

Dartmouth College Oral History Project
The War Years at Dartmouth
Interview with Swift C. '42 and Virginia Barnes
By Mary Stelle Donin
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- BARNES: Well, my father went there. He was the class of '18. So I always yearned to go there.
- DONIN: So there was never any question in your mind when you were growing up.
- BARNES: No, no. The question was whether I'd get in. [Laughs]
- DONIN: Did you have other siblings that went to Dartmouth?
- BARNES: Well, we had a— My brother went to Dartmouth, and we had two kids that went to Dartmouth.
- DONIN: Oh, so you're one of those real Greenbloods, as they call them.
- BARNES: I haven't heard that term before. [Laughter] Yes, we certainly are. We had a grandson who went. But after one year he transferred to Harvard.
- DONIN: Oh, ho ho. That hurts. Yes. [Laughs]
- BARNES: We disowned him.
- DONIN: Oh, I don't believe it. So I assume then you spent time at Dartmouth before you actually matriculated.
- BARNES: Yes, I was there three years. Joined the Navy V-7 program for naval officers. Took a cruise in the fall of '40. And in June of '41— let's see, yes—June of '41 I went to midshipmen's school in New York City. And the deal was after midshipmen's school, you'd go back and finish up your fourth year at college. But I was commissioned in September. And by that time things were heating up. And when we were commissioned, they said, "I'm sorry but there's no inactive duty." So I was on— from the fall of '41 I was commissioned and was in until—
- DONIN: I cheated and looked that up. I think you got out in October of '45?

BARNES: That's right.

DONIN: Does that sound right?

BARNES: Yes, yes.

DONIN: So let's back up a little bit to your years when you were having a sort of regular student experience at Dartmouth. You started there, I guess, in '38, right?

BARNES: That's right. Yes. Just when the hurricane went through. Were you aware of the hurricane?

DONIN: Oh, the big hurricane of '38.

BARNES: The big hurricane, yes.

DONIN: Oh, my gosh!

BARNES: We didn't get hit by it the way, say, Providence was hit. It was exciting.

DONIN: So was there damage up there in Hanover?

BARNES: Yes, not structurally. But a lot of trees. You know the Bema. That had a lot of trees that were wiped out.

DONIN: Oh, what a shame. I didn't realize that.

BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: Yes. That big open space up there in the park.

BARNES: Up near the tower.

DONIN: Yes. Exactly. Exactly. So what were your—the beginning years there before the US got involved in the war—

BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: —was it a pretty, did you consider it a pretty sort of traditional undergraduate experience?

BARNES: Very, I think.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

BARNES: I loved it.

DONIN: Did you?

BARNES: Oh, sure.

DONIN: Did you join a fraternity?

BARNES: Yes. Delta Tau Delta.

DONIN: Uh-huh. Was that the same fraternity your father was in?

BARNES: Yes. As a matter of fact, it was. [Laughs]

DONIN: Uh-huh. Great, great. And do you remember what dormitory you lived in when you first got here?

BARNES: Yes, North Fayerweather.

DONIN: Oh, isn't that funny.

BARNES: I was there the first three years. And then after the war we were in Middle Fayerweather.

DONIN: Oh, that's so funny. Yes. That's where this photograph is from.

BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: Yes. Uh-huh. So let's talk a little bit about joining the service.

BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: You did it even before Pearl Harbor then.

BARNES: Oh, yes, yes. I was commissioned before Pearl Harbor. In fact, I had my orders to Pearl Harbor. My folks were having a party for me, a farewell party. And someone rushed into the living room and said, "The Japanese have bombed Pearl Harbor." Most of us didn't even know what Pearl Harbor was. I knew about Honolulu, but I

didn't know about Pearl Harbor. So that shook the party up a little bit.

DONIN: I should say.

BARNES: And the next day—I already had my tickets—I got on a train with a fellow named Fred Bush. He was from Columbia University. And we got on the train the next day and headed out. And I got to Pearl Harbor several weeks after the raid. But it was a sight you'll never forget. I'll tell you.

DONIN: The damage must have been just awful.

BARNES: It was horrible.

DONIN: Yes.

BARNES: The thing I remember most, though, as we came in, there was this little scow maybe about 40 feet, very low freeboard; do you know that term?

DONIN: No.

BARNES: Well, the bow was just at the level of the water, and it was going back and forth and back and forth. And it was scooping the oil off the harbor. There was about an inch of oil in the harbor. And it was flying an American flag very proudly. And on its quarterboard it said, "USS Juicy Lucy." And my thought was, by God, we're going to win this war with that thing. [Laughter]

DONIN: That's great. So when you left Dartmouth, you already had three years under your belt?

BARNES: I had three years, yes.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

BARNES: I took my midshipmen cruise in the fall of '40.

DONIN: What does that mean, midshipmen cruise.

BARNES: Well, we had to go for a month on a sort of introductory cruise. I went on the—what was it?

MRS. BARNES: That was when you went to Turkey, wasn't it?

BARNES: No, no. That was years later. No. My memory is getting a little bad.

DONIN: It'll come to you. That's all right. But this was somewhere in the States, right that you did the cruise?

BARNES: Yes. We embarked in Norwalk.

DONIN: Oh, yes, yes.

BARNES: Norfolk. Excuse me. Yes.

DONIN: Norfolk, Virginia. Uh-huh.

BARNES: And went out to see for about....

DONIN: They test you?

BARNES: You just got the feel of things.

DONIN: Yes, yes.

BARNES: We were in the little jumpsuit, not the officer's uniform. You know the sailors?

DONIN: Right, right. So you didn't do any of your training at Dartmouth though.

BARNES: No.

DONIN: I mean there was training going on at Dartmouth, I guess, starting in about '43. But you were—

BARNES: That's right. No, I was before that.

