

Dartmouth College Oral History Project
The War Years at Dartmouth
Interview with Eric '44 and Joan Barradale
By Mary Donin
June 10, 2008

DONIN: How is it you ended up coming to Dartmouth as an undergraduate?

BARRADALE: During the Great Depression, my parents were not able to keep a job—my father—any one town during the mid-thirties and late-thirties—1930s—and, as a result, it was decided that I'd been to enough grade schools over the past six years that I'd better get to one school and stay in it for more than one year. My aunt and uncle had left New Jersey and bought 200 acres of upland pastures and woods in Guilford, Vermont, and restored an old 1800 farmhouse. My sister and I were invited to live with them, so they became our surrogate parents. They were wonderful people, both my parents and my surrogate parents, and they'd been in Switzerland two winters skiing and had started to make some trails on that property in Guilford, Vermont. I went to grade school in Brattleboro and then Brattleboro High School, and my aunt and uncle taught my sister and me how to ski downhill—"downhill"—very different from what we have today on our slopes. We started a ski team at Brattleboro High School. We were active in sports and in daily things that people do at high school levels. With a class of 125, it isn't hard to find things to do and enjoy life. So, Dartmouth was my first choice far, far away, if I could get in. And apparently my grades were adequate, and I had the nice letters of introduction, including Fred Harris, who started the Outing Club at Dartmouth and all over the country in the class of 1911. I came here really feeling like a farm boy, and not very worldly at all, and didn't know quite what I was going to be able to cope with or not cope with. But I'll stay off things here. Where do you want me to go from here? Am I doing what you—

DONIN: Yeah, it's perfect. How is it that you focused on Dartmouth alone? How did you know about it?

BARRADALE: Well, I knew about it because I'd skied against a lot of Dartmouth skiers when I was in high school and they were in college, and I'd come up every weekend and ski at Stowe or out at Cemetery Hill and state championships at the adult level. As a result, I just knew these people and knew they were good skiers, and wanted to see if I couldn't learn a little from them.

DONIN: Sounds like you were a pretty good skier yourself. You went pretty fast.

BARRADALE: Well, as a high school-aged racer, I was a number-one adult racer: class A, so-called. And it was all in the east. I never skied anywhere else in those years. I did four events and I was captain of the freshman team at Dartmouth. I played a lot of tennis. Joan and I skied and played tennis together in Brattleboro. I captained the freshman tennis squad at college. I was not a good athlete, but I worked hard at it.

DONIN: Well, you were clearly very successful. So, you were familiar with Dartmouth before you actually matriculated, then.

BARRADALE: Yes. I must say I think I was more impressed with the athletics than I was with the academics [laughter], but I learned quickly that that was not the way to go.

DONIN: Well, that's age-appropriate, I think.

BARRADALE: Well, I was summoned in to the freshman dean and told: "Mr. Barradale, you are here to get an education." [Laughter]

DONIN: Now, let's see. The freshman dean then was Mr. Strong?

BARRADALE: Dean Strong. A terribly nice man and a Vermonter, from around Woodstock.

DONIN: Oh, I didn't know that. Is that right?

BARRADALE: Yes, yes.

DONIN: It's nice you had—

BARRADALE: A very nice gentleman and he was very nice to me. Everyone was very nice to me.

DONIN: Do you have memories of matriculating and having your card signed by President Hopkins? I guess everybody went into Parkhurst Hall and lined up?

- BARRADALE: Yes, it was sort of a mass thing so that it wasn't all that personal, but it was a nice touch. Believe me, that president of the college had a nice touch, terribly nice touch. I'll get into that later.
- DONIN: Good, good. So you arrived on campus. Where were you as a freshman? What dorm were you in?
- BARRADALE: I was in Richardson Hall. I was in a room with another roommate, Gordon Van den Noort, who was a son of a minister from Maine, and he and his father had decided that I must be black because my middle initials were G. W. and they stood for George Washington. Is this the sort of claptrap you want? [Laughter]
- DONIN: Were there any black members of the class of '44?
- BARRADALE: Yes, there were three or four as I remember, yes. Gordon and I got along very well. He was very much of a student and I was not that heavily inclined, but we had a good relationship. But, in my sophomore year, I lived with—also in Richardson, in a nicer room—with Phillip Puchner, who was also a skier from Wisconsin and we hit it off pretty well together. We were not socially active, but we were good friends and we had mutual interests, and we still do.
- DONIN: Oh, isn't that great.
- BARRADALE: He lives—he did all sorts of things at Sun Valley and built up from minding trail to in the summer, grooming it, and then in the winter he was on the ski patrol, and then he got onto teaching professional skiing. But he had a degree of engineering here and he'd come back after the war, having served in the 10th Mountain Division in Alaska, and then a foot soldier right up the boot of Italy. He became a well-known and good citizen of Sun Valley, both with the skiing and with his technical training, and he's a very nice gentleman. He's done more ski marathons than any other person I can possibly think of who's an American citizen. The [inaudible] in Wisconsin he went to early on and he kept it up all his life.
- DONIN: His lifelong—
- BARRADALE: It's a nice goal he's had.
- DONIN: Yeah. So, during your sophomore year did you decide to try to rush a fraternity? Were they doing...

