

Mrs. Ray Theriault
Dartmouth College Oral History Program
Dartmouth Community and Dartmouth's World
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DONIN: Alright. So now I'm just going to say a couple of sentences to put us in a time and a date and say your name. And let me just check that I'm pronouncing your name correctly. Is it TEHR-io?

THERIAULT: Yes.

DONIN: With a hard T.

THERIAULT: Right.

DONIN: Okay. Because I was practicing the other day with someone at work, and I was saying Ther-AULT. And she said, "No, no it's not Ther-AULT."

THERIAULT: I know, I know. Well, that's the way it's pronounced a good deal of the time.

DONIN: Yeah, I've heard it pronounced that way. She said, "No, no, I know about Professor Theriault and he pronounced it TEHR-io." Good. I'm glad I asked. Okay. So today is Friday, May 31, 2013. Two weeks away from your 100th birthday, isn't it?

THERIAULT: Right.

DONIN: Yeah. June 13th, is it?

THERIAULT: Yes.

DONIN: My name is Mary Donin, and I am at Harvest Hill Retirement Community in Lebanon, New Hampshire, with Mrs. Ray Theriault, who is about to turn 100 on June 13, 2013. Is there a big party planned here?

THERIAULT: There's a big party on the 16th. And I'll have some family members and a few friends for dinner on the 13th.

- DONIN: Oh, amazing! Amazing. And don't you get to like ride in a parade or something from [chuckles] Hanover?
- THERIAULT: [Laughs] No. I don't think so.
- DONIN: [Laughs] Okay. So, Ray, we want to know how this story all began, where you were born.
- THERIAULT: I was born in London, and we moved to this country—well, we moved to Canada when I was 14 months old. The last passenger ship to leave Britain in the war.
- DONIN: Wow.
- THERIAULT: And we had to go way up north where the icebergs were and everything. And went out to British Columbia. My father had come down with TB and was told that he had to get into a good climate. So a friend found a little church where he could be the minister in Victoria, B.C.
- DONIN: So your dad was a minister.
- THERIAULT: Yes, a Unitarian minister.
- DONIN: Uh-huh.
- THERIAULT: And we moved out there. And then two or two and a half years later, we moved down to Berkeley, and he was the minister of the Unitarian Church in Berkeley. We were there until I was eight, when we came east. He became the minister of the Unitarian Church in Boston. King's Chapel—
- DONIN: Oh, wonderful!
- THERIAULT: —was the name of it. And we were there until I was 14 when we moved to Hanover because he became a teacher at Dartmouth.
- DONIN: Oh, your father did?
- THERIAULT: Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Ah! So you really have been around here for a long time.

THERIAULT: I've been around here for quite a long time.

DONIN: But you moved a lot when you were a child.

THERIAULT: Yes.

DONIN: So it must have been nice to settle down.

THERIAULT: No! I didn't want to settle down. [Laughter.] I was used to moving around, going from one school to another. But I missed American history all along the way somehow. So I've been trying to catch up with that for a long time.

DONIN: So what was your dad teaching at Dartmouth?

THERIAULT: Well, first he taught—what was it called?—biography.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

THERIAULT: No, no. First he taught, oh, it's gone out of my head. Like everything else.

DONIN: Was it like oratory or—

THERIAULT: No, it was something to do with history, I think.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

THERIAULT: I don't know. And it had a little religious connotation, too.

DONIN: Right. I can look it up when I get back to the library. I didn't know your dad was here.

THERIAULT: Yeah, Harold Speight.

DONIN: Oh, yes. Okay. So his name was Harold.

THERIAULT: [Spells]: S-P [pauses while Mary writes] S-P-E-I-G-H-T.

DONIN: Uh-huh. So you went to the Hanover schools then for your schooling.

THERIAULT: One year.

DONIN: One year?

THERIAULT: And I was.... One of my teachers said, "Was you going to ask a question?" And I told my parents about that at suppertime. And they promptly sent me off to school the next year.

DONIN: That's not good to have a teacher speak like that.

THERIAULT: No. I know. But Hanover High in those days was so different. There were maybe ten faculty kids that were going on to college. And the rest of them were all going into farming or something like that.

DONIN: Farming. Uh-huh. So the educational standards were maybe not as high as they are today.

THERIAULT: Yeah. Exactly.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

THERIAULT: Very different.

DONIN: So you went off to a boarding school for high school?

THERIAULT: Yes. It was one year, I think, and then I went to Radcliffe, which is no longer.

DONIN: Right. It's been swallowed up by Harvard.

THERIAULT: Swallowed up, yeah. Well, we were always connected. I had some classes at Harvard when I was there. But it now is no longer a college. But it's one of the major divisions of the university.

DONIN: Yes. And what was your major in college?

THERIAULT: Psychology.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

THERIAULT: That's different now. [Chuckles.]

DONIN: It's also changed, hasn't it? Everything's changed.

THERIAULT: Everything has. You live a hundred years, and you're living in a different world.

DONIN: Yes, a different century.

THERIAULT: Yes.

DONIN: A different century. So what was your... How was your life tied to Dartmouth when you were a young woman? Did you have friends whose families also were teaching at Dartmouth?

THERIAULT: Oh, yes.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

THERIAULT: Yes. And we were also.... There was a fairly large group of people, doctors at Hitchcock and professors and whatnot, that we all knew each other. You know, you knew everybody in Hanover in those days [chuckles] because it was so small.

DONIN: And in those days a lot of the people who were teaching at the College actually lived right in downtown Hanover.

THERIAULT: Oh, yes, yes.

DONIN: And you were living—was your family living in Hanover at that time?

THERIAULT: Yeah.

DONIN: Not in Norwich.

THERIAULT: We lived on Valley Road.

DONIN: Oh, yes. Valley Road.

THERIAULT: And they had the house at the end of Valley Road.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

THERIAULT: No, I'm wrong about that. It wasn't the one at the end. It was on the right-hand side. My father designed the house, and it was very British all over.

DONIN: Oh! Uh-huh. [Laughter] So you were the first one—he built his own house then.