DONIN: And you did your training you said in New York?

BARNES: Yes. The USS Prairie State.

DONIN: Oh, Prairie State.

BARNES: It was an old Spanish-American War battleship that they had stripped of all the guns and superstructure and so forth. And we

had several hundred midshipmen aboard that thing. We were there for three months.

DONIN: Any other Dartmouth people there with you?

BARNES: Oh, yes, there were quite a number from my class. Yes. Four or five anyway.

DONIN: Oh, nice. Yes. So how did you leave it with Dartmouth when you left. You had an agreement that—

BARNES: Well, at that point, before the war started, the deal was that after our midshipmen summer training, we'd go back to Dartmouth and finish up school. And you were obliged then to go on active duty after your college degree. But when I was commissioned, which was around September 7th, or something like that, there was no inactive duty. So we went right on active duty.

DONIN: So what was the College's reaction? I guess they couldn't do anything about it.

BARNES: Oh, I think they thought it would be a patriotic thing.

DONIN: Yes.

BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: Yes. Do you have any memories of President Hopkins at that point?

BARNES: No, I don't really. He was sort of a remote character in my life, yes.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. But he was very supportive obviously of all this effort. And a lot of people credit him with sort of keeping Dartmouth going during the war years.

BARNES: That's probably so. Yes. They later had one of the other programs of the Navy training.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

BARNES: Naval officers up there. That was after my time.

DONIN: After your time, yes. So let's jump over your military service. So in the fall of '45, when the war was over, you get to finally come back.

BARNES: I went back to Dartmouth. Went to the Tuck School.

DONIN: Oh, I see.

BARNES: And finally got my degree, of course.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

BARNES: As well as my MBA.

DONIN: And you planned to do Tuck before you joined the Navy when you started?

BARNES: Yes, I had hopes of it. Yes.

DONIN: Yes, yes. Now tell me how Mrs. Barnes got into the picture. Where did she fit into this?

BARNES: Mrs. Barnes?

DONIN: Yes.

BARNES: Oh. We were high school sweethearts.

DONIN: Oh, nice. And when did you get married?

MRS. BARNES: November 8, '42.

BARNES: Yes.

MRS. BARNES: Swift, we had it all arranged, that if I received a telegram with a certain message, that meant—

BARNES: Coded.

MRS. BARNES: That meant come to San Francisco. Because, of course, everything that he would have sent, you know, saying I'm arriving, so forth.

BARNES: I couldn't say that anyway.

MRS. BARNES: He couldn't say it. So one Sunday afternoon, I'll never forget it, I got a telegram: "Come immediately." Whatever it was. And of course I

knew that he was going to come home on leave because we had planned it. And I guess we were engaged, weren't we?

BARNES: Yes.

MRS. BARNES: Swift always says that he had to—my mother. What was the story you always said? Oh, you're— Well, anyway—

BARNES: Hey, I've got the bad memory.

MRS. BARNES: I don't think we were officially engaged without advice from his mother, who thought that would be the thing to do.

BARNES: Right.

MRS. BARNES: Because I was having a good time. Swift always said before he left, he said, "I don't want you to stop dating. I want you to—"

BARNES: The most popular girl in the town.

MRS. BARNES: I want you to be sure I'm the one. So I took him at his word. His mother wasn't very happy about it. But anyway, so we went out. And actually she went with me. My mother couldn't go. And Swift had two elderly great-aunts that lived right in the city. So we went up to their apartment, Ruth, and we looked around. And the first church spire we saw, the nearest one, was where we were married, which was St. Luke's. I think we had five days, didn't we there?

BARNES: About that.

MRS. BARNES: And then we went back East.

BARNES: My father was ill.

MRS. BARNES: His father was ill. And of course he wanted to do it. And you had five days at home maybe. And then he and I turned around and went back to San Francisco. And he left the day after we got there. It was a three-week leave that he had.

BARNES: What was it? Four times on a train transcontinental.

DONIN: Crossing the country.

BARNES: I have a fond memory of that. We'd go through on the train, go through Kansas, let's say, some very rural mid-American state, and we'd go through these little towns. The train would stop for about 15 minutes, and the ladies all had card tables out with cookies and—

MRS. BARNES: Iced drinks and sandwiches.

BARNES: It was really quite moving.

MRS. BARNES: Even now I get a little tear thinking.

DONIN: You mean welcoming the soldiers and feeding them.

BARNES: It was for the military people.

MRS. BARNES: Yes, feeding them.

DONIN: That's wonderful. And I assume you got to travel for free, I would think. Yes?

BARNES: No.

DONIN: No!

BARNES: No, I don't think so. No I know it.

DONIN: You had to pay.

BARNES: But my ship had been hit in a night engagement in Guadalcanal. Do you know that term? Guadalcanal.

DONIN: Yes, yes.

BARNES: So we went back to Pearl Harbor for repairs. We were there about three months. But it was during that period that I was able to get leave and send a message to Ginny.

MRS. BARNES: They put I don't know how many officers' numbers in a hat, in the captain's hat or something, shook it up, and they'd pick like say six or whatever. And Swift was one of the first to get leave.

DONIN: Lucky.

MRS. BARNES: That was lucky, yes.

DONIN: So what were you doing? I mean that first year that he was on duty, what did you—

MRS. BARNES: I was working in a, I won't say —

BARNES: -- She was Rosie the riveter.

MRS. BARNES: I was Rosie the riveter. Actually I think your father knew somebody that ran this little factory that was making things for the war. And so I went there, and I had my goggles, and I soldered little things. [Laughs] It was very brief actually. And then after, I don't know when it was, how long I was back East, but then Swift was transferred to the Alaskan Theater.

DONIN: Ah.