BARRADALE: Yes, a fraternity. I was a legacy from my uncle—my surrogate father, if you will. He was Canadian and he was a Deke up at [unclear] College. So, I became a Deke here, too.

DONIN: Oh, nice.

BARRADALE: And I'll have some comments on that later on.

DONIN: Okay, or do it now, whichever you'd prefer. This is very open-ended.

BARRADALE: I have a chronology here, if you're interested in—

DONIN: Oh, good. We can do it chronologically, sure.

BARRADALE: I don't care how we do it.

DONIN: I want to make sure we get all that included, though, so let's not leave anything out.

BARRADALE: All right. So, yes, and I'd been a vigilante and was kind of interested, active in certain things, but mainly in sporting and I didn't get into the academic extracurricular activities very much. C student, and didn't have any particular idea of a major and didn't know quite what I wanted to do with myself, and had summer jobs that were farming, if you will, for a Polish farmer. He worked the tail off of us. [Laughter] It was good for us, you know. May I go through this little thing?

DONIN: Absolutely.

BARRADALE: The college showed great compassion, appreciation, cooperation, understanding and helpfulness to those who returned to the college to finish their degrees after post-World War II. A few personal vignettes and opinions might be illustrative of what I'm trying to say here. In December of '41, Pearl Harbor Day, I came and it was a gloomy day. There were telephone calls to parents and parents calling their sons: Don't do anything rash type thing. Take a deep breath, and there we go. So, Christmas vacation, I arranged for an appointment to be a plebe at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, and passed the physicals, and came back to finish my semester, which was a shortened one because of the war. About in early February, I had a notice to go to the college president's office, because he had a telegram. So, I gussied up and put on a jacket

and a tie and walked across campus, thinking maybe both parents had been killed in an automobile accident. I arrived at President Hopkins's office and was greeted very gently, and gentlemanly, and kindly. He said, "Mr. Barradale, I have some sad news for you." "Yes?" "Yes." He said, "I have a telegram here from the Navy"—department of the U.S. Navy—"saying that I'm five days too old to be admitted to the Naval Academy." [Laughter] So, my spirits were buoyed just a bit. So, anyway, we chatted for a little bit and he understood that I understood that things were not all that—it wasn't that big a deal to me and I wasn't going to go off and cut my carotid artery. So, we chatted for a few minutes. He was such a nice gent. Finally, he said, "I have something I want to talk with you about." I said, "Oh, really?" He said, "Yes." So he said, "Come here." We stood and looked from his windows of his office; we looked out on campus on the quadrangle. He said, "You know, I'm having a tremendous amount of pressure, daily, from Washington, D.C., to have this entire campus, the college facilities, turned over to ROTC's training." And he said, "It's terrible. There's a lot of pressure on me." He said, "What do you think about it? Should I turn them all over?" And I said, "Well, we're in a war"—I don't know how I came up with this, but I did—I said, "We're in a war now, but it would be nice if you could turn over almost everything, but please, if you could possibly keep a couple of civilian students, just to continue the chain, I think I'd like to see that happen." I'm gilding this a little, but this really was the guts of the conversation. I think that struck a bell with him. He probably thought about it way ahead of me, but it was a wonderful interview and one I'll never forget. I think you can sense that.

DONIN: Yes, and that's basically what he did, too.

BARRADALE: Yeah, it so happened, but I'm not claiming any—

DONIN: I know that, but it clearly was weighing heavily on his mind.

BARRADALE: Very much so. He never would have brought it up with me, for god's sakes, if it had not been...

DONIN: Well, I think that it seems the issue, not just for Dartmouth, but for all the colleges at that time, was a financial one. All of these kids wanted to sign up and go off to serve their country, but how were they going to keep these places open and running? I mean, they needed to heat the buildings. It made so much sense to turn themselves into a sort of military training school.