THERIAULT: Yes, he built his own house.

DONIN: Uh-huh. Is it still there today?

THERIAULT: Yes. Oh, yeah.

DONIN: Oh! Wonderful.

THERIAULT: And when he was busy building the house, Mother and my sister and I lived in England for a year, and I went to school over there.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

THERIAULT: I've got to get a drink of water, I think.

DONIN: Do you want me to get it for you?

THERIAULT: I'll get it.

DONIN: Okay.

THERIAULT: Just wait a minute.

DONIN: Sure. [Long pause; water running in background; footsteps.]

So you must have memories of.... Oh, here. Let's give you a—here we go.

THERIAULT: Oh, thanks. Thank you.

DONIN: You must have memories of all the Dartmouth presidents—President Hopkins?

THERIAULT: Yeah, I never knew this last one, but everybody else.

DONIN: Uh-huh. You didn't know Dr. Kim.

THERIAULT: No.

DONIN: No. Well, he wasn't around very long.

THERIAULT: I know, I know.

DONIN: So you knew Ernest Martin Hopkins.

THERIAULT: Yes, indeed.

DONIN: And John Dickey.

THERIAULT: Mr. Hopkins was the one who got my father here.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

THERIAULT: They were friends. And they used to have—every month there was a meeting of all these.... Well, there were some ministers and some college presidents and whatnot in Boston. And that's how Dad got to know Dr. Hopkins. And he persuaded my husband to come up here.

DONIN: Oh, they met at this meeting in Boston?

THERIAULT: Yeah, they met every month and got to know each other quite well.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

THERIAULT: So Hoppy got Dad up here.

DONIN: Well, that was the beginning for you and your life in Hanover.

THERIAULT: It certainly was.

DONIN: Right. People have a lot of affectionate stories about Hoppy, about the nice things he did for people.

THERIAULT: He was awfully nice. And Mrs. Hopkins was nice, too.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. I think she started out as a secretary for Dr. Tucker, who was his predecessor.

THERIAULT: Yeah? I didn't know that.

DONIN: I think so. If my memory is being true to me. But then you went away for—so when did you go to Radcliffe? You went to Radcliffe probably—

THERIAULT: 'Twenty-nine.

DONIN: In 1929.

THERIAULT: Yeah. I graduated in '34.

DONIN: Uh-huh. Wow. So how much time did you spend in Hanover once you'd finished college? Did you go back—did you return there?

THERIAULT: I was married before I graduated—

DONIN: Oh!

THERIAULT: —from Radcliffe.

DONIN: Oh, so your husband comes into this.

THERIAULT: My husband—

DONIN: Did he go to Harvard?

THERIAULT: No, he went to Dartmouth.

DONIN: Oh, Dartmouth. You told me that.

- THERIAULT: Yeah, yeah. And, no, we got married Christmas Eve of my senior year.
- DONIN: How did you actually meet him up here?
- THERIAULT: I met him through a schoolmate of mine whose father was on the faculty.
- DONIN: Uh-huh.
- THERIAULT: And she had a party one night. And she had some students and me and a couple of other girls. And there was George Theriault. And I thought he seemed awfully nice. So, when I.... Let's see, that must have been in the spring of 1933. So when I came back after college that year to spend the summer in Hanover, I met George again. And that was the beginning of the end. [Laughter.] And we were married the following Christmas Eve.
- DONIN: Now did he graduate ahead of you from Dartmouth?
- THERIAULT: Yes, he graduated in '33.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. And did he have to go on and get other training before he became a professor of sociology?
- THERIAULT: Oh, yeah. He was at Harvard studying for his Ph.D. when we were first married. And then we went out to Wisconsin because he got a job out there for a year or two as a teaching assistant or something. And got a master's out there. And one day a telegram came from the head of the sociology department at Dartmouth.
- DONIN: Uh-huh.
- THERIAULT: Saying "Would you be interested in a"—what did they call it in those days? Not an assistant professorship— "In being an instructor in the sociology department."
- DONIN: Oh, yes.

THERIAULT: And we pretended to think it over. We walked around the lake in Madison thinking about this, you know. But the next day George wired them back: "Thank you. I would." [Laughs.]

DONIN: Great!

THERIAULT: And that was the beginning of our life in Hanover.

DONIN: So you knew at the time, when you married him, that he wanted to come back to Dartmouth and teach?

THERIAULT: Yes, yes.

DONIN: And that was more common in those days, I think.

THERIAULT: I think so.

DONIN: That people wanted to go back as faculty to the college that they attended. And you probably had other friends who were doing the same thing.

THERIAULT: Yes. A few of my friends married Dartmouth men, but not all of them.

DONIN: And what was it like being a young married couple in Hanover in the—well, in the thirties, before the war started?

THERIAULT: Yes, before the war. Well, it was awfully nice. We made friends. People saw each other a lot more than they do now. You know, we had a group of friends over the years that met probably every couple of weeks or so for dinner or bridge or something or other. And now my son and daughter-in-law never seem to have any friends in. They see relatives and that's it. We had parties all the time.

DONIN: Why do you think that is? What's the difference?

THERIAULT: I don't know. I don't know whether it's the pressure of more population and more going on. Both working, of course, and that makes a difference. But I started working as soon as my second child was three years old. So, you know, it wasn't that entirely.

- DONIN: Who took care of your children when you went to work?
- THERIAULT: Oh, I had a wonderful babysitter who came. When I first went to work, it was on the alumni magazine. And I did the class notes section, and I did that. And that was work I could do at home. So I was able to take care of the kids.
- DONIN: Did you help your husband with his work and his teaching in any way?
- THERIAULT: No, with the exception of his Ph.D. thesis, and I helped. No, when we were in Madison, I helped him. I can see maps that I made for some reason [chuckles] or other. I can't remember why. But something to do with his work. I helped him with that.
- DONIN: We've heard a lot of stories about how spouses often helped their husbands either correcting papers or typing papers or you know....
- THERIAULT: Well, every once in a while I'd do something to help him a bit.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- THERIAULT: But not very often. Until he was busy with his thesis. And then I would type that for him.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- THERIAULT: The last night before it was to be delivered at Harvard, my friend Doris and I, who was also a faculty daughter, were up all night long typing George's thesis while he was putting the last touches.
- DONIN: Oh, golly!
- THERIAULT: And then we had to leave the next morning to go to take it back to Harvard. And we had floods that day, and we were terribly late getting started. He called Harvard and said.... We were supposed to be there by noon. And he said, "We cannot make it by noon." And they said, "Well, that's all right if you can make it by four o'clock," which we finally did.