MRS. BARNES: And so I moved to Seattle because I figured I'd have a better chance of seeing him and actually you came down five times during that—

BARNES: -- Really? I don't remember.

MRS. BARNES: Yes, you did. Five times during that year.

BARNES: That was before my stroke. I don't remember.

MRS. BARNES: Yes. And it wasn't any length of time. It might have been two or three days. But at least we saw each other.

BARNES: When I say stroke, I haven't had a stroke.

MRS. BARNES: Then he was transferred back to the South Pacific. So I moved down to Coronado, you know, off San Diego. And that was wonderful. I loved Seattle, too. In fact we briefly considered staying in Seattle after the war. But at that time it was awfully far from New Jersey where we lived.

DONIN: You both grew up in New Jersey? Uh-huh.

MRS. BARNES: And then, I don't know, I guess at some point— Well, I had a wonderful time in Coronado actually. I lived in the home of a Navy wife. And there was another—had Chuck and Mary? He'd gone to

Dartmouth, too, hadn't he? And so his wife was there. So it was fine.

BARNES: Chuck Franz. I don't know if he's alive now.

MRS. BARNES: No, neither of them are alive now. But at any rate. So then I guess I went to Mexico with two other military wives.

BARNES: Tell her about the chickens.

MRS. BARNES: No, I'm not going to tell her about that. And just because it was something to do. And while I was in Mexico, the war ended. And my mother had come out. She was with me for a brief visit. And she and I went back East. And it wasn't long after that that you came home.

DONIN: So when you finished your duty, you headed back home? And you realized you were going to have to go with him up to Hanover, right?

MRS. BARNES: Oh, sure.

DONIN: Because he was going to go back and finish school.

MRS. BARNES: Oh, sure.

DONIN: And did you have to make arrangements to re-register or anything?

BARNES: Well, yes. But there was no problem getting in.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

BARNES: And they assigned us an apartment in Middle Fayer, which was wonderful. It was a cute little thing.

DONIN: Yes. I guess they retrofitted some of those dorm rooms to make them into—

BARNES: Oh, yes. A whole building was.

DONIN: Made for married couples, right?

BARNES: Yes, that's right. Yes.

DONIN: And so you were going to Thayer?

BARNES: No, Tuck.

DONIN: I'm sorry, Tuck. And what did the women do?

MRS. BARNES; Well, I had three jobs.

DONIN: Did you!

MRS. BARNES: I did. In the morning—

BARNES: We had to eat.

MRS. BARNES: We got \$90 a month from the government. So I babysat in the morning from nine to twelve. I always remember it because it was the worst job.

DONIN: [Laughs] Oh, dear.

MRS. BARNES: And then from twelve to five or maybe one to five, I must have had an hour's lunch, it was just I worked down on the main street in a little dress shop right next to the inn. And it's just been gone for years. I remember it was run by a family called Margolese. And it was okay. And then at night I worked at the Tuck Library.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

MRS. BARNES: So it was a busy time.

DONIN: You were the breadwinner.

MRS. BARNES: Yes, I was.

DONIN: Yes, yes.

BARNES: See, I've got a big picture of Ginny at the desk in the library there.

DONIN: Oh, do you? Oh, nice.

MRS. BARNES: So anyway. But it was all worth it. And then actually—I shouldn't go on about anyplace but Dartmouth—but when we stayed up there, I guess—was it one summer or two summers?

BARNES: One, I think. I don't know.

MRS. BARNES: It was maybe only one. But we lived at Sachem Village. We rented a little place.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

MRS. BARNES: And Swift was a garbage man all summer.

BARNES: An iceman I would say.

MRS. BARNES: Oh, but you collected the garbage, too.

DONIN: Was this for the college or for the town?

BARNES: It was for a classmate of mine who had this little garbage and ice delivery business.

DONIN: [Laughter] Good for him. Very entrepreneurial of him.

BARNES: Yes, yes.

MRS. BARNES: Yes. And then we finally did leave because Swift briefly attended Harvard Law. And I think you really weren't keen on that. But we always—at least it was my impression that his father just thought it would be wonderful to have a lawyer son.

BARNES: He got one, but it wasn't me.

MRS. BARNES: He was very, very, very ill, and he died in the spring of your first year there. And so then you just didn't go back. So....

DONIN: So what was the campus—When you came back, you had a new president. It was John Dickey, wasn't it?

BARNES: That's right. Yes.

DONIN: In the fall of '45.

BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: Did you meet him?

BARNES: I can't recall that I met him directly, no.

DONIN: Do you have impressions of what he was like?

BARNES: What he was like?

DONIN: Very young, I understand.

BARNES: He was. I don't know. He was sort of an austere character. Actually you were just as well off if you weren't meeting him.

DONIN: Oh, isn't that interesting. [Laughter]

BARNES: I was a real Joe College guy in my sophomore year until I got a little note from the dean saying I should shape up or leave.

DONIN: Oh. Now this must have been Dean Neidlinger? Was it Neidlinger?

BARNES: Yes, it was. Yes.

MRS. BARNES: Pudge.

DONIN: Pudge Neidlinger, yes. I gather he was a fairly scary kind of person, too.

BARNES: Yes, he was good. I knew his brother who was a great Yale football player.

DONIN: Oh, interesting.

BARNES: They were from East Orange, New Jersey, and we were from New Jersey, too. In fact his brother gave me his Yale sweater with a big Y on it.

MRS. BARNES: Oh, really!

DONIN: Big Y. That's great. Isn't that nice.

MRS. BARNES: Well, I remember Pudge from one of the most awful evenings that I ever spent in my life. We all went out—he had a group of students and wives to his home. And we ended up playing some game.

BARNES: Where you had to act out these words.

DONIN: Oh, that's—what do they call that game? [Phone rings] Do you want to answer that?

