

Dartmouth College Oral History Project
The War Years at Dartmouth
Interview with Paul Woodberry '49
By Mary Stelle Donin
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DONIN: I know from looking at some of your profiles that you have lots of relatives who went to Dartmouth, but were there relatives ahead of you who went here, which was the reason you decided to come to Dartmouth?

WOODBERRY: Yes.

DONIN: And who were they?

WOODBERRY: Ronald Sturgis Woodberry.

DONIN: And he was...?

WOODBERRY: I guess he'd be a stepbrother.

DONIN: Was any other school in the running or Dartmouth was it?

WOODBERRY: I applied to Dartmouth and Holy Cross.

DONIN: And did you come visit Dartmouth before you decided to come?

WOODBERRY: Oh, yes, several times. Several times.

DONIN: What was it that attracted you about the school?

WOODBERRY: At my high school, a lot of the men were—wanted to apply to Harvard and MIT. Those were two of the most popular. And I thought it would be much more interesting to go to school out in the country, away from home.

DONIN: A change from suburban Boston.

WOODBERRY: That's right.

DONIN: Did you know anybody else from your high school who was coming here?

WOODBERRY: Oh, sure. Several.

DONIN: So, it wasn't like you were coming to some strange place and weren't going to know anybody.

WOODBERRY: No.

DONIN: So, when you arrived what dormitory were you in?

WOODBERRY: Butterfield.

DONIN: And did you know your roommates ahead of time?

WOODBERRY: No.

DONIN: Did that work out well?

WOODBERRY: It worked out fine. He was a nice guy, but he didn't come back, I think, after Christmas vacation for some reason. I don't remember why.

DONIN: So, you lost track of him.

WOODBERRY: Yeah.

DONIN: So, when you arrived, that was the fall of 1945?

WOODBERRY: I think it was in June.

DONIN: At that point the school was still running year-round, wasn't it?

WOODBERRY: Yes.

DONIN: They were doing back-to-back semesters in those days.

WOODBERRY: Right.

DONIN: And they had you start—so you basically graduated from high school and then started college with no summer break.

WOODBERRY: Well, that's true.

DONIN: Yes? And you had your traditional freshman orientation starting in the summer, then.

WOODBERRY: Right.

DONIN: I see there's a picture in the freshman book of a big picnic at Storrs Pond?

WOODBERRY: Yeah, I think the first—yeah, I think before the July weekend we had a class picnic or maybe for all the civilians; I don't remember. I think it was our class at Storrs Pond.

DONIN: And so at this point, the president of the college was still Ernest Martin Hopkins.

WOODBERRY: Yes.

DONIN: But he was on his way out, or on his way out to retirement.

WOODBERRY: I'm sure that he was still the president on VJ Day. As I remember, we went to his house VJ Day.

DONIN: Did you?

WOODBERRY: So, it would have been—yeah, well, I mean outside his house. Everybody was there, you know, celebrating. So, it was sometime after that that Dickey became president. I'm not sure just when.

DONIN: Yes, I think it was the fall. And VJ Day was August, I think, right?

WOODBERRY: VJ was August. Yes.

DONIN: Yes. There are some wonderful photographs in the Archives of the celebration that was going on at the college at that time. Dancing on the Green.

WOODBERRY: Oh yes. Sure. It was a big celebration.

DONIN: Big celebration. At that point of course, there were plenty of military people around in uniform.

WOODBERRY: The school was mostly military. Almost all military.

DONIN: Yes. How did it feel... Your class specifically, the class of '49, is often described as being this sort of big mishmash of both traditional civilian undergraduates such as yourself combined with

these mature veterans of military service who were all going to school together. So that there was this dual personality of your class because so many of them were already home from the war.

WOODBERRY: At what time are you referring to?

DONIN: When you got here in '45.

WOODBERRY: In June '45 I don't think there were any veterans here, of our class. There may have been one or two. But it was too soon. It seems to me we had about forty, forty-nine students in our group. That was about all we had, I think. Well, I was in Butterfield across the other side of Tuck Drive, where they had—what was it, Streeter and Lord—those dorms were all Navy, I think all Navy, and maybe Marines.