DONIN: Ooh, pressure.

THERIAULT: Yes. Oh, definitely. But driving those.... The old road to Boston was like this [gestures bumps] every once in a while. And there was so much water in the bottom of those dips.

DONIN: Were you living far outside of Boston or Cambridge or were you up in Hanover?

THERIAULT: We were in Hanover.

DONIN: Oh, goodness! I didn't realize. No wonder it was pressure to get there.

THERIAULT: Right, yeah. And then it took, you know, four and a half hours or something to get down there in those days.

DONIN: There was no highway, was there?

THERIAULT: No, no. Just a winding road. [Laughs.]

DONIN: Oh, goodness! But you made it.

THERIAULT: We made it.

DONIN: Great! So generally did the women, during those days when you were a young married, young mother, did the women generally have jobs or not?

THERIAULT: No, not generally.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

THERIAULT: I think some did, but very, very minor jobs.

DONIN: Minor in what way?

THERIAULT: Well, not very important.

DONIN: Not important.

THERIAULT: I mean, a secretary of a department or something like that, you know.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. So the only women who worked at Dartmouth were the ones who were either in the library, probably—

THERIAULT: Yeah.

DONIN: —or in the dining halls.

THERIAULT: Right. Cleaning.

DONIN: Or cleaning. Or as you say, helping out in the offices.

THERIAULT: Yeah.

DONIN: Right.

THERIAULT: So, it was quite different. At the end of all my 30 years or whatever it was, I was asked by the dean of the summer term whether I would consider being the dean of women. They were about to let women in, in the summer only. And maybe I told you all this.

DONIN: Uh uh.

THERIAULT: Well, he asked me. I thought about it for a while; I wasn't very enthusiastic. But finally I guess my husband persuaded me to say yes. So I said yes. So he went back to the trustees, and he said, "Mrs. Theriault is happy to become dean of women in the summer term." They said, "Oh, that's great! We'll call her director of social activities."

DONIN: Oh!

THERIAULT: So he came back to me with this news. And I said, "No way! If I'm gonna be a dean, I wanna be called a dean." And so finally he got assistant dean of summer programs for women as my title. And the most I was ever paid after a number of years was \$3.50 an hour with no benefits.

DONIN: No benefits?!

- THERIAULT: No benefits. And there was a dean of men in the summer program. You know, he was on full salary and benefits and everything. But not for me.
- DONIN: So, um—
- THERIAULT: But that was the way.... You know, it never entered my head to complain about it because I felt so lucky to have this wonderful big job. It wasn't a big job at all, but...
- DONIN: Well, it was the beginning of—
- THERIAULT: It was the beginning.
- DONIN: —things changing.
- THERIAULT: Yeah, that's right.
- DONIN: So this must have been the late sixties then that they started admitting women for summer programs?
- THERIAULT: Yes, it was.... Well, I think it was in the early sixties 'cause I retired in '67. [Pause.] Nineteen sixty-two sticks in my mind.
- DONIN: As the beginning?
- THERIAULT: Yeah.
- DONIN: And did these women get credit for these classes?
- THERIAULT: At their own schools. There were a lot of high school kids who were taking advanced courses at Dartmouth—I mean advanced for their high schools, you know. And they came in the summer term and were taught whatever they were taking and went back to their schools, and they got credit at their schools. And then the college students who came did the same thing. But they had to get their graduation through their own college.
- DONIN: I see. So it really was like summer school for anybody—

THERIAULT: Yes, it was.

DONIN: —for anybody who could, who wanted to come.

THERIAULT: Exactly. And it wasn't really...you didn't get—call yourself a Dartmouth student, I guess.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. And they admitted... When you started, they allowed women as well as men in this program.

THERIAULT: Yes, yes.

DONIN: I see. Uh-huh. So this was not anything to do with the move towards going coeducational?

THERIAULT: Oh, yes, it was.

DONIN: Was it?

THERIAULT: This was the beginning of that, yeah.

DONIN: They were testing it out.

THERIAULT: Yeah.

DONIN: Uh-huh. Now, were you involved at all when they actually voted to admit women in 1972? Were you still working at the College?

THERIAULT: No.

DONIN: Had you been asked to work there to be the dean of—

THERIAULT: No.

DONIN: —women after they went coeducation?

THERIAULT: No. I became ill in 1967 and I had to retire then.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

THERIAULT: Resigned.

- DONIN: Oh, I see. So you were there for five years as the assistant dean for the summer programs for women.
- THERIAULT: Yeah, yeah.
- DONIN: What was that experience like for you? Were you supported by the men, or did they look at you and ignore you?
- THERIAULT: No, no. The ones that I came in contact with were fine. And I can't remember the name of the man, dean—Bob. Bob, Bob—I think McDonald, but that isn't right, I don't think. I don't know.
- DONIN: We can find out the name.
- THERIAULT: Yeah, you can find out. And he and I were, you know, very friendly. And we talked to each other about problems and whatnot.
- DONIN: And how were the women treated in the classroom? Do you have any memory of that?
- THERIAULT: Well, I have no memory of problems the way there are now. I don't remember that at all. My main memory [chuckles] of those years was having to kick out one of the students. There was a girl who came here from a Middle Western town, and her father had graduated from Dartmouth, and he wanted her to come. And he had two or three older sons, all of whom [chuckles] couldn't get into Dartmouth. So he wanted to get his daughter in. Sent her for the summer term.
- And she was sort of an interesting girl. She swaggered a bit. Unfortunately she decided to take.... We had very strict rules for these women originally. You know, they had to be in their rooms by ten o'clock or something. And she decided to take a high school girl to Canada. And they went off in her car. And somehow or other we managed to get them stopped at the border. But I had to kick her out of the College.
- DONIN: Oh, golly!