MRS. BARNES: I will because.... Yes. It might be.... Well, whatever it was, I couldn't do it.

BARNES: Call them back, Sweetie.

MRS. BARNES: Yes, I will.

DONIN: Okay. I'll just keep the tape running. So do you feel like your experience when you came back from the war, and you were a veteran—

BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: Were you—You must have felt a little like a fish out of water because your classmates had all graduated already.

BARNES: I think—that's probably so. But I wasn't terribly conscious of it. But I finally got out in '47. But they put me in my original class for all the records, class of '42.

DONIN: It didn't bother you.

BARNES: No, no. You know when you're that young, [laughs] you take it as it comes.

DONIN: Exactly.

BARNES: But it was a wonderful time. I worked hard at Tuck School. And they were a great two years.

DONIN: Do you think you were a better student when you came back?

BARNES: Oh, yes, much better. I graduated with distinction or something.

DONIN: Well, done!

BARNES: Back in the old days....

MRS. BARNES: Well, you know, he was a member of the Barbary Coast.

DONIN: Oh, yes, the jazz band.

- MRS. BARNES: Yes. And so that was his main love, I think, during your sophomore year or whatever.
- DONIN: And were you a better student because you were older or married or liked the subject better or all of those?
- BARNES: I suppose just maybe four years older. I was no longer a Joe College guy.
- MRS. BARNES: He'd seen a lot of grief.
- DONIN: Yes. It probably matured you in many ways.
- BARNES: Oh, yes. Sure. It must have.
- DONIN: Yes.
- BARNES: I wasn't conscious of it. But I enjoyed the Tuck School, and I worked much harder than my first years at Dartmouth. I was just playing in the band and that sort of thing.
- DONIN: Did you have the same—I mean your social life must have changed when you came back and you had a wife with you.
- BARNES: Oh, yes.
- DONIN: Were you hanging out at the fraternity?
- BARNES: Yes. Let's see. I was Delta Tau Delta, which is no longer—it's Bones Gate now. And I was the typical sophomore, active in it.
- MRS. BARNES: But not after.
- BARNES: Not after the war. In fact after the war it looked sort of silly to me. [Laughs]
- DONIN: Yes. So what was your social life like when you—
- BARNES: Well, it was mostly with others in the Middle Fayer. The Tuck School, too.
- DONIN: Uh-huh.

BARNES: Completely.

DONIN: Married couples.

BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: Right.

MRS. BARNES: And we really did. Now this Pat, it was she that called, she said, "I'm home." And I said, Well, I'll have you call her when you're through. And she is so excited. I think she can't wait.

DONIN: Oh, good.

BARNES: Her second son had polio when he was—

MRS. BARNES: Well, he was about four or five. Yes.

BARNES: And the poor guy has been hopelessly crippled ever since.

MRS. BARNES: But he went to Dartmouth.

BARNES: But he went to Dartmouth.

MRS. BARNES: And he graduated.

BARNES: Mentally he was fine. But he can't walk from here to there. He has a little van with all sorts of special things.

DONIN: Oh, yes, that he operates with his hands.

BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: Yes. Isn't that great.

BARNES: Yes, it really is great.

MRS. BARNES: Oh, she'll tell you. We won't talk anymore about that because his illness really changed her life.

DONIN: I'm sure.

MRS. BARNES: And for the better actually. It ended up that way. So, you'll enjoy...

- BARNES: Well, I wouldn't say better.
- MRS. BARNES: Well, I mean, she I think got a lot out of what happened over the years. And she just—she's just amazing really.
- DONIN: Great. Well, that's a good story. I'll look forward to—
- BARNES: I don't know if we're rambling too much for you or not.
- DONIN: No, this is wonderful. It's perfect.
- MRS. BARNES: I mean when we look back, you know, we'd sort of exchange suppers with other—you couldn't get too many people. And I remember I was always asked to make my famous chocolate cake which was out of a box. [Laughter] I remember. Then I used to make that. It was seven-minute frosting or something. It was in whatever that cookbook, Rombauer, *The Joy of Cooking*.
- DONIN: *The Joy of Cooking*, yes.
- MRS. BARNES: And that I remember. And then sometimes pouring the little leftovers down the toilet and whatnot. [Laughs] And, you know, it was a very different life. I did not go to college and it was interesting. And we just met a lot of people. We were all in the same boat.
- BARNES: And with a certain group we remained friends to the end.
- DONIN: Oh, nice.
- BARNES: Our best friend was a flyer during the war, and he always had a plane.
- DONIN: Oh!
- BARNES: And we were down in Vero Beach, Florida, this year, as with other years. They came to visit us, Peggy and Dick. And we spent a weekend together, I think. He went back to Morristown, where they lived. Then a few days later he was going to Boston. So he got in his plane.
- MRS. BARNES: With Peggy.

- BARNES: With Peggy. They were over about Danbury, Connecticut, with dense clouds and so on. He approached the field, and they said, "You're too low." Or too high or something. So he went around and crashed right into the hill. Both of them were killed.
- MRS. BARNES: Yes, instantly.
- BARNES: He had spent about five years in the Air Force. He was a wonderful pilot.
- MRS. BARNES: In fact he was always telling me how to land his plane. And I remember out in the hall just thinking, Oh, Dick, not again. Don't tell me. He was really—he loved flying, and he just thought everybody else would love it, too, I guess.
- DONIN: Right.
- MRS. BARNES: But that was a real tragedy. But on the other hand, you know, they went together. In fact when I told Pat about it, because I called her, she said, "But, Ginny, they had had each other." And as Swift said, "They must have known this is it." Because he was so experienced and whatnot.
- DONIN: A sad story.
- BARNES: Yes.
- MRS. BARNES: Yes. But they were, yes, I'd say they were probably—they and the Careys—were probably our closest friends. And then the Fieldsteels. And I can remember Joyce, you know. She was terrified of cats. And we'd have to line up. There was a grocery store way down on the right as you go down. Remember that big grocery store? It's been gone forever. And we had, what do you call them? Not coupons.
- DONIN: Didn't you have ration cards?
- MRS. BARNES: Ration—ration/ration. Yes, for butter and—
- BARNES: It was the co-op.
- MRS. BARNES: I don't think it was the co-op, Honey. It was way farther down.