DONIN: Yeah, they were being described—I guess they were run as—you know, the dorms that were turned over to the Navy, I guess, were actually run like ships.

WOODBERRY: Yeah.

DONIN: Did you interact with the military guys mostly, or did you stay with your own group?

WOODBERRY: Well, not too much. I was very impressed by the Marines. The Marines had a smaller contingent, but they were very impressive guys. Very likeable. More easy to talk—the Navy guys—I think the Marines were all war veterans. I think that they had already seen service, and were recommended to become officers, so they were here training for that. The Navy, I think, a lot of the Navy guys had just gone in the service. Maybe. I don't know; that's my recollection. They were younger. Marines were older and the Navy was young. And we had a lot of fun talking to the Marine guys; we didn't talk that much to the Navy guys. No particular reason, it's just the ones we happened to meet. But, they, it seems to me were all mixed in classes. Maybe that's not true. I think that was true.

DONIN: No, that's right.

WOODBERRY: I think they were all mixed, but the Marines seemed to be more regular guys that we enjoyed talking—

MRS. WOODBERRY: More friendly.

WOODBERRY: Well, just regular— You know, probably more mature, too.

DONIN: And they were here from different schools. I mean, they weren't Dartmouth men, were they? They were from different colleges.

WOODBERRY: Who? The Navy or the Marines?

DONIN: The Marines.

WOODBERRY: Yeah, most of them hadn't been to college, I don't think. I don't think they had been to college.

DONIN: Yeah.

WOODBERRY: They enlisted in the Marines and I think that they had service somewhere in the Pacific and then they got recommended for officer training and came back here.

DONIN: And I think you were right that some of the classes were actually a mixture of civilians—

WOODBERRY: Yeah, I don't remember much, but I think that's probably true. See, we would have had some classes, like we had English 5, which was a required course. That would have just been our people, I think. I think it was just our people. And I don't remember a lot of classes where the—It may be because they were taking different courses.

DONIN: Well, they were taking some courses that were more oriented towards sort of geography, and things that would be useful to them as they were fulfilling their military duty.

WOODBERRY: Right. I think that they were on a different—they were taking different types of courses than we were, but I just don't remember.

DONIN: Yes. It didn't really impact your class experience that much.

WOODBERRY: I don't remember. But I remember English class and I remember economics class, Professor Bell. I remember that.

DONIN: So, you didn't do the three-two thing at Tuck?

WOODBERRY: I did.

DONIN: Oh, you did do the three-two thing.

WOODBERRY: Yeah.

DONIN: So you did three years as an undergrad and then went to Tuck.

WOODBERRY: Right, the Tuck School. Right.

DONIN: So you were here for five years.

WOODBERRY: Right.

DONIN: Did you know when you got here that you wanted to go to Tuck?

WOODBERRY: Yes.

DONIN: So you were focused right from the get-go.

WOODBERRY: Yes. A lot of the students were. A lot of the class was—they knew... That's why we took an economics course the first term, because we knew we wanted to focus on going to business school.

DONIN: Right. Now, of course when you got here, VE Day had already happened, so you already sort of knew that the end of the war was coming soon, hopefully.

WOODBERRY: Well, I don't know. People really didn't know that, because the Japanese were talking about defending Japan to the last—you know, it might have taken years to conquer Japan. We just didn't know. But we all expected that we would be drafted, like I said, when we hit eighteen or something like that.

DONIN: So, when you got here you were not eighteen yet.

WOODBERRY: No.