BARRADALE: Yeah, there was a lot of peril involved, also. Not only the college, but the country.

DONIN: Right.

BARRADALE: So, it was fascinating.

DONIN: But you must have walked out of there on air, knowing that—

BARRADALE: Yeah, I did. I kind of took a deep breath, I guess, on the walk back across the campus. I took off my tie and my jacket and got back to normal.

DONIN: That's terrific. Did you ever encounter him again?

BARRADALE: No, not on a one-on-one basis, no. And I greatly admired him; always have, and always will.

DONIN: And of course, by then he had started running the school year-round, hadn't he? After Christmas vacation?

BARRADALE: Well, I don't know. I can't speak to that other than that they shortened up the second semester to end in, I don't know, April or May—somewhere in there—then I think they went—I don't know what they did with the schedule. Whether it had been decided at that particular moment, that date, I just don't know. From there, there was a man named Whitey Fuller, who was connected to DCAC. He was their PR man, and he was a pretty good salesman and he got about thirty-five or forty students who were enrolled in the college to go into the Naval Air Corps for flight training. Bob McLaughery, who is still here, and—they were mainly '42s who were going to graduate and they opted to go into the Naval Air Corps flight training so they could avoid being drafted. And then there were '44s, as I was. We just felt this was a good thing to do. It seemed like a lot of glamour, shall we say, for whatever that's worth. So, we went in together. There were about forty of us. It was about fifty-fifty '42s and '44s. There were a few '43s and a couple of graduates who were in that flight. We got through, didn't lose any. It's a nine-month program. Started off in Squantum, Massachusetts for the summer. We did our training at Squantum and then also at an outlying base down beyond Blue Hill. The first day in ground school, we started in with a math book that started out in first grade arithmetic: two plus two is four.

DONIN: That's scary, actually.

BARRADALE: So, they wanted to make sure that you knew—there'd been no holes in your education. And so, we went along and we didn't lose any. Well, a couple were washed out because of not having quite the coordination they were looking for, and a couple washed out because they just weren't willing to swallow the routine and the regimen that was called for. We went to Jacksonville as a group: Florida. We were the last class of naval air cadets graduated from Jacksonville Naval Air Station. And when we were commissioned, we were split up because they didn't want to have a squadron of all the same college and all that bonding that had gone on. And our record was unbelievable. We won all kinds of parade efforts and all sorts of citations for being very, very attentive, eager, good, and really having our eye on the ball.

DONIN: And how did Mr. Ford choose this particular group to do this training?

BARRADALE: Oh...

DONIN: The man in the—

BARRADALE: Fuller. Whitey Fuller. I'm sorry.

DONIN: Whitey Fuller. And how did he choose? What was the criteria?

BARRADALE: Well, he just went around and saw people that he thought were interested in going into the military and he'd hear about it, and he'd talk to you or ask you to come down and see him, and then if you could pass the physical, they'd start the ball rolling.

DONIN: It sounds like he chose a very good group, then.

BARRADALE: Oh, yes. I think so. We had Stubby Pearson and he was our flight leader. Bob Kirk, who lived in Hanover; he was second. Interestingly enough, the best of our squadron, flight training, was obviously Stubby Pearson and he was the only one who was lost.

DONIN: Yes. Isn't that terrible.

- BARRADALE: It is terrible, because I'm sure he would have become a nationally famous person, and rightfully so. Have I given you enough of the war?
- DONIN: Yeah, well, no. It's always sad to hear these stories.
- BARRADALE: Yeah. So, we all were sent all over the world to various—some carrier duty, some anti-sub, some scout observation, some were dive bombers, some... Whatever. And we had a reunion with the skiers—one of our '44 reunions—and we had organized a dinner outside at the DOC, Occom Pond, and it was a beautiful thing. And we had the naval aviators, the skiers, and the Army Air Force people who had been—and it was just a beautiful thing that happened.
- DONIN: And this was all people that were in the class of '44?
- BARRADALE: Yeah, there were no—yes.
- DONIN: That's wonderful.
- BARRADALE: I wanted it just for the skiers, initially, but I got pressure from Fritz Hier. [Laughter]
- DONIN: Right.
- BARRADALE: So you know what happened. We did what Fritz said. [Laughter] Such a good man.
- DONIN: So, how long were you gone in the service?
- BARRADALE: I was gone until August of '45.
- DONIN: So until the war was over?
- BARRADALE: Yeah. And I had flown four-engine seaplanes, and twin-engine sea planes, and twin-engine amphibians, and four-engine land planes. It varied at the end of the war, but I got a lot of patrol and anti-sub patrol out of Panama and Galapagos in Central America. We had PB2Y3s were sort of in need of some seasoning and finding out what was right or wrong with them before they were put in duty in the Pacific. There were only two squadrons ever. They were not that good an airplane. But the PBVs, the Catalinas, were, of course, real workhorses. But I was ferrying new planes, PBMs, which really