- DONIN: Farther down there was like a Grand Union or something, wasn't there? It wasn't even called that then.
- BARNES: I think it was the co-op which occupied the space the bookstore has now moved into.
- MRS. BARNES: No, dear. It was much farther down. But that's all right. At any rate, and Joyce would—we'd like up to get our rations. And she would just—Well, if she even saw a cat, I always remember that about her. Yes. And she was a very funny gal. I don't know if she ever came out, if you interviewed her with some of her comments. But she had everybody in stitches all the time. And the funniest one of all was she was always angry at Bob when they were in bed because he slept near the window, and she said he inhaled all the air in the room. [Laughter] That was her favorite story.
- DONIN: That's great. So your social group wasn't really—it wasn't determined by your class. It was really who was living in the dorm.
- BARNES: That's right.
- MRS. BARNES: That's right.
- BARNES: There were a few from my class. But the others were....
- MRS. BARNES: And Dick was—
- BARNES: He was class of '40.
- DONIN: And do you feel—Did you have the sense that when you came back and you were a veteran, that you were accorded respect? Because by '45 they were beginning to take traditional civilian undergraduates at that point. Were you accorded respect?
- BARNES: I don't think anything strong. I think I was proud that I had spent five years in the Navy and done my duty. But it's nothing I dwelled on. Never thought about much.
- DONIN: And so the professors didn't distinguish you from traditional civilian students in any way?
- BARNES: No. But I think most of the people I associated with—well, I was at Tuck to begin with—were military people.

- DONIN: Yes. There were so many of you.
- BARNES: Yes.
- DONIN: So many of you. And some of them I understand.... There were students there who had done their military training, either in the V-12 or the V-5 program that was being run at Dartmouth.
- BARNES: Yes.
- DONIN: And when their service was finished, they wanted to come back to Dartmouth and graduate rather than go back to the school where they had originated.
- BARNES: Oh, really? I can see that. I always loved Dartmouth myself.
- DONIN: So they applied to become members of whatever class they chose.
- BARNES: I never knew anyone with that situation. But I'm sure there were some.
- DONIN: There were some. I don't know how big the numbers were. So everybody—do you think the school did a pretty good job of sort of, you know, dealing with this very really not homogeneous group of students. You had people that were—
- BARNES: I think they did an excellent job.
- DONIN: They did? Yes.
- BARNES: Yes, absolutely.
- DONIN: They had old guys like you; you were two or three or four years older than the traditional undergrads.
- BARNES: No, I thought it was flawless.
- DONIN: Hard work for a new president. I mean here was John Dickey trying to—
- BARNES: Yes, I imagine I underestimated the difficulties. But they did a wonderful job.

DONIN: And I gather he ended up having to, in response to sort of pressure from some of the more mature undergraduates, shall we call you—

BARNES: Thank you.

DONIN: -- Who were already of drinking age and had been to war and had learned to drink responsibly, they wanted some sort of a pub or a bar where they could meet that was different than going into the basement of the fraternities. And I gather President Dickey actually started a bar, I think in the basement of what they now call Collis, you know, the dining hall.

BARNES: That could be.

DONIN: Any memory of that?

BARNES: No.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

BARNES: I have no recollection of that.

DONIN: I guess there was an issue between making the alcohol available to the kids in the fraternities versus you more mature, married veterans.

BARNES: No, I don't remember that at all.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

BARNES: I was on a small committee that Neidlinger put together of the returned veterans to sort of get our ideas out.

DONIN: Oh.

BARNES: Whether there should be drinking in fraternities or even whether they should get rid of the fraternities. I think they had hoped they could get rid of the fraternities.

DONIN: Even back then they were talking about that? Oh, interesting.

BARNES: Yes. Do they still talk about it?

DONIN: Oh, sure. It never goes away.

- BARNES: So my fraternity just changed names because the national requirements were no Blacks.
- DONIN: Oh, that's right, that's when that became an issue.
- BARNES: I wasn't very proud of that. But....
- DONIN: That was another initiative I think that President Dickey started, addressing that, the issue of the sort of quotas and that sort of thing.
- BARNES: Now I go up to Hanover, and I see more Blacks and Asiatics.
- DONIN: Well, it's a very diverse student body now.
- BARNES: It sure is.
- DONIN: Yes, yes. So what else can you— Did you have any memorable professors who made an impact on you? Either before you went to service or after?
- BARNES: Well, my first day in what is the course you take, everyone takes?
- DONIN: Was it freshman English?
- BARNES: Yes. No. Something worldwide studies or something.
- DONIN: It wasn't the Great Issues course?
- BARNES: Huh?
- DONIN: Was it the Great Issues course?
- BARNES: No.
- DONIN: No.
- BARNES: It was something more mundane than that. There was a professor Meneely. Do you know that name?
- DONIN: No. I'll have to look it up.