THERIAULT: And it was just awful for her, for her father, for [chuckles] everybody.

DONIN: Unfortunate for everybody.

THERIAULT: Yeah, absolutely. But we just felt at that time that that was inconceivable...when you're not allowed to leave the campus, you know, with a high school kid.

DONIN: Crazy!

THERIAULT: I know.

DONIN: So where did they house these women, I mean the College....

THERIAULT: They took over a dorm, and they put 'em in a dorm.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. And that must have been a challenge, keeping track of them.

THERIAULT: Yeah.

DONIN: Which is what you had to do.

THERIAULT: Well, you had to sign in and out and all that all the time, you know. So you had a pretty good idea where they were. There probably was an awful lot going on that I had no idea of. [Laughter.] I was pretty unsophisticated myself.

DONIN: And I assume in those days there was a lot more oversight of what went on in the dorm. There must have been....

THERIAULT: Yeah. We had dorm—

DONIN: Parents or....

THERIAULT: Yeah. What did we call them?

DONIN: Proctors? No, not proctors.

THERIAULT: No.

DONIN: But they lived there, people who lived there.

THERIAULT: Yes, yes, exactly.

DONIN: Uh-huh. I guess that was necessary...especially since you said they also, the College was also housing high school students as well?

THERIAULT: Well, the high school kids were in the women's program.

DONIN: Oh, they were.

THERIAULT: Yeah. And they were mixed in with the College ones.

DONIN: I see. Uh-huh. And who did you get to teach these classes in the summer? Was it regular faculty?

THERIAULT: Regular faculty, yeah.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

THERIAULT: I really don't remember much about that.

DONIN: About the teaching part?

THERIAULT: Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Right. Well, you were more on the administrative side of it.

THERIAULT: Yes, yeah.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. And did the women get along all right in the classroom, do you think?

THERIAULT: I think so.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. And what sort of activities were there for them on the weekends and such when they weren't studying?

THERIAULT: Can't remember.

DONIN: Probably taking advantage of all the beautiful outdoor activities that there are in the Upper Valley.

THERIAULT: Well, yeah. But there were things going at the College. I mean they would have.... Well, I remember a couple of operas that came and performed. And ballet dancers and things like that.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

THERIAULT: You know, not the way it is now with thousands [chuckles] of things going on all the time.

DONIN: So many choices now.

THERIAULT: Yeah. Oh, yeah.

DONIN: So your time working at Dartmouth spanned part of John Dickey's administration.

THERIAULT: Yes.

DONIN: Did you have much interaction with him?

THERIAULT: Not—No, only socially.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

THERIAULT: But not—I didn't have to go and talk with him. Well, I did when I kicked that girl out, actually; I talked with him a bit.

DONIN: I'm sure.

THERIAULT: Yeah. But otherwise, no.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. And he was... Let's see. Was he a contemporary of your husband's? No, he was younger.

THERIAULT: Yeah—no, he was older.

DONIN: Oh, he was older.

THERIAULT: I think he was in the Class of—I don't know.

DONIN: 'Twenty-nine.

THERIAULT: 'Twenty-nine, yeah.

DONIN: Right.

THERIAULT: Right.

DONIN: Uh-huh. So they were almost contemporaries.

THERIAULT: Yeah.

DONIN: And you alluded to this before: So the social life that you enjoyed there during those years, did it include the faculty and the president? I mean, you saw them socially?

THERIAULT: Well, yeah, we had faculty dances once a month.

DONIN: Goodness!

THERIAULT: Which was always fun.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

THERIAULT: And I can't remember how often the Dickey's came to those things, but they were there occasionally. And there were other things going on, you know: class reunions and things like that. It was always pretty busy.

DONIN: And of course the sixties was the beginning of the, you know, the beginning of the unrest and the political activity on campus.

THERIAULT: Yes. Right.

DONIN: Interest obviously in the idea of admitting women at some point. But I think there was probably at that point a lot of resistance to it as well. Did you ever get in discussions about that, about the idea of women being admitted as real students?

- THERIAULT: Oh, we must have, but I—it's gone.
- DONIN: And I think you had... What I read about you in our file that we have back at the library, you held other jobs at Dartmouth besides this—
- THERIAULT: Oh, yeah.
- DONIN: I mean the assistant dean job was really the culmination of your career.
- THERIAULT: That was the end, yeah.
- DONIN: But you held lots of other jobs. So you started out working for the alumni magazine.
- THERIAULT: Yeah.
- DONIN: And it also said you worked in a language lab?
- THERIAULT: Yeah, I ran the language lab for a while. That was a little later on. I was the secretary of the romance language[s] department.
- DONIN: Uh-huh.
- THERIAULT: And then there was another secretary-ship [chuckles]. Was it in the German?—I've forgotten. And then there was a group called the Dartmouth Optical something or other, one or two eye doctors; they had an office on Main Street, and I was a secretary for them.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- THERIAULT: And then the language lab. And I think it was when I was there that they asked me to do the dean's thing.
- DONIN: Oh, when you were in the language lab, yeah.
- THERIAULT: Yeah. That's about all I can remember.

DONIN: So, speaking of President Hopkins, the sixties was when they built The Hopkins Center, the new arts center.

THERIAULT: Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Before that, where did you—for instance the faculty dances, where did they take place before The Hopkins Center was built.

THERIAULT: In the—where Rauner Library is now.

DONIN: Oh, in Webster Hall.

THERIAULT: In Webster Hall.

DONIN: Oh! What a great place for it.

THERIAULT: And there was a place in the Hanover Inn where we used to go. I can't remember much about that. And there was a nursery school that was right behind—what's the name of that library building next to Hopkins Center?

DONIN: Wilson Hall?

THERIAULT: Wilson, yeah.