became the workhorses—new ones from Baltimore to San Diego, the west coast, landing in Eagle Mountain Lake, Texas, overnight, because it was a seaplane. Then I'd pick up a war-weary PBM that had been out in the Pacific and fly it back for mothballing in Maryland. And that could get a little dicey, because there was a section that if you were in one side of a ridge of the Rockies and hadn't gotten to the end of it, you couldn't get over the following ridge, but, you know, it was all right. Nobody had any fatalities, so it was fine. That's gilding the lily a little bit, I'm afraid.

DONIN: No.

BARRADALE: So, I'd like Joan to take over now, because we came up here on September, 1945, as a coed.

DONIN: Great. Let's introduce Joan now.

BARRADALE: Is that all right with you?

DONIN: Right. It's perfect.

JOAN

BARRADALE: Here I am.

DONIN: Great. Now, get comfortable so you don't have to lean too much. Good.

JOAN

BARRADALE: Yes, we came up in September. We were married, actually, in July of '44.

DONIN: Oh, you were on leave?

JOAN

BARRADALE: Yes.

DONIN: Now what were you doing—let's back up a little bit. How did you and Eric meet?

JOAN

BARRADALE: Well, in grade school in Brattleboro. Like seventh grade, and from then on, we just were—because of our activities, tennis and skiing—we were together a lot that way. So, I guess you'd call it sweetheart—

DONIN: High school sweethearts. Grade school sweethearts.

JOAN

BARRADALE: Grade school sweethearts. Yes.

BARRADALE: Different grades.

JOAN

BARRADALE: Different grades, yes.

DONIN: So you were sitting here all this time in Vermont while he was in the war?

JOAN

BARRADALE: Yes, I was born and raised in Brattleboro, Vermont, and went away to school, and then we were married right after, in July of '44, and I had a part-time job while he was still in and hadn't been discharged, and so then after that, in September, we came up here because through the GI Bill of Rights, Eric was able to, you know, enter Dartmouth again, as it were. So, we came up and we were one of—I think in that picture—about ten of the married vets, we were the first group and we were in Middle Fayerweather, and it was a wonderful experience. The college had turned over each unit and they had little kitchenettes in one corner and then, of course, the bathrooms were on a different floor: one floor for the women and the upper floor for the men, kind of thing. That still—it was that way. And then, as I remember, in the wintertime, it was cold, of course, but the refrigerator that they had given you in the kitchenette was very small and I didn't have enough room, so I'd put food out on the—outside the window, and of course the squirrels, they started coming and that was a problem. But somehow we handled that. I've just forgotten what it was. But, anyway, that was a fun time. I had a part-time job at the gym, in the office of the gym, and that was fun to do. And then also I took a course—Virgil Polling—I don't know if you—this was before your time, but he lived in Hanover and he was a cabinetmaker and he gave a course, adult education, in woodworking. So, I made a bench that we still have at home: a coffee table. But, it's almost an antique; it really, really is.

DONIN: Now, where did he teach the course?

JOAN

BARRADALE: Well, I think it was—I've forgotten, but it was maybe down in the gym area. Could it have been? I can't remember quite—

BARRADALE: I forget where it was, because now it's in—

DONIN: The woodworking shop now is based in Hopkins Center.

BARRADALE: It was in Hopkins.

JOAN

BARRADALE: Yeah, I don't think it was there, but it was somewhere in the town and I just can't recall that.

DONIN: Now, did he have an assistant whose name was Walker Weed?

BARRADALE: Yes.

JOAN

BARRADALE: That name sounds familiar.

BARRADALE: Eyck Weed.

JOAN

BARRADALE: Yes.

BARRADALE: Cross country skier.

DONIN: He was class of '40, I think.

JOAN

BARRADALE: Right.

BARRADALE: That's right. He was an Olympian.¹

DONIN: And is legendary here for running the woodworking shop for many, many years.