- BARNES: And the very first day—and this was late September 1940; no, '38—he stood up before us and said, “Gentlemen, do you realize that we’re going to be in a world war within a year?” He was pretty close to it, wasn’t he?
- DONIN: He was right. Oh, interesting.
- BARNES: He became president of Wheaton College later.
- DONIN: Oh. I’ll have to look him up.
- BARNES: Meneely I think it was. And Ginny and I were coming back. The last thing we did before I got a job and made a living, we spent two months traveling the country, Mexico and so on.
- DONIN: Oh.
- BARNES: And on our way back from the West Coast, we left Yellowstone, and we were barreling along this highway and we passed one guy sort of hitchhiking. And I passed him. Then about a mile down the road there’s another guy hitchhiking. And I went down about a half mile, turned around and went back to him. And here was this guy Meneely, Meneely’s son, who had been our laundry boy in Hanover. He was a student here. Can you imagine that? And he didn’t even have a dime.
- MRS. BARNES: And we were traveling on our usual—
- BARNES: No dime.
- DONIN: A tight budget, right.
- MRS. BARNES: So it was great for both of us because he helped pay—we split the gas.
- DONIN: Yes, yes.
- BARNES: And we just drove and drove and drove. We didn’t even have to put up in a hotel. We left him in Toledo where I had an uncle and had to borrow \$25 to get home.
- MRS. BARNES: I said, “He looks so familiar.” And of course it turned out—I remembered him.

DONIN: What are the chances of that happening?

BARNES: Can you imagine that? Yes.

DONIN: That is amazing. That is amazing.

BARNES: Somewhere in Wyoming it was.

DONIN: Incredible! And he must have been delighted to find you as well.

MRS. BARNES: Oh, I'm sure. [Laughs]

DONIN: Let's see. What have I not asked you? I'm just looking over my list of questions here.

BARNES: I was a member of the Palaeopitus. Do they still have that there?

DONIN: Oh, yes. Sure. Terrific.

BARNES: Unfortunately I went to war.

DONIN: Yes.

BARNES: So I never participated except for the original ceremony up on the hill, you broke your pipe.

DONIN: Is that what you did? Yes.

BARNES: Yes. Then I went in the service.

DONIN: And when you came back you didn't get involved in that.

BARNES: No. No.

DONIN: No. Did you do any kind of athletic stuff when you were there?

BARNES: [Laughs] Nothing much really. I was on the Gym Team, but—

DONIN: Oh, yes.

BARNES: I wasn't particularly good. I did a lot of music.

DONIN: Yes. Barbary Coast, yes.

- BARNES: Yes. And I was the student leader of the band.
- DONIN: Oh, were you! Oh, great. Yes.
- BARNES: And the Barbary Coast, which I loved.
- MRS. BARNES: Tell her about your—when you wanted to sign up for the glee club.
- BARNES: Oh, yes. [Laughter] Yes, well, I tried out for the band, you know.
- DONIN: Yes.
- BARNES: They had auditions, and I didn't think I'd done well. So I thought, geez, I've got to get into something with music. So I walked across the hall and the name will come. The choral director at the time, and he had me go up and down the scale several times. And finally he folded his arms, and he said, "Barnes, did you say you played the trumpet?" And I said, "Yes, sir." And he said, "I'd stick to it." [Laughter]
- DONIN: Aww.
- MRS. BARNES: And in the meantime, many, many years—I mean I can't even count them—he has been in choirs ever since. And has gone abroad with these choirs performing.
- DONIN: Oh, yes.
- MRS. BARNES: But as he said, he's a tenor, and they're always in demand.
- DONIN: Oh, interesting.
- MRS. BARNES: So he doesn't think he has a particularly good voice. But he reads beautifully and so he—anyway. He just really retired this year from singing because he's a little deaf and couldn't always hear what was said. But he's just loved it.
- DONIN: And, you know, the Barbary Coast is still going strong.
- BARNES: I think so, yes.
- DONIN: Yes. We go to their concerts quite often.
- BARNES: Really.

DONIN: Yes, yes, they're terrific.

BARNES: I always yearned to get in the Coast. A friend, a long arm's length friend, from Maplewood, New Jersey, where we lived, had played in the Coast. He'd been in the class of '38, I think.

MRS. BARNES: But then they stopped going. They used to go on European tours.

DONIN: Yes.

MRS. BARNES: They stopped.

BARNES: The year before I would have gone, but the war had just started.

DONIN: Yes. A lot of things stopped during the war.

MRS. BARNES: So music has been a big part of Swift's life. Tell her your greatest honor when you were how old, 11 or something, in New Jersey.

DONIN: Oh, yes. Tell us.

BARNES: Which of my great? Oh, I think I was an 11-year-old piano champion of New Jersey.

DONIN: Were you really! [Laughter] That's phenomenal.

MRS. BARNES: That is. And he's played the piano almost ever since. In fact ours now is down in the cellar.

BARNES: I'll give you a good piano if you want. [Laughter]

MRS. BARNES: We have to get rid of it.

DONIN: That's wonderful.

MRS. BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: And that's a real skill that lasts you like—I mean you're perfect evidence of the fact that it's a skill you can take with you for the rest of your life.

MRS. BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: And use.

BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: Yes.

MRS. BARNES: Right.

BARNES: Well, I later played the trumpet.

DONIN: And so that's what you played in the Barbary Coast.

BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: Yes.

MRS. BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: Great, great.

MRS. BARNES: But he played the trumpet all through high school and made money; they used to go on gigs.

BARNES: I remember one night I got the biggest tip of the night, and that represented about half of what he earned. A \$5 tip.

DONIN: Wow!

BARNES: Wow. That was—I almost retired then. [Laughter]

DONIN: That's a lot back in those days.

MRS. BARNES: Well, tell Mary about your summer job up in Hanover when you were working for that ski pole company.

BARNES: Oh, John Piane.

DONIN: Oh, I know the name Piane, sure.

BARNES: Well they owned the Co-op.

DONIN: Oh, the Co-op.