DONIN: That's where the library used to be.

THERIAULT: That's right. And behind that there was a nursery school.

DONIN: Ah-huh! Did your children go to that?

THERIAULT: Yeah. My son did. I don't think my daughter did. I don't remember.

DONIN: How convenient to have it right in town like that.

THERIAULT: Oh, I know, yeah.

DONIN: Yeah.

- THERIAULT: And, you know, I was thinking the other day, when I used to take Terry, my son, up to the nursery school, if we weren't walking, we would drive up. And when we were walking, we would go up the middle of Wheelock Street, the dog running beside the baby carriage or the stroller, whatever you call it. And walk up to town that way. And now look at Wheelock Street!
- DONIN: It's a main thoroughfare now, isn't it? With lots of traffic.
- THERIAULT: It's amazing! We would go that whole distance and never see a car.
- DONIN: Yeah. Well, it wasn't even paved in those days, was it? Was it a dirt road or was it paved?
- THERIAULT: No, it was paved.
- DONIN: Uh-huh.
- THERIAULT: Yeah.
- DONIN: And the bridge was different, too, wasn't it?
- THERIAULT: Oh, yeah. It was a covered bridge originally.
- DONIN: Right. And there was that little village in Norwich right at the—I've forgotten what the name of that little village was.
[Lewiston, Vt.]
- THERIAULT: I have, too. But I know it perfectly well. [Chuckles.]
- DONIN: Where the train station is—or was.
- THERIAULT: Yeah.
- DONIN: It'll come back to me. But you know what I'm talking about.
- THERIAULT: I know, yeah.
- DONIN: Right. So in those days when you were raising your children, were you living in Norwich by then?

THERIAULT: No, we were living in Hanover.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

THERIAULT: We lived in Hanover in the beginning when my daughter was very young. She was born out in Wisconsin when we were there.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

THERIAULT: And we lived in Hanover. But then we couldn't afford it anymore and moved to Norwich until gas rationing came in with the war.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

THERIAULT: Our car...we had a wonderful old, big, huge Buick Phaeton.

DONIN: What was it called, a Phaeton?

THERIAULT: Phaeton, I think. It was a convertible thing, and we could get 13 people in it. [Laughter.] An amazing car. But it got only eight miles to the gallon.

DONIN: Yeah.

THERIAULT: Of course when gas was two gallons for a quarter, that was all right, even with our low wages. [Laughs.] But eventually we had to give it up.

DONIN: It was too expensive.

THERIAULT: Yeah.

DONIN: Yeah, yeah.

THERIAULT: We bought that car from a man who used it only to come up to Dartmouth football games and used it around town.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

THERIAULT: He must have been awfully rich. [Laughter.] We bought it for \$350, and it was in perfect condition and not old. And it was found, oh, 25 years or more later down in a gas station somewhere in southern New Hampshire. It was for sale.

DONIN: Aaaw.

THERIAULT: That's the same old car.

DONIN: Golly!

THERIAULT: Amazing.

DONIN: Was it a station wagon?

THERIAULT: No, it was a thing you put the top down—an enormous top. It was longer than this thing here [gestures], which you put down in the summer and rode around with the top down.

DONIN: And just lots of people fit in there.

THERIAULT: Yeah.

DONIN: Probably some of them standing on the seats.

THERIAULT: There were little seats that folded down from the back of the front seat.

DONIN: Oh, yes, yes. Wonderful. Do you have pictures of that car? I bet you do.

THERIAULT: Oh, probably somewhere, but I have no idea where.

DONIN: That's great. So your children then were raised in Hanover. Went to the Hanover schools? Did you find that they had improved any?

THERIAULT: Both of them went away to boarding schools.

DONIN: Oh, did they?

THERIAULT: Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Yep.

THERIAULT: The last couple of years.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. So the Hanover schools were still not so great.

THERIAULT: No, I think they were fine. But the kids wanted to get out of here for some reason or other.

DONIN: Yes. Well, teenagers tend to do that.

THERIAULT: That's right. They get antsy.

DONIN: Right. It's a pretty nice place to grow up, though.

THERIAULT: Yeah.

DONIN: For children.

THERIAULT: Yeah.

DONIN: So you've seen many, many years of changes in Hanover and in Dartmouth.

THERIAULT: Oh yes. Yeah.

DONIN: And what was your feeling when the College did finally go coeducational completely and admit women as—

THERIAULT: Oh, I was very pleased, and my husband was awfully pleased. He said that the rate of scholarship in his classes immediately went way up when women were admitted.

DONIN: Oh.

THERIAULT: Which is int'resting.

DONIN: Not surprising. [Laughs.]

THERIAULT: No.

- DONIN: So women were a good addition to the classroom.
- THERIAULT: Yeah. And I'm only now hearing so much about the problems that women had in those days, and I wasn't aware of it at the time. You know, we had students frequently for dinner at our house. And the girls would come along with the men, and they seemed to be very friendly types. Now maybe in an intellectual situation like that there wasn't the same feeling. I think it was mostly social.
- DONIN: I think you're right.
- THERIAULT: And being gotten drunk, for instance, things like that. You know, 'cause I really think now that it might be a good idea for girls to grow up before they have that experience.
- DONIN: Right, that pressure.
- THERIAULT: Yeah.
- DONIN: The way it's been described by a number of students that we've been talking to this year is that Dartmouth is very different after dark. During the day—and that's sort of like what you were saying.
- THERIAULT: Yeah.
- DONIN: During the day when they're engaged in academic pursuits, it's not such a scary place. But after dark, it becomes a very scary place.
- THERIAULT: Yeah. It's just a shame.
- DONIN: Yeah. And I think the early classes of women didn't all experience that. Some of them may have, of course because they were... I think they were being bullied quite a bit in the beginning by a small portion of the population.
- THERIAULT: Yeah, I think so.
- DONIN: Who didn't want—they wanted Dartmouth to stay just for men.

THERIAULT: Right.

DONIN: And they weren't very welcoming to the women. But I don't think it was as scary a place as it seems to be—that we're hearing about now.