JOAN

BARRADALE: Is he?

BARRADALE: Virgil Polling preceded him.

JOAN

BARRADALE: Yeah, that's true.

DONIN: That's great. So they allowed women to come in and—

JOAN

¹ Walker T. Weed's son, Walker T. Weed III '71 won a medal in Nordic Skiing in 1972.

BARRADALE: —and do that sort of thing, yeah.

DONIN: Because I gather they weren't allowed to audit courses or anything, the academic courses.

JOAN
BARRADALE: I don't think at that time, no.

DONIN: Right. But they did let you take a woodworking class.

JOAN
BARRADALE: Of course, and I had a part-time job at the gym, which was nice. A few little dollars coming in.

DONIN: Well, the overriding theme, talking to all of you returning military folk, everybody was flat broke and needed to work.

JOAN
BARRADALE: Of course.

DONIN: In fact, a lot of guys said the best suit of clothing they had when they returned to college was the uniform they were given when they were discharged. I guess you were given one final set of clothing when you were discharged...? You weren't. Oh, too bad.

BARRADALE: Officers had to buy theirs.

DONIN: Oh, yes. So, I guess a lot of the vets wore their uniforms after—

BARRADALE: You could [inaudible], especially coats.

JOAN
BARRADALE: Pants.

DONIN: Right. Exactly. So, how was it being one of this very small number of women on this campus of men?

JOAN
BARRADALE: Well, I think we got together sort of—I don't know if we had coffee klatches like that sort of thing, because a lot of the gals—not Pat, because she was pregnant, although she may have had a job. I've forgotten whether she had or not—

DONIN: Oops. Hold on. Let me just turn over this tape. Get it wound up a little bit.

BARRADALE: Sachem Village....

JOAN

BARRADALE: Yeah, that's right. I was thinking Sachem Village; that came after us, didn't it, really? More came in at that time. But, I don't know. We managed. We had picnics and gatherings like that together.

DONIN:

So the social life wasn't just confined to your friends in Fayerweather; you went over to people from Sachem?

BARRADALE:

I don't think we did.

JOAN

BARRADALE: I don't think we did. Of course, Eric was busy studying and we had to keep that in mind, too. So, I don't think there was that much going too far afield with others, but we certainly knew they were there.

DONIN:

And had they built Wigwam Circle at this point?

JOAN

BARRADALE: That came later.

BARRADALE:

That started in—

JOAN

BARRADALE: We had left, I think.

DONIN:

Right. I think that came in '45 or '46. You came back in '45?

JOAN

BARRADALE: September of...

DONIN:

Forty-five.

JOAN

BARRADALE: And then left in—you only had—what was—you had to get two semesters—

BARRADALE:

I went from the fall—September—of '45, taking pre-dentals, and went into dental school in September of '46. So, in a year I had been given college credits for my Naval Air Corps business, and then I took all of the courses to get going.

DONIN:

You did all of your pre-med courses here?

BARRADALE: Yeah, I did my pre-dental courses here, except for organic chemistry. They weren't offering that the summer of '46, so I went down to Boston College and stayed with relatives of Joan's family in Newton—Brookline, actually—and got those done, and then was admitted to Tufts Dental School in September of '46.

DONIN: When had you decided to become a dentist?

BARRADALE: At 5,000 feet over New York City, in a PBY, bringing it in to Floyd Bennett Field. That's the real honest truth.

DONIN: [Laughter] That's the accurate answer. Had you been able to talk to Joan about it?

BARRADALE: Oh, yes. We don't do anything without talking about it. Very close.

DONIN: So, your life here when you came back was fairly closely—what's the right word I'm trying to say? You basically were going to school full time at that point to get finished, and you didn't have a lot of money so there wasn't a lot of socializing going on, other than with your immediate group in Fayerweather?

JOAN

BARRADALE: Uh huh.

DONIN: Right. Go ahead.

BARRADALE: Is it okay?

DONIN: Absolutely.

BARRADALE: Okay. One of the things that was—the campus was beginning to get back into a civilian role, and one of the nicest things to see was the duckboards.

DONIN: Oh yes.

BARRADALE: Okay?

DONIN: Criss-crossing the campus, the Green.

BARRADALE: Green Key was starting, which I was a member of. Palaeopitus hadn't begun. The fraternities were taking in ROTC people. But, some—and I'm not sure if it were all, but some fraternities would not pledge blacks.

DONIN: Right. Well, that was one of the first things that President Dickey was working on when he got back.