DONIN: Yeah. In those days, a lot of the—

WOODBERRY: Most of the students, I think, were motivated, or their parents motivated, by giving them some college education before they went in the service. And while we didn't have a summer break, most of us finished high school early. I know I—I don't know when I finished, but it might be March or April, because once you were

accepted—I remember at our high school, once you were accepted at some college—I think that's the way it worked— you got your high school degree, and there was a college that a lot of our guys in our school applied to, who accepted everybody: Northeastern. It seems to me we applied to Northeastern, we got accepted, we took our acceptance into school, and they gave us our high school degree. And they knew we were applying to other colleges, too, but once you were accepted at one college, they let you complete your year. And then, going to Dartmouth—one other reason I liked Dartmouth—we didn't have to take college boards at Dartmouth; the other schools you had to take college boards.

DONIN: Oh, that's right. In those days there weren't any sort of—

WOODBERRY: And so for Harvard—the Harvard guys from my high school class were on a different program, because they were cramming for the college board exam, and the MIT guys were even more intensively—so, with our math class, the MIT guys were over in a separate section; they were moving way ahead of us. So, I thought that was great that you didn't need that for Dartmouth.

DONIN: But it didn't affect the quality of the students here, do you think?

WOODBERRY: Oh, no. No, no, no.

DONIN: So, you said you remember your economics and your English 5 class.

WOODBERRY: Right.

DONIN: And any other classes that you remember?

WOODBERRY: I know I took Latin. I don't know whether I took it in Latin, or it was Latin-English, or Latin classics in English. I don't remember. I remember I took Professor—I think his name was Booth. Well, maybe that's not right. I remember the professor from that course. And then I took French, I believe. Then I may have taken—I don't remember what else I took. Maybe I took math and maybe I took history.

DONIN: What did you do for sort of extracurricular activities?

WOODBERRY: I didn't do anything.

- DONIN: Did you do sports? You worked?
- WOODBERRY: No, I didn't. Yeah, we had to work in the—to get a scholarship, we had to work in the dining hall; that's what I did. And that's what a lot of these guys did, did the same thing.
- DONIN: Sure. And you'd get free food, didn't you? Did you get fed?
- WOODBERRY: Well, yeah, you got a scholarship for working two hours a day—I think that's what it was—you got your three meals.
- DONIN: That's a good deal. And a large percentage of students in those days had jobs. A large percentage.
- WOODBERRY: Yes, I don't know what percentage, but maybe a third or half. I don't remember. But, a high percentage of the ones that come back to reunion went through that, working for the Dartmouth Dining Association—the D.D.A.
- DONIN: And I gather a number of your classmates said they worked at the hospital as well.
- WOODBERRY: Oh, I worked at the hospital also.
- DONIN: Oh, did you?
- WOODBERRY: But not that first term. Not that first year.
- DONIN: Yeah. So, I guess it was the hospital and the Dartmouth dining services that were probably the two biggest employers of students.
- WOODBERRY: Right. Yeah, those were the two—there were other jobs, but those were the two easiest to get because they both related to the feeding—well, you had to work for the—in order to get a scholarship or financial aid, you had to work in the D.D.A. I think I worked—I know I worked in my freshman year, maybe three terms. And I'm not sure after that.
- DONIN: So you went to school straight through, from June right through to the following June. A long stretch.
- WOODBERRY: Right. It wasn't a big deal. A lot of guys were doing the same thing. We were also—we thought we were going to be drafted because we were—a bunch of us were—we had to go into

Manchester for draft testing, for draft physicals. Maybe they took twenty of us or something like that. And then they did notify us when we were going to have to report, but then before that they terminated. So, we were all planning to go, and then in the third term—we had a June term, we had a—maybe it was a—I'm not sure. It was a November term... September, November, June, July, July, August. I think we had a November thing and I think we had a February term. You know, something like that—starting in those terms. And maybe the June term started in July, but, you know, it was the end of June or something like that. But, for the one that started in February or March, we all knew we were going to be drafted, so we didn't really expect to complete that year. So, we just were going to school.

DONIN: You were going as fast as you could before you were going to get drafted.

WOODBERRY: Right.

DONIN: Well, they sort of compressed the terms then didn't they?

WOODBERRY: I don't remember how they did it.