THERIAULT: Well, I think that's probably true in many more places than just Dartmouth.

DONIN: Absolutely right. This isn't just going on at Dartmouth.

THERIAULT: No. But if women want to be doing everything that men do, you know, there are bound to be conflicts; and expected to perform sexually the way men do, which is not normal for a woman.

DONIN: A lot of pressures.

THERIAULT: A lot, yes.

DONIN: But those early classes of women, the ones who came in the late sixties as exchange students, I think there was a group who came in 1969 who were doing a lot of theater.

THERIAULT: Yes.

DONIN: From the Seven Sisters schools.

THERIAULT: Yeah. What's her name that's so famous?

DONIN: Oh, the actress?

THERIAULT: Yes.

DONIN: Meryl Streep.

THERIAULT: Meryl Streep!

DONIN: Yes.

THERIAULT: She was here.

- DONIN: They were the beginning of the whole opening up of Dartmouth to full entitlement for women to be students here. But those early classes were brave.
- THERIAULT: Yes. Well, I think they must have been. But we were not aware of it at the time.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- THERIAULT: You know, we didn't think in those terms about them. Just, they seemed to be having a good time when we saw them.
- DONIN: Right, right. So did you or your husband get involved in any of the campus unrest that was taking place in the sixties with antiwar activity and the takeover of Parkhurst Hall, and—
- THERIAULT: I vaguely remember it, but I don't remember... I'm sure my husband must have been much more aware of it than I was.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. [Pause.] And was there a life for.... After you stopped working at the College, you were still a faculty spouse.
- THERIAULT: Yes.
- DONIN: So, was there a role for faculty spouses back then to be involved in Dartmouth? Or was it entirely social?
- THERIAULT: It was mostly social. I think a few faculty wives worked, but not very many.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- THERIAULT: Those that did, you know, had minor jobs like me.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. No teaching going on.
- THERIAULT: No.
- DONIN: By the women.

THERIAULT: No. I don't know when they had the first teacher—woman teacher. And I'm sure that it must have been a hard time for them [chuckles] for quite a long—many years. But now, of course, I think—I'm not sure—but I think their salaries are the same now.

DONIN: Well, they're working on it...

THERIAULT: They haven't reached—

DONIN: Parity?

THERIAULT: Parity yet.

DONIN: I haven't looked in the last year or two to know how closely they're paid. I honestly don't know. It may well be that they're equal now, but I don't know that. But it must have been lonely as well to come up here.

THERIAULT: Oh, yes, I think so.

DONIN: As one of the early faculty. I think there were a number of women in the medical school who were here early on before they started really enlarging the number of—

THERIAULT: Right. Yes, I think....

DONIN: —women faculty members in the undergraduate College. That there were a couple of women in the medical school, researchers.

THERIAULT: I'm trying to think of the name of the woman who died recently and lived in Norwich who was one of the early ones. I can't; it's gone.

DONIN: She was a medical person?

THERIAULT: Worked for the medical school. I can't remember.

DONIN: Was it Hannah Croasdale?

THERIAULT: Yes.

- DONIN: Uh-huh.
- THERIAULT: Thank you. [Laughs.]
- DONIN: Yes. Right. She was a biologist, I think maybe. Quite well known...
- THERIAULT: Yes, yes.
- DONIN: And I think it took them a long time to give her tenure, but she did finally get tenure. Those were pioneering women in those days.
- THERIAULT: Right. Oh, yes.
- DONIN: But you were pioneering. I mean, are we able to say that you were the first woman dean at Dartmouth?
- THERIAULT: Oh, yeah. But, you know, I wasn't a full dean.
- DONIN: Well, they gave you the title of assistant dean, though, right?
- THERIAULT: Yeah.
- DONIN: Mmm, 1962.
- THERIAULT: Assistant dean of summer programs. [Laughs] And the first year or so that I did that job, although we had a lot of—well, there weren't terribly many women that came in the summer—but there were a lot of other summer programs. Like I remember there was a time when we had two different groups from Africa. One came from—oh, that big island, Madagascar?
- DONIN: Oh!
- THERIAULT: They were women who had Ph.D.s. And what they were doing here, I can't remember. The other group was teachers of elementary school kids somewhere deep in Africa; and they, most of them, had not gone beyond fifth grade.

DONIN: Golly!

THERIAULT: Amazing the differences in those two groups. And I was so glad to have them here.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

THERIAULT: You know, I got to know them pretty well.

DONIN: What a remote place for them to come to in the United States.

THERIAULT: I know...I know. I don't know whether this was something that John Dickey arranged or what. But at any rate, it was really quite interesting.

DONIN: Yeah, yeah.

THERIAULT: And they were here only for maybe two to four weeks, something like that.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

THERIAULT: It wasn't a long-term deal.

DONIN: Well, I think he used his State Department experiences and connections to open up the world to Dartmouth a little bit.

THERIAULT: Yes, yes, absolutely.

DONIN: With the Great Issues course that he started, which I think was very popular—

THERIAULT: Oh yeah.

DONIN: —for the first ten years or so that it was being done. And maybe this was another one of his efforts to—

THERIAULT: Right. I think so.

DONIN: —open up the world a little bit. People describe Dartmouth as being—Hanover as being—a little bit, in a good way, insulated from the outside world because of its location.

THERIAULT: I think it still is.

DONIN: Yeah. A little less so now, though, I would imagine—

THERIAULT: Oh yeah. Yeah.

DONIN: —than the fifties and sixties. But there's a plus side and a minus side to that insular feeling that it has.

So, did either of your children have any interest in going to Dartmouth as undergrads? Of course your daughter wouldn't have been able to 'cause she was—it was before coeducation.

THERIAULT: That's right. She went down to—this is my problem, when I—I can think of something, you know, and before it comes out, it's gone. Hood College!

DONIN: Oh, Hood, sure.

THERIAULT: She went to Hood College. And my son.... We had a sabbatical, and we were in Paris for a year. So he went to the first opening of the American College in Paris.

DONIN: Oh, lucky him.