BARRADALE: And I resigned from my fraternity on that item. And the faculty advisor, who was an English professor—I can't come up with his name—he and I fought pretty mightily and told these boys how wrong they were not to bring in, but a lot of the fraternities—at least the Deke fraternity got in touch with their main office, central office in New York City and said, “No, you can't take any blacks.” So that determined the decision of the local fraternity, the wrong decision. If a student came back and a wife was having some kind of problems needing a little counseling, the college provided it for free. It was a very, very nice thing to do.

DONIN: Really? Just for the wives? This counseling was for the wives?

BARRADALE: Some instances it was wives and, of course, some instances it was the students.

DONIN: Well, I should certainly think that the veterans had all sorts of issues they needed to work out in their minds.

BARRADALE: Yeah. It was a very nice touch, which is my opening comment. Dean Syvertsen, he was so darn nice to me. He said, “Would you like to go to medical school?” I said, “No. I can't afford the time. I've got to get some income.” I said, “Can you get me in a good dental school?” He said, “Yes.” I said, “I'd like to go to Tufts.” “That's where you want to go?” “Sure.” “Well, I think we can arrange that.” So he wrote letters and did whatever should be done and zingo. There was not much social activities. There were not a lot of cocktail parties and things like that, because we couldn't afford the booze, and two, the students were studying. They were studying harder and better than any classes they'd ever had prior to that before the war.

DONIN: That's always one of my questions: Were you a better student?

BARRADALE: Oh my god. We were students. We weren't here—and we were more mature, and had goals that we wanted to get to and the only way to get to them was to make a good step now. So that was sort of the... The college also—if you owed the college some money, if you'd had scholarships and then you needed to borrow some money on top of that—pre-war—they would not forgo the debts, but

they would not ask for any payment or any interest on them, which I think was very—they were terribly, terribly nice. It followed out throughout the faculty. For instance, the poet in residence was Robert Frost. Through Phil Booth—Professor Booth's son, who was a poet, his son and a good friend of ours—

JOAN

BARRADALE: Class of '47.

BARRADALE: Class of '47. He sicced me on these evening talks that Robert Frost gave. And we'd go to the library or Sanborn or somewhere there, I can't tell you where, but somewhere there. And Frost would sit in a chair and there'd be an arc of chairs and ten or maybe twelve students would be there. He would say a few words, very few: "Welcome. What's your name? What did you do in the war?" He'd go all through. Half an hour later, he knew everybody's past history, his bio. It was just superb. And he didn't necessarily recite any poetry—he didn't have to—but he just worked it in and he just made everybody feel so comfortable. It was a real gift.

DONIN: Before you leave Rauner today, you need to go upstairs and see the Robert Frost exhibit that's up there, and I think that exact picture you're talking about with him in a chair—a leather chair—and a student sitting on the arm, and then there's a whole circle of them around him is upstairs in the exhibit.

BARRADALE: You see I'm a straight arrow. [Laughter]

DONIN: You have a great memory. Now was that something that you were allowed to bring Joan to?

BARRADALE: It wasn't coed. It could have been, may have been coed, but I don't remember any wives. But I don't think I attended more than three sessions, but the ones I did were very well remembered.

DONIN: Now, had President Dickey started the Great Issues course yet when you were here?

BARRADALE: He did, I believe. Yes. Yes, he had. I'm quite sure.

DONIN: But were you required to take it before you graduated?

BARRADALE: No, because we were out of here before that had become a requisite course.

- DONIN: Because you were done, you said, in the spring of '46.
- BARRADALE: Actually, August of '46.
- DONIN: Oh, that's right. They were still running year-round at that point.
- BARRADALE: Yeah. I think that is chronologically correct.
- DONIN: So you missed your graduation. You didn't have a graduation ceremony.
- BARRADALE: No.
- JOAN
BARRADALE: He'll tell you.
- BARRADALE: I went to dental school and I said, "What about the possibility of getting a diploma?" They looked at my grades and they said, "Well, sure. I'll tell you what. Go to dental school, send us your grades for the first year and we'll see about it." And I did. I sent in my grades a year later, and then in the mail appeared my diploma. Isn't that nice?
- DONIN: Isn't that interesting. Yeah.
- BARRADALE: You see, they were so darn wonderful, thoughtful.
- DONIN: Well, they were very accommodating.
- BARRADALE: It was just unbelievable. Here's an example: I went down to see the tennis coach, Red Hoehn, whom I'd played for when I was a freshman. I said, "Look, Red, I'm here to get some grades because I've got to get into dental school and I really can't go leave Hanover on any road trips. But if you'd like, and if I could make it, but only if you'd like it, I'd be glad to try out for the squad, the team, and see if I could play home matches if you wanted me to." "Fine. Why not?" So, it was very nice. I went down and I trained a little bit with them—not as much as I should have—I came back with a lower back problem. And I went to Dick's House and they fixed me up with a girdle and everything at no cost to me. The college really bent over backwards to be helpful. They knew I couldn't afford that kind of a thing. The hockey team—I remember going to a psychology course, Psych 1, and there was a mixed bag of students. The hockey team had two members in who were from

