAGE: I don't know about that. Of course, one time when I was there, we had three girls in my house on the hill.

DONIN: Uh-huh! Oh, so professors put them up and staff people put them up.

HENEAGE: Yes, yes. I think that's....

DONIN: And didn't they sometimes clear out the fraternity houses and let them stay in there?

HENEAGE: I don't think that ever happened, but I don't remember, you know.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

HENEAGE: Some might have been hung over during the weekend and couldn't get out of the fraternity house. I don't know about that either.

DONIN: Right.

HENEAGE: So you know....

DONIN: Now there also has been mentioned the fact that you could go to towns other than Hanover and go see sort of peep shows, girlie shows, like in White River Junction or Lebanon?

HENEAGE: I don't remember anything. The only times... If you wanted a locals' peep shows, were involved in what were called carnivals, the

rotating carnivals that would go around. Now some of my very, very early sexual education was carried on in such places.

DONIN: And that didn't happen in Hanover.

HENEAGE: No, that never happened in Hanover.

DONIN: No.

HENEAGE: Hanover never had a carnival. You'd have to go all the way to Lebanon, Claremont or Rutland.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

HENEAGE: I mean this is a big trip.

DONIN: Yes. And this was a summer activity when these things came to town.

HENEAGE: Yes. Definitely summer activity. These guys were never around any other time.

DONIN: Right, right. Well, that's interesting. That's a whole other.... So no wonder you weren't getting good grades. You were too busy drinking, right?

HENEAGE: [Laughs] A little carryover there, probably.

DONIN: Yes, yes. Right.

HENEAGE: But basically I didn't get good grades because I just didn't care.

DONIN: Right.

HENEAGE: If I got good grades, it was in the course of I decided that maybe I should work on this for this. This is all right. I'll study this for a while. In some of those, I got passing grades. [Laughs]

DONIN: And were you a better student when you ended up at UNH?

HENEAGE: A little bit better, yes.

DONIN: Right.

HENEAGE: Yes, but not much. I'm still not a student.

DONIN: Not everybody is meant to be a scholar.

JACKIE: He got a master's.

HENEAGE: Yes, I have a master's degree in zoology.

DONIN: Oh, so....

HENEAGE: I didn't get my thesis published because my professor who was watching over it didn't understand it. So that was too bad.

DONIN: That is too bad.

HENEAGE: Yes.

DONIN: But you got the master's degree anyway.

HENEAGE: I got the master's degree anyway.

DONIN: Well done.

HENEAGE: I answered his question.

DONIN: Right, right. Good. All right, well, if any more of these little tidbits come to mind while I'm talking to Jacqueline—

JACKIE: Call me Jackie, please.

DONIN: Jackie—I'm sorry. Jackie.

HENEAGE: That's okay.

DONIN: All right. I'm going to turn this off.

HENEAGE: Off again.

DONIN: For the second time.

[End of Interview]