DONIN: So the Great Issues course: I can tell by that letter to the editor that you wrote with your buddies there that you were in it.

WOODBERRY: Well, we had to go to the course. These guys were all Tuck School. We were all Tuck School. And we had a much heavier schedule than the average student in our first year, because we took Great Issues in our first year at Tuck School, which was the year that we were already studying. And so everyone wasn't that enthusiastic about going to Monday evening Great Issues courses, but they were interesting. But I think—so, some people would skip the—because I don't think there was any grading in the Great Issues course. I think it was just attendance, and so some people, apparently, took the names of those who weren't paying attention. I think that we even had a—I might be wrong—I thought we even had a seat we were supposed to sit in, and if the seat was empty, they would spot that.

DONIN: Oh, wow.

WOODBERRY: But this sounds like somebody was falling asleep. I wouldn't be surprised because it was right after dinner. You know, you've been

working all day, dinner, the Great Issues course at seven o'clock or something. Yeah, some guys probably fell asleep... So, this was written by probably the first guy who signed it: Bollenbach. Well, actually, they did this alphabetically—no, they didn't alphabetically. So it must have been Bollenbach; it was just the kind of thing he would have done. I am going to send him this. [Laughter]

DONIN: But explain to me. Those are different graduation years after some of their names.

WOODBERRY: Well, they were different classes, you see. Like Baritz and Hunt—Richie Hunt: they started the same time I did, but fellows like Gerrish, Lezius, Menin, Taft: they were in the service—I think they were in the service before, so that's why they—because we started Tuck School in '48. We started September '48. The guys from the class of '47, they were in the service.

DONIN: Right, and they were coming back.

WOODBERRY: Yeah. And the guys in the class of '48—Dick Holloway—they may have gone through—they might have been in the service also. There were three of them. Or, they might have gone the four years at Dartmouth and then decided to go to Tuck School. That's where that—could have been that.

DONIN: Right. So, everybody, in order to graduate, did have to take that Great Issues course.

WOODBERRY: Yeah. It was a requirement of seniors, senior course.

DONIN: Yeah—1949 was your graduation if you weren't going to go to Tuck? So, you identified with that class.

WOODBERRY: Right. Forty-nine, yeah.

DONIN: Right. Now—

WOODBERRY: And we had two graduations: Dartmouth graduation in '49 and Tuck in '50.

DONIN: Right. There are members of these classes, though, that when they got their time at Dartmouth interrupted by their war service—so they'd come back and say they were class of—whatever—'47, but

they were still going to school with, say, members of the '49 classes—

WOODBERRY: I think the majority of them—I think they could make an option change, but I think the majority of them kept the class that they started with.

DONIN: So, the class you matriculate with, generally, is the one you stay with.

WOODBERRY: But they didn't all, because I remember one man who was the class of '48 said he had more friends in the class of '49 and he was in the service, so he changed to '49.

DONIN: There are a number of them.

WOODBERRY: Yeah.

DONIN: And I guess this became—

WOODBERRY: And we had some guys from '49. We had a guy who started with us—he was a good football player—he went in the service for a couple of years and he came back and he ended up being, like, a '52 or something.

DONIN: Amazing. So, it really—Did it have an impact on the sort of sense of class unity, this coming and going of people?

WOODBERRY: No, I don't think that for most people it made that much difference, because the average—most people stayed in the class that they started with. I had... One of my sons started in '88 but he took some extra language courses, he was an assistant teacher in Spanish and with those extra terms which was more than he needed to graduate, that meant he didn't graduate until '89. But I think he's still an '88.

DONIN: So back to this class unity thing, do you feel that people made distinctions between the people that were in the service and who weren't in the service? I mean, was there like a dichotomy between...