Canada. One of them was from Canada. They were obviously hired to come in and play hockey. One of these guys was a very disrespectful, terrible, terrible person to have in a class and disruptive, and just blatantly badmouthing everything. It was pretty embarrassing. So that was about the only black mark I can think of. And I think the college finally said, "Sorry, you better go back to Canada." But I think it showed that the college is not perfect, but it's a wonderful place. An absolutely wonderful place.

DONIN: That's nice. So what were your impressions when you came back and you had a new president here? President Dickey was here.

BARRADALE: Yes. He was here and he was a very intelligent man, of course, and globally oriented, obviously. He had a pretty tough row to hoe trying to succeed President Hopkins, who was so beloved, and I think he succeeded and he put a little spark in things. I think he took the college from a rather old New England aura and began to spread out internationally. It was a beautiful shot of fresh air and necessary to keep the college competitive with other organizations, similar ones in the country. That's just my opinion.

DONIN: No, you're not alone. I think a lot of people felt that.

BARRADALE: He stepped on a few toes because there were traditionalists, and there still are: witness the vote of this last month's, two days—yesterday.

DONIN: Right. But he saw an opportunity to take it to sort of a different level and...

BARRADALE: Have I touched what you want?

DONIN: Oh, you're doing a great job. Wonderful.

BARRADALE: Well, I think I'm done.

DONIN: Are you done?

BARRADALE: Then I went on to dental school and everything has been rosy ever since. [Laughter]

DONIN: Let's see in my list of questions here what I can ask you.

- BARRADALE: Maybe Joan has some things. I've kind of dominated, which I do all the time.
- DONIN: So you were here basically a year, a little over a year.
- JOAN
BARRADALE: Yeah.
- BARRADALE: Just about a year, yeah.
- DONIN: That's right. You got here in the fall and then left at the end of the following summer.
- BARRADALE: Two semesters.
- DONIN: So you had two semesters here. People around—the families around you were all doing the same thing. I mean, the husbands were working quickly, and hard, and focused to move on and get out of here and get on with their lives.
- JOAN
BARRADALE: Yeah.
- DONIN: But it's nice that you remained friends with some of those women that you spent a relatively brief time with.
- BARRADALE: Pat Carey...
- JOAN
BARRADALE: And Jean Weeks, before she died. And Pat we see, you know, every reunion she gets here, even without Harry.
- BARRADALE: I sort of blanked out the college from dental school until I was 65 when I sold my practice.
- DONIN: You were busy with other things.
- BARRADALE: I had to keep that chair seat warm for obvious reasons. And then I retired and it's only an hour and a half, so I began to get back into—
- JOAN
BARRADALE: Alumni work.
- BARRADALE: Alumni business. And Joan has been wonderful. She is the best secretary I could ever have. She's a computer activist and I wash

my hands of it. I didn't want to get into her bailiwick with the computer; it's her own little thing to do. So, we made some wonderful contacts at...

DONIN: At Blunt. Just wonderful. So helpful.

BARRADALE: Oh my goodness, they're wonderful over there. They're so wonderful. Just terrific.

DONIN: Nice people, nice people.

BARRADALE: And we feel very strongly—and we've gone through a lot of chairs of the college—alumni business—and Fritz Hier was a great leader and here we were: the class was decimated. I don't think there were ten of us left on campus during World War II, and the class of '44 is probably one of the, if not the best, most noteworthy class of the 1900s.

DONIN: Do you think the business of virtually everybody leaving to go do their war service and then coming back, I assume, at different times—you didn't all come back at the same time. So, you were all graduating at different times. You all came back not only at different times, but some married in very different situations than the guys that weren't married. Did that impact the sense of loyalty to the class of '44, for you?