THERIAULT: Which was fun. And they're having their 50th anniversary this summer reunion.

DONIN: Is he gonna go?

THERIAULT: No.

DONIN: Oh.

THERIAULT: He's not gonna go. That was his freshman year, and then he went out to the University of—oh, way out—Montana.

DONIN: Oh!

THERIAULT: And he was a skier and he just loved that.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

THERIAULT: Skiing in Canada a lot and so forth. And he was there for a couple of years, and then he went to Middlebury to finish up.

DONIN: Uh-huh. So he obviously has skiing in his blood.

THERIAULT: Absolutely. He was on the US—oh, dear, what do they call it?—Demonstration Team.

DONIN: Wow!

THERIAULT: A beautiful skier.

DONIN: Did you and your husband ski?

THERIAULT: I did. I've skied all my life. But George wasn't very enthusiastic. He did, yes. And particularly when we started doing cross-country. Yes, he liked that.

DONIN: Oh, yes. It's a little safer than downhill. A little tamer.
[Laughter]

THERIAULT: Well, he got hurt coming down Oak Hill one time. I think he broke his leg or something. I can't quite remember. I can remember the ambulance coming to pick him up. [Laughs.]

DONIN: [Laughs.] Oh, dear. Well, that's enough to put anybody off—

THERIAULT: Right.

DONIN: —skiing again.

THERIAULT: No, he got back at it eventually. But he was never an enthusiastic skier.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. But your kids obviously adopted it right away as children.

THERIAULT: Yeah, well, Terry did certainly, yeah. He had an accident on the golf course when he was four years old.

DONIN: Oh.

THERIAULT: And he fell, and his ski pole went into his mouth—

DONIN: [Gasps.]

THERIAULT: —and it was horrendous. A man came along—there were quite a lot of people there, but they didn't pay much attention to this bawling child. But this man came along and somehow or other Terry told him who I was and where I was on the hill. And he came and got me. And he was a very nice man. I never knew who he was. But he took us in his car up to the hospital, and Terry was in there for several weeks before he got out.

DONIN: Oh, dear!

THERIAULT: It escaped, everything good inside had escaped. But the inside of his mouth was badly damaged, and he had to be in the hospital for quite a long time.

And then [chuckles] when he got out, he was home from school for a while, and he was told he couldn't go skiing or do anything like that, you know. And finally the doctor said, "Well, you can go to the ski hill for a little while, but not long. And you're not to be wild on the hill or anything." So, that was when we were living down on Valley Road, and there was this little hill, and the kids used it for sliding down, you know. So I said Terry could go for 15 minutes, and I'd come and get him.

Well, I was walking up the road there to get him to come home, and I heard him say, "Okay, guys, pile up those sleds at the bottom, and I'll crash into them." [Laughter.]

DONIN: Oh, dear. You must have gone running.

THERIAULT: I did. Oh, dear.

DONIN: Sounds like a normal five-year-old boy. [Laughs.]

THERIAULT: Do you have children?

- DONIN: Yes, I do, I do.
- THERIAULT: Did you have adventurous children?
- DONIN: Yes, yes. Not as adventurous as that, I don't think. Or if they were, I didn't know about it.
- THERIAULT: Aaaw. Oh, dear.
- DONIN: So let's see. What have I not asked you about Hanover and Dartmouth? So we talked about.... So we didn't talk about President Kemeny. Did you know him?
- THERIAULT: I knew him, but not well.
- DONIN: Uh-huh.
- THERIAULT: But that was a very different atmosphere in the College.
- DONIN: Sure.
- THERIAULT: Yeah.
- DONIN: And how had it changed? Can you describe what the changes were? Obviously it was women, but in addition to that?
- THERIAULT: Well, I can't really because I wasn't part of it, you know. But reading the alumni magazine and the Gazette and whatnot, you would get the idea that it was a more serious kind of school than it had been.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. Now, was your husband still—let's see....
- THERIAULT: He retired in—
- DONIN: I wrote this down somewhere, and I can't find it. [Papers shuffling.] Let's see if I put it here. I wrote his date somewhere. Oh, yes. He retired in August of 1976 after 40 years.
- THERIAULT: Yeah.

DONIN: So he was there through part of Kemeny's administration.

THERIAULT: Right.

DONIN: Uh-huh. August of '76.

THERIAULT: And then what was the name of the next president?

DONIN: After Kemeny?

THERIAULT: Yeah.

DONIN: David McLaughlin.

THERIAULT: McLaughlin, yeah. And we knew them, but not well. By that time we were sort of out of things entirely. It was different.

DONIN: It's different when somebody isn't actually working at the College. You lose connection there.

THERIAULT: Right. But it was a very interesting change from Kemeny because the College had been pretty intellectual during Kemeny's time. And then McLaughlin came in, I think, because the alumni had put pressure on the College to change. He went back to the usual Dartmouth type of place. And that was good, too.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. He helped, I think, raise a lot of money for the College.

THERIAULT: Yes, raised money. And there was more emphasis on athletics again.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. Well, he himself, I gather, was quite an athlete when he was there as an undergrad. And then after McLaughlin was President [James] Freedman.

THERIAULT: Freedman, yes.

DONIN: Jim Freedman.

- THERIAULT: I met him, but I didn't know him.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- THERIAULT: And that was a swing back to the intellect again.
- DONIN: Yes, exactly. The pendulum tends to swing back and forth.
- Now, we can't ignore all the activities that you undertook when you stopped working at the College, which involved both the Co-op—the Hanover Co-op—and the League of Women Voters.
- THERIAULT: Oh, that was all long before I stopped working.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- THERIAULT: That was early on. Yeah.
- DONIN: So it was you and several other women that got the League going?
- THERIAULT: There were five of us, I think, that started the League. And I can't remember their names. But there were some older women and younger ones, too. I had been a member of the League both in Cambridge and in Wisconsin. So I was interested in starting it here. And I don't know how we all got together and thought about it, but....
- DONIN: Were they Dartmouth faculty wives?
- THERIAULT: Yes, yes.
- DONIN: They all were?
- THERIAULT: I think they all were.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- THERIAULT: There may have been a doctor's wife in there, but I really don't remember. And we had a very interesting group. And there were quite a few people who joined it fairly soon, so it grew

quickly. And we had meetings once a month, as I recall. And had various speakers and things like that.