WOODBERRY: Well, first of all, we all ate together and they ate together—they ate separately—and there were separate dorms. I don't ever remember going into any of their dorms. I don't remember whether you were

allowed to; I don't remember ever going into the dorms. So, we really had a—and then, of course, we had different P.T. training courses—you know, physical training courses—and they had their own, and then they had lights out and stuff like that. Yeah, so really... We'd see them going across the campus and maybe in some classes they shared. I just don't remember that. But, I wouldn't be surprised if some had said that they had their own crowd, that they went to their own classes—the Navy and Marines had their own classes. I just don't remember. But, there wasn't a lot of mutual stuff going on until they closed up the V-12 unit and the Marines unit, and then a lot of the guys transferred—you know, became Dartmouth students.

DONIN: Yeah, a lot of them petitioned, I guess, to become traditional Dartmouth students.

WOODBERRY: Yeah. I don't know what percentage, but some did, yeah.

DONIN: But nobody keeps track of whether they were originally from Dartmouth or whether they transferred in afterwards.

WOODBERRY: Well, I think a lot of people know but that's not a big thing.

DONIN: It doesn't matter.

WOODBERRY: No. It doesn't matter at all.

DONIN: So, what was—I mean in the small amount of free time that you had, what did you do for social life? Did you join a fraternity, or...?

WOODBERRY: Yeah.

DONIN: You did?

WOODBERRY: Yeah.

DONIN: Which one did you join?

WOODBERRY: Gamma Delta Chi.

DONIN: And was that made up mostly of civilians like you?

WOODBERRY: We had quite a few Marines in our fraternity. By quite a few, I mean—I forget how many we had. Maybe we had, say, sixty members, but there were about, maybe, ten or fifteen Marines.

DONIN: Interesting. And these were guys that had done their service and then came back to Dartmouth.

WOODBERRY: No, no. They were—well, some had, but most of them were here in the Marine...

DONIN: Training.

WOODBERRY: Training, yeah. And then when they were released they transferred to Dartmouth and finished their Dartmouth education. And those were the—maybe ten or twelve; something like that. And then, of course, most of the other fraternity members were ex-service guys—came back, you know, whatever service they were in.

DONIN: And so what was the social life here like for you?

WOODBERRY: It was a lot of Saturday night parties, the usual stuff.

DONIN: And, of course, by then—when you first got here, they were just sort of getting the fraternities back up and running, weren't they?

WOODBERRY: Well, they didn't have them at first—they didn't start them until the spring of—

DONIN: Like, '46?

WOODBERRY: Forty-six, yeah. They had a rush in the spring of '46.

DONIN: And how about the other college traditions? You know, Dartmouth Night and—

WOODBERRY: I think we had Dartmouth Night. Yeah, we had that. I'm pretty sure we had that.

DONIN: And Winter Carnival.

WOODBERRY: Oh yeah, they had Winter Carnival.

DONIN: So, things sort of got going in the spring of—

WOODBERRY: Well, no, they were going—like, they had football house party weekend—whatever it was, in the fall.

DONIN: Homecoming, if they called it...

WOODBERRY: Yeah, Homecoming. They had that and then they had the Green Key weekend. I think the social activities were pretty good. There was very little drinking going on among our people. You know, a lot of us had never had a drink until we joined a fraternity.

DONIN: Is that right? Yeah. Well, you were young. You were only seventeen.

WOODBERRY: Seventeen or eighteen, yeah.

DONIN: But I bet those Marines taught you how to drink.

WOODBERRY: Oh, I'm sure they did, yeah.

DONIN: So you had an interesting mixture in your fraternity of young guys like yourself plus these Marines who were a little older.

WOODBERRY: Yeah, well we had sixty, we probably had twenty of ours and say, ten Marines and the other thirty were other guys who mostly had, mostly but not all, had been and were in the service and came back. I think that was true of a lot of the fraternities.

DONIN: That they were a mixture?

WOODBERRY: Oh yes.

DONIN: Yes. Some of those guys came back with wives, the military guys.

WOODBERRY: Oh, yeah. There were some wives, yeah. Some of the servicemen had wives.

DONIN: But I imagine they didn't join fraternities, the married guys.

WOODBERRY: No. Well, I think a lot of them had already been in a fraternity.