- BARNES: Well, John was in my father's class, and I got to know him. But this first summer after the war, I worked in his ski pole factory.
- DONIN: Oh, interesting.
- BARNES: And I found— And he wanted to pay me only 50 cents an hour. But I held out for 55 cents. [Laughter] Good old John. And I sat on a bench, and all day long, eight hours, I took a clip with one hand and another thing like that, and stamped. [Laughter]
- DONIN: That was your job.
- BARNES: That was my job.
- MRS. BARNES: Poor Swift. He came home one day tired and whatnot. And I had been—
- BARNES: The first day, I think.
- MRS. BARNES: I had been at an auction with another wife.
- BARNES: Pat Carey.
- DONIN: Oh.
- MRS. BARNES: Oh, no, it wasn't Pat.
- BARNES: Oh, it wasn't?
- MRS. BARNES: It was Corinne.
- BARNES: Oh, Corinne.
- MRS. BARNES: But anyway, at any rate, I came home, and I had bought all these things that I couldn't live without.
- BARNES: She had 12 volumes of the messages of the presidents. [Laughter] Just what I needed making 55 cents an hour.
- MRS. BARNES: Oh, poor Swift. That wasn't the day I bought the spinning wheel, was it?
- BARNES: Yes, it was. [Laughter]

MRS. BARNES: It was enormous. I've never seen anything as big in my life. Anyway, it was just silly. And he was okay about it. He never bawled me out or anything.

BARNES: What could I do? [Laughter] I married a nut.

DONIN: When you came back then, you stayed up there during the summers to work.

BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: And you were able to live in Fayerweather even though the school was not open?

BARNES: No, we went over to—

DONIN: We went to Sachem Village.

BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: Oh, you said that, yes.

MRS. BARNES: But I guess it was two summers because you worked for him one summer; that was the first. And the second summer I know you were an iceman and a garbage man. And the last thing he did on his last day of collecting garbage, he took—

BARNES: Oh, that dump; it was a good dump.

MRS. BARNES: He took off his shoes and just threw them into the dump with all the other stuff.

BARNES: Our dumpster was not one of these fancy things that go up like that.

DONIN: Yes.

BARNES: We'd get in the back of the thing and just wade through. [Laughter]

DONIN: Oh! No wonder you were glad to get rid of those shoes.

BARNES: Yes. Oh, boy! They were walking by themselves.

DONIN: Yes, yes. So Sachem Village was considered sort of the luxury accommodations.

MRS. BARNES: Upscale. Yes. Oh, it was fine. It was a little house really.

BARNES: Was it Sachem or Wigwam? It was the one over near the school.

MRS. BARNES: Well, we were Sachem.

DONIN: Wigwam, I guess, was a terrible place to live.

BARNES: Was it?

MRS. BARNES: We were at Sachem, I remember.

DONIN: Right.

BARNES: I remember I used to deliver ice to the Wells. He was a great skier, class of '38 or '37. And I delivered ice to them all summer. Eddie Wells.

MRS. BARNES: And was she the one who said be very careful and whatnot. Or that was someone else. Anyway. And they were big hunks of, you know, you had to carry them on your back.

BARNES: There was one woman on the road to Lebanon, a real fussbudget.

DONIN: Oh, dear.

BARNES: And the day I delivered ice, she'd have paper, a path of newspapers all the way from the door to the ice. So I had to walk in there with a hundred-pound piece of ice on my back, probably shaking or something, and I'd sort of turn my back to the icebox and was turning to push it, I'd done it a million times. And it slipped.

DONIN: Oh! On the newspaper.

BARNES: Yes. And I didn't slip, the ice slipped off, crashed into a million pieces.

DONIN: Oh!

BARNES: Oh, boy! I just said, "Well, I'm sorry ma'am." And took off. [Laughter] But let me... One more piece.

DONIN: Yes.

BARNES: Oh, never mind.

DONIN: No, tell me.

BARNES: No, I think Ginny told you.

MRS. BARNES: What was that, Honey?

BARNES: Wading and then taking my boots off on the last day and throwing them into the dump.

MRS. BARNES: Yes, yes, yes.

DONIN: Exactly, yes.

BARNES: But that dump is really a nice looking site now. They've covered it.

MRS. BARNES: Oh, very nice. Very nice. It's thriving, too.

DONIN: What about Tansi's?

BARNES: Oh, sure.

DONIN: This is the market that was down on Main Street, right?

MRS. BARNES: Right, right.

DONIN: What it just a green grocer?

BARNES: Actually I couldn't believe that Tansi's is gone, to tell you the truth. But this is the picture I saw in the *New York Times* sitting on the subway.

MRS. BARNES: Isn't that funny? Yes.

DONIN: People dressed so much better in those days than they do now. They're all dressed up.

MRS. BARNES: With bobby sox and the little...

BARNES: Oh, look at those bobby sox.

MRS. BARNES: And penny loafers and right. Yes.

DONIN: And look at these beautifully tailored slacks, these trousers that you've got on.

BARNES: Oh, my gosh! I don't think I've worn a tie since. [Laughter]

DONIN: Only to church, Honey.

BARNES: Huh?

MRS. BARNES: Only to church.

DONIN: Right. Exactly.

BARNES: That's good. You couldn't leave those—

DONIN: They're for you.

BARNES: Oh, how wonderful.

DONIN: If you really want good pictures, we can get you, you know, real black-and-white glossy. I mean these are just photocopies.

BARNES: Yes, I know.

DONIN: But I brought those just to show them to you. If you want, I can get you really glossy copies, you know, that you could put in a frame.

BARNES: Well, my son was the class of '73. Then I had a grandson who—he's been disinherited because he transferred to Harvard. But he's a brilliant student.

MRS. BARNES: He was cute, though, because he said—We were up there for parents' weekend or something the year he was there, and we went out to dinner—and he said, "Oh, Papa, I have this on my mind. But I've got to tell you. You're not going to be happy. But I'm transferring to Harvard." And the reason was that they have really an outstanding Asian program.