DONIN: Now in those days New Hampshire was a pretty—were you—yes, this was New Hampshire you were working in, right, at that point?

THERIAULT: In Hanover.

DONIN: In Hanover. New Hampshire was a pretty Republican state at that time.

THERIAULT: Absolutely! I ran for the state legislature—I don't remember what year that was—but on the Democratic ticket, of course. And I got more votes than any Democrat had ever had before, but the Republicans, of course, beat me about two to one. [Chuckles.] In Hanover, of all places, you know. It was fortunate that they did defeat me because we had just moved to Norwich. [Laughter.] Bought a house over there.

DONIN: Oh. Well, that was just as well then, just as well. Yeah, it's surprising in a college town. You think of college towns as generally being more Democratic than Republican. And that may be the case now. I don't know.

THERIAULT: Oh, it certainly is now.

DONIN: Yeah. And then you started the League in Norwich as well, didn't you?

THERIAULT: Yes, yes. But that soon joined with the Hanover one.

DONIN: Makes sense.

THERIAULT: Yeah.

DONIN: Because the schools were, at that point, had the schools already become a—you know what I'm trying to say.

THERIAULT: The high school.

DONIN: Norwich and Hanover—

THERIAULT: Unified.

DONIN: Unified, that's the word I was trying to think of. Had already been unified by then. That was in the fifties or sixties, wasn't it? I think.

THERIAULT: Oh, I don't remember.

DONIN: Mmm. Something like that.

THERIAULT: Yeah.

DONIN: So it became the Upper Valley League of Women Voters.

THERIAULT: And I don't know when that was.

DONIN: Well, that's all in the record books, so you don't have to worry about those dates.

THERIAULT: Okay. [Laughs.]

DONIN: What's important is that you were one of the founders.

THERIAULT: Yeah. Well, I was always very enthusiastic about the League. And after—what was it?—50 years or something, they give you your membership free.

DONIN: Oh, my goodness!

THERIAULT: So I don't pay dues anymore.

DONIN: Well, I should hope not.

THERIAULT: And of course I can't get to any meetings, so.

DONIN: Right. So did that coincide with the Co-op as well? Was that going on simultaneously? You were starting the Co-op as well?

THERIAULT: Oh, the Co-op was very early on.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

THERIAULT: Soon after we moved back to Hanover in '36. And that started out with these oranges and grapefruit coming up from Florida.

DONIN: So who thought of that idea, to order those?

THERIAULT: Well, I think there was a minister named Chamberlain.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

THERIAULT: I can't think of his first name now. But I think he was the one who started that.

DONIN: Uh-huh!

THERIAULT: And then we sort of grew, and I don't remember the beginning of the first store, which was in a basement on Main Street. I just don't remember that. And then we moved across the street to the old First National, which is now Rare Essentials.

DONIN: Oh, yes! Uh-huh.

THERIAULT: We were there. And then where the bookstore is. And that was a good, big store. I mean by that time it really was a grocery store. And then of course the new place down on Park Street. And now look. All over.

DONIN: And now three of them—no, four of them! Let's see. There's Hanover, there's Lebanon, there's White River Junction, and there's the little one, Community Co-op, up on Lyme Road. Yeah, that's four.

THERIAULT: Well, wait a minute.

DONIN: Right?

THERIAULT: There's the one over in Wilder, or somewhere over there.

DONIN: White River Junction.

THERIAULT: White River.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

THERIAULT: And Leb, Hanover, Lyme Road. I thought there was another one.

DONIN: Well, there's talk of another one going up in Enfield, I think.

THERIAULT: Yeah, yeah.

DONIN: I'm not sure they've moved ahead with that, but there's talk about it.

THERIAULT: No, not yet. But I thought there was another one right around here. Anyway, it's huge.

DONIN: It is huge.

THERIAULT: And I think the biggest one in the country now.

DONIN: Yes.

THERIAULT: Since Berkeley got beaten out [chuckles] by this area.

DONIN: Oh, did they? Oh, I didn't realize that. That's interesting.

THERIAULT: Yeah. Berkeley used to be the main center, you know.

DONIN: Rightfully so. And the competitors around here: were there other grocery stores that faded away as a result of the Co-op? Didn't there used to be—

THERIAULT: There was a little grocery store down where the Co-op in Hanover is now.

DONIN: Oh, was there? Mm-hmm.

THERIAULT: Yeah. And I used to walk down there with the kids to get milk and stuff, you know. There was the First National, and I can't think of the other national company that was here.

DONIN: I think where the CVS is in downtown Hanover used to be a grocery store.

THERIAULT: Yes. That's right.

DONIN: But I don't remember what it was called.

THERIAULT: No, I can't either.

DONIN: But the Co-op is pretty dominant around here now.

THERIAULT: Yes, it is. But it wasn't always.

DONIN: No. Well, the population has increased a great deal probably since you were here.

THERIAULT: Oh, heavens, yes!

DONIN: It's about 10,000 now, I think—not including the students.

THERIAULT: It used to be, I think, about 2500—not counting the students.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. And most of those were Dartmouth faculty, I would imagine.

THERIAULT: A lot. Yeah. Maybe 125 or something. And now the faculty's what, 400 and something?

DONIN: Something like that.

THERIAULT: Incredible!

DONIN: It's grown. It's definitely grown. Okay, Ray. I think we're done.

THERIAULT: Oh really?

DONIN: I hope I haven't worn you out.

THERIAULT: Oh, no! It's been fun to think about all these things.

DONIN: Well, if you think of anything else, I can come back and turn the recorder on again, okay?

THERIAULT: Okay.

DONIN: So I'm gonna turn it off now.

THERIAULT: Well, you don't have to put in all our conversation....

[End of Interview]