DONIN: Oh, I see. Yeah, so they were coming back.

WOODBERRY: Yeah.

DONIN: Could you bring a wife into a fraternity? Probably not.

WOODBERRY: For a party you could, yeah sure.

DONIN: Yeah, I guess you could for a party.

WOODBERRY: I don't know—yeah, you could bring—I don't remember seeing a lot of wives at fraternities. And they had off-campus housing a couple of places.

DONIN: They had Sachem and Wigwam.

WOODBERRY: Wigwam, yes.

DONIN: Even apparently North Fayerweather was retrofitted.

WOODBERRY: I don't remember that but it might have been.

DONIN: Yes, there were some pictures. They didn't really have ice boxes in the beginning and they had these funny little boxes that they put in their windows with ice in them until they got the ice boxes set up in there. But I guess most of them lived in Wigwam and Sachem Village.

WOODBERRY: And most of the married guys were, you know, pretty serious students. I mean, they really wanted—they had all kinds of expenses—children—all that stuff.

DONIN: They did. Children. So, I imagine there wasn't a lot of socializing between these married couples and you guys.

WOODBERRY: There was some, but not much because, you know, they weren't going to big parties or any of that stuff.

DONIN: No. I imagine they wanted to get—

WOODBERRY: I think the social stuff was much less then. There was no drinking in the fraternities that I can remember, except on Saturday night, or except if there was a big house party weekend, but they didn't have kegs during the week or anything like that. There was—study during the week and then they had Friday and Saturday night off and everybody would go around and drink beer. You know, there was free beer from one place to another place.

DONIN: Yep. And, of course, in those days the drinking age probably was eighteen; it wasn't twenty-one.

WOODBERRY: I don't think that—no, I think it was twenty-one. Oh, excuse me; it was eighteen when you could drink. Yeah, we were drinking legally.

DONIN: When you were eighteen?

WOODBERRY: Yeah.

DONIN: Yeah. Well, what about the sports teams? Were they back up and running when you got there?

WOODBERRY: Oh, yeah, right from the start, yeah.

DONIN: Yeah. And I gather some of those teams benefitted from these older veterans.

WOODBERRY: Well, the football team was mostly—well, we had some Navy guys, some Marines in that first year in '45, and then they had several guys back from the service.

DONIN: Yeah, who were a big help, I'm sure.

WOODBERRY: And then they had some of the freshmen, a couple of the freshmen would play.

DONIN: Now, I interviewed a classmate of yours who was a big football star named Ray Truncellito.

WOODBERRY: Yeah, Ray Truncellito. He was playing on the team as a freshman. He was only sixteen.

DONIN: Yeah, he was a kid, but a good football player, I guess.

WOODBERRY: Yeah, he was good. Yeah, Ray was good.

DONIN: Yep. So, the sports stuff was still going on.

WOODBERRY: Oh, yeah, and then basketball and hockey.

DONIN: Yep. Was that a big attraction as an activity to go watch the teams?

WOODBERRY: Well, every Saturday night during the winter, it seemed to me, right after we had dinner we all went to the basketball game, and then as soon as that was over we went next door to the hockey game.

DONIN: Oh, great.

WOODBERRY: You usually saw two games. Maybe you didn't see all of the second game or something like that, but I remember they had—they didn't have it like now where they have conflicts. When the football game would start, there wouldn't be any other—the soccer game had to get over before football started, and the cross country, too. So, there was cross country Saturday morning, soccer Saturday morning, and then football I think at noon or one o'clock or so. So that there was no conflict. So, everybody would—a few would go to the soccer game; everybody had to go to the football game.

DONIN: Sure. So, the stadium was filled in those days.

WOODBERRY: Well, I don't know if filled... I don't remember, but I remember it was much, much more than it is now. And then after the football game, it was time to have dinner, right? And after that, time to go to the basketball game. Oh, I guess those were different seasons. I guess the football season would be over, but not—maybe not, and then the hockey. So, we all had a good time.