DONIN: Yes.

MRS. BARNES: And that's where his interests lie. And in fact he's just gotten a fellowship for a year. He graduates in June, and he has gotten this

scholarship—fellowship—and he’s going over to one of the universities for a year.

DONIN: Oh, how exciting!

BARNES: He’s already been there two four-month stints.

DONIN: Oh, abroad.

MRS. BARNES: Yes, to China. Other programs at Harvard.

BARNES: He hardly speaks English.

MRS. BARNES: I said to him—I write to him now— my favorite Mandarin grandson.

DONIN: Well, you know that part of the world is just exploding.

MRS. BARNES: Well, it’s got to be. Yes, it is. So we’d better adjust to it.

BARNES: When I was young, you always went to a French-speaking—I went over to France if you were doing anything.

DONIN: I know.

MRS. BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: But China is where it’s happening now. So he’s going to be very well qualified. Very well qualified.

MRS. BARNES: But he loved, Parker loved Hanover because he had grown up in New York City until he was about five, right in the city, and then San Francisco. So he wasn’t used to this open space and these lovely rolling hills. And he really hated to leave. But he—

BARNES: Well, it’s still a great town. We thought of retiring there. But I don’t know why we didn’t.

DONIN: Well, I was reading your description in your 50th reunion book, and you love sailing, right? And you need to be near the water.

BARNES: Yes.

MRS. BARNES: That’s right.

BARNES: Yes, that's right.

DONIN: It makes perfect sense. Hanover's completely landlocked.

BARNES: Well, that's right.

MRS. BARNES: Right, right. Yes.

DONIN: Let's see. I think we're done unless you can think of any more wonderful stories to tell me. [Laughter]

MRS. BARNES: Well, Pat will certainly. She'll have lots of things to tell you, too. It was a big occasion. Her daughter, Susan, first baby born.

DONIN: That's— Now where were they living? Were they also living in Fayerweather?

MRS. BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: Oh, great. Yes.

MRS. BARNES: We were all there together.

DONIN: There's a wonderful picture in the same file where your pictures are, there's a wonderful picture of the ice sculptures, you know, that they made during Homecoming. And outside of Wigwam one year—and I don't know if it was one of the years that you were there, outside of Wigwam the sculpture is this enormous stork holding a baby in its mouth.

MRS. BARNES: Oh, oh!

DONIN: And then the stork is surrounded by lots of little baby storks. [Laughter]

MRS. BARNES: Oh, how cute.

DONIN: I gather, you know, all these young married couples were coming back to campus, and they were just having babies like crazy.

MRS. BARNES: Yes, I guess.

BARNES: You know I don't remember that picture.

MRS. BARNES: I've never seen it.

DONIN: It's wonderful.

MRS. BARNES: No, I've never seen it.

DONIN: You know that's certainly—

BARNES: My freshman year they had this enormous high woodcock.

DONIN: Oh, that's great. That's great.

MRS. BARNES: And each of the dorms—well, in our dorm. All the dorms of course did their own sculptures and we had a picture of our sculpture. I don't remember even—

BARNES: I have a picture of it.

MRS. BARNES: Yes, well, I mean the same thing. Wonderful. But it was fun.

DONIN: I think the dorms back in those days had much more sort of pride about this competition.

MRS. BARNES: Yes. Right.

DONIN: And it's not so much done anymore.

BARNES: A little blasé now?

DONIN: Yes, a little bit, I'm afraid. So what was it like—How was your class unity affected by the fact that you guys were all coming and going at different times, and leaving and coming back, and graduating at different times. Did you actually participate in a graduation ceremony?

BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: But you were with like the class of '47.

BARNES: Class of '47.

DONIN: Right?

BARNES: 'Forty-seven.

DONIN: Uh-huh. Were you ever tempted to join the class of '47?

BARNES: No.

DONIN: You wanted to stay—

BARNES: I think you had your option. Because after the war most of my friends were not '42 anyway.

DONIN: Yes.

BARNES: There were a few of us. But later I think there'd be more. But I was one of the first people out of the service.

DONIN: Right. So you had equal numbers of friends in other classes obviously.

BARNES: Yes.

DONIN: Because '42s weren't there.

MRS. BARNES: That's right. Yes.

DONIN: Uh-huh. But since graduating—since you've graduated and gotten your degree, do you feel loyalty to the class of '42?

BARNES: To '42, yes.

MRS. BARNES: But it was really fun at the reunion because Swift said, gosh, I don't know there probably won't be that many there, you know, at our ages and whatnot. Well, gosh, you walked in the lobby in the Inn, and before we could even look around, two or three people, "Swift!" "Swift!" And it was wonderful.

BARNES: What?

MRS. BARNES: No, I'm telling Mary about our weekend up there. And it was very touching.

DONIN: Great.

MRS. BARNES: You know. And, oh, yes, this is his favorite cap now.

DONIN: Oh. I wish I had my camera.

MRS. BARNES: Yes. [Laughs]

DONIN: Well, I might have to come back with my camera when I come back in June and get that. There it is.

MRS. BARNES: I hope you will. He wears it a lot.

DONIN: Sure.

MRS. BARNES: And it was cute— What , Honey?

BARNES: No one says, “What is that D? What’s your hat?”

DONIN: They don’t recognize it?

BARNES: No.

DONIN: Isn’t that funny. It looks like the good old Dartmouth D to me.

BARNES: Yes.

MRS. BARNES: Yes, right. Well, anybody associated with it.

DONIN: Yes. Right. That’s great.

MRS. BARNES: But that was a wonderful weekend. It really was.

BARNES: Yes, it was. But there seemed like a lot—I think there are about 60 people left in our class.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

MRS. BARNES: Well, I think there were many more than you thought there would be.

BARNES: Yes.

[End of Interview]