DONIN: So do you have any memories of President Dickey? Did you ever actually interact with him yourself?

WOODBERRY: No, I don't remember it. I thought he was a good guy. I thought his idea on Great Issues was an excellent idea. He established that; he had that in his mind. Yes.

DONIN: From my understanding of the course, it was sort of a reflection of the experience that he'd had at the State Department, wanting to bring in statesmen and politicians and such. You had to read newspaper accounts of current events and write about them?

WOODBERRY: Yes, you were supposed to. But I don't really think you got graded on that course.

DONIN: I'll have to look that up and see if there were grades.

WOODBERRY: It seemed to me it was a requirement but not... It would be hard to grade someone... We had some distinguished speakers. I don't

remember, but it would be hard to remember who. So that's why the Tuck School people started skipping some of the... If they had an accounting exam...

DONIN: Yes.

WOODBERRY: I think they had designated seats so they knew whether you were there.

DONIN: They could tell right away. And President Dickey actually did some of the lecturing too, didn't he, in the beginning?

WOODBERRY: Oh, I'm sure he did.

DONIN: Yes.

WOODBERRY: I would say that President Hopkins was much more popular than—my impression with our class, because he was a much warmer and, you know, gracious and impressive. For us, a very impressive person.

DONIN: That's what people say, yeah.

WOODBERRY: And Dickey was much younger, but Hopkins had been here for twenty-five or thirty years—a long time. But, Dickey was a good guy, too. We made Dickey a member of our class.

DONIN: Oh, did you?

WOODBERRY: Yeah.

DONIN: Oh, that's nice. An honorary member.

WOODBERRY: Yeah.

DONIN: Well, and of course, President Hopkins is really credited with sort of coming up with this scheme to fill the college with these training programs in order to keep the doors open.

WOODBERRY: Oh for the service?

DONIN: Yeah.

WOODBERRY: Well, see, there was—I think the secretary of the Navy was a Dartmouth graduate. I think his name was Sullivan. I think he was a Dartmouth graduate. So, I think Dartmouth was one of the first schools to have—

DONIN: To start it and they had the largest in the country of the Naval training program, by far.

WOODBERRY: Did they? Well, that was the reason why.

DONIN: Isn't that interesting. Well, it was very successful. I mean, he kept these dorms heated and running.

WOODBERRY: Right. Oh, yeah. Of course, Dickey during the war, I mean Hopkins during the war was down in Washington.

DONIN: Yeah. He was an amazing guy. Very forward thinking in a lot of ways. So, let's see... Forty-nine. You guys actually got to have a real commencement ceremony, then.

WOODBERRY: Oh, yeah. Sure.

DONIN: Yeah. I guess they started those back up again in '46.

WOODBERRY: Oh, yeah. I was—I remember in '48, I was here then and I was working—I had a job working for the college in buildings and grounds or something. And so I always remember that graduation.

DONIN: Of '48? Yeah. I think they started them up again in '46, once the war was over.

WOODBERRY: Oh, yeah. Sure, why not?

DONIN: Exactly. Now, was Mrs. Woodberry on campus with you—

WOODBERRY: No.

DONIN: —any part of the time?

WOODBERRY: She went to Radcliffe.

DONIN: So you came along afterwards. How did you guys meet?

WOODBERRY: We met through one of my sisters. Or, I guess, both of my sisters.

DONIN: After you graduated?

WOODBERRY: Oh, yes. Some years later.

One of the things I do remember was in the morning, I think the Marines—in Butterfield. Marines were right across the other side of Tuck. They were out there—I think it was at five-thirty. And they had—I remember the Marines had a t-shirt, which was blue on one side and yellow on the other side. I'm pretty sure that was the marines. And that was because they could break up into teams and the team would have the blue shirts, the others would have the yellow shirts when they were playing games, stuff like that. But, they were out there in the morning. I remember it was summertime. They were out there stripped down to their shorts doing all this exercise. Oh...

DONIN: Oh, calisthenics and stuff.

WOODBERRY: Calisthenics, yeah, for about an hour.

DONIN: Oof. Before breakfast.

WOODBERRY: Oh, yeah, sure. Five-thirty.

DONIN: Good grief.

WOODBERRY: I think that's when they started: five-thirty. They'd wake us up; you'd hear them calling, you know, for this guy—"Johnson!," they'd yell. "Smith!"

DONIN: Oh, the drills. All those drills.

WOODBERRY: Yeah, but they were very impressive guys. I remember that.

DONIN: Very disciplined.

WOODBERRY: Oh, yeah. The Marines, yeah.

DONIN: And they didn't—We have photographs, again, in the archives of these amazing formations that they marched to on the green.

WOODBERRY: Oh, yeah. I think they marched—I wouldn't be surprised if they marched to class. I remember them marching a lot.

DONIN: Well, and they often marched to breakfast; we've got pictures of them.

WOODBERRY: I think that's it. And the Marines, when they marched they were really sharp. When the Navy guys marched they were pretty slovenly. [Laughter] They didn't—you know, they were...

DONIN: So, you said you guys didn't eat together.

WOODBERRY: I don't think we did.

DONIN: Did you eat in College Hall or did you eat in Thayer?

WOODBERRY: No, we ate—When we started, we ate the first couple of terms in what is now Collis. It was College Hall. And then I think for the spring term, I think we went to Thayer, I think.

DONIN: I see.

WOODBERRY: The spring of '46.

DONIN: Right. Now, I know what I forgot to ask you: what about the whole business of when you were a freshman? Did you have to run around in a beanie?

WOODBERRY: Yeah, you had a beanie, and then if any upperclassman asked you to do something you were supposed to do it.

DONIN: Yeah, you had to, like, carry their furniture and their suitcases.

WOODBERRY: Move their furniture, yeah. Stuff like that.

DONIN: There are pictures of them—you had to, like, run this gauntlet on the Green with the—

WOODBERRY: Well, that was—yeah, there was some—they had two things, I think in the fall. One was they had sort of like the freshman class and the sophomore class, something, would have a—I don't know whether it was a tug-of-war—

DONIN: Yeah.

WOODBERRY: And then they had—It was sort of like a football-type of thing. They had a ball and somebody was running, and somebody would tackle them and get the ball and run. It was kind of a mob scene. But, everybody in the freshman class participated, and I know I remember we did it. Maybe we didn't do it so much when we were freshmen; we did it when we were sophomores. We all went down. And then somewhere along there they had Wet-Down-Something, they called it, where the freshmen were to run through this gauntlet and the upper class people would take their belts—in those days they were leather belts—they wouldn't take the buckle and just slap them with the belt as they went through.

DONIN: Oh, that's nasty.

WOODBERRY: Well, it wasn't a big deal. I mean, they didn't have a chance to hit you that hard. And that was the gauntlet. I think it was called Wet-Down. What was the other thing they did? Something else like that. Oh, the beanies, though—In connection with the beanies. Yeah, it was after you had the beanie—you were supposed to wear the beanies until they had the Wet-Down, which was, like, two months or something like that.

DONIN: Wow. Every day?

WOODBERRY: Yeah.

DONIN: And you got in trouble if you didn't.

WOODBERRY: I think you did, yeah. I don't remember what they did, but they did, yeah. And I think they reported you or something.

DONIN: Although, apparently some of the guys that came in as veterans...

WOODBERRY: They weren't interested in that sort of stuff.

DONIN: They were exempt I think. [Laughter]

WOODBERRY: Yes, I'd forgotten all about that.

DONIN: Did you treat the veterans any differently than your regular other classmates?

WOODBERRY: I don't think so. You mean that were members of my class?

DONIN: Yes.

WOODBERRY: I think we were all in it together. Once we got... They were civilians. We were all civilians. So they were subject to the same restrictions or opportunities as everybody else.

DONIN: OK. Any other thoughts?

WOODBERRY: No.

[End of Interview]