BARRADALE: No. I'd had two years and was very—I thought a lot of the class, very much. I thought a lot more of the college, actually. But when we were here as coeds—there was no coed business—we were interested in the business of what we were going to get out of the college, rather than what was the college going to provide us to enjoy ourselves, but then Fritz Hier was the glue that put us all together. He wrote well, and he kept good records, and he had some influence in Blunt working there. He is the glue who put us together and wrote well, as I mentioned. And he met people well and he knew everybody in the class, because of his contact with his writings, and reunions, and things. A hard core of the class of '44 were very successful. The Tuckies did pretty damn well in the business world, and they've been very generous and very loyal. And then people—the way I feel about my contributions, for whatever they're worth, have been when I could spare the time I was delighted to get in and see if I couldn't be helpful. We've had a rotation of officerships in the class in the last twenty years that was very, very good initially, and then it began to slump. And then in the

last two years it's picked up again. They forgot a lot we ever had a constitution, a class constitution. And the knuckleheads didn't use it, so things began to get sloppy and sloppy and one thing or another. And now they're back on track.

DONIN: Great. That helps, doesn't it?

BARRADALE: Damn right.

JOAN
BARRADALE: It really does.

BARRADALE: It makes a tremendous difference.

DONIN: Now, did any of your classmates—this I know happened in later classes—did any of your classmates change their class affiliation because they came back here and, you know, got into a social group maybe that was more—

BARRADALE: One or two did, I think, yes, and I can't think who. Malcolm McLane may be one of these, but I'm not sure.

DONIN: He didn't mention that, but—

BARRADALE: I may be wrong on that, because he captained the freshman team—ski team—and I thought he was a class of '45, but he's—

DONIN: Well, he identifies as '46.

BARRADALE: Because I just thought that he had succeeded me, but it wasn't...

DONIN: It would be easy enough to look.

BARRADALE: His brother Charles was captain of the ski team when I was a freshman.

DONIN: We can figure that out, actually, if I look in the records.

BARRADALE: I don't know. I probably screwed up on the dates.

DONIN: So there wasn't much migration of the '44s, then, if it was only two that changed their classes.

- BARRADALE: That's all I can think of. There may have been ten, but I'm not aware of it. We're a pretty tightly knit class, very much so.
- DONIN: Did you keep a closeness with any of your teams or, of course, your training unit, your squadron?
- BARRADALE: Squadron? Yeah. Well, I think we had at our fiftieth class—fiftieth reunion...
- DONIN: Ninety-four, yeah.
- BARRADALE: I think we had fifty people at that dinner, didn't we, Joan?
- JOAN
BARRADALE: Fifty? Gosh, I can't...
- BARRADALE: Everybody knew everybody else and were saying, "It's good to see you again" type thing.
- JOAN
BARRADALE: We have a sixty-fifth coming up next year. That will be interesting, too.
- BARRADALE: Sure will.
- DONIN: That will be fun.
- JOAN
BARRADALE: If we're all around for it.
- BARRADALE: We're chairing that.
- DONIN: Are you? It's a lot of work.
- JOAN
BARRADALE: We have a meeting with the treasurer at lunch.
- BARRADALE: The alumni offices, they do a wonderful job. Helpful. They're helpful now. So different than it was thirty years ago.
- DONIN: Well, the staff of those places has grown tremendously. It shows in the help—

BARRADALE: They're nice people. Sue Young and I have a birthday on the fifth of March in common and we've made a habit of going skiing together. [Laughter] We go up to the Skiway or Sunapee.

DONIN: Oh, isn't that nice?

BARRADALE: Yes it is. She's a bearcat on skis. She was on the women's team. She skied all her life. Winnepesaukee.

DONIN: That's terrific.

BARRADALE: I just—I feel very honored that you invited us here.

DONIN: Well, you have to thank your friend Pat, because, you know, it's all word of mouth.

BARRADALE: We shall.

JOAN

BARRADALE: We will. I'll tell her, definitely.

DONIN: So do you have any more thoughts, Joan, that you want to add?

BARRADALE: Please do.

JOAN

BARRADALE: I can't think. I think I did pretty well.

BARRADALE: I told you I was a big mouth.

JOAN

BARRADALE: No. I really can't think of anything other than it was a fun time. It really was. You felt there was a lot of camaraderie with us and that was nice.

DONIN: Well it reflected the national feeling, I would assume.

JOAN

BARRADALE: Oh, yes.

DONIN: The war was over. You had your husbands back home safely.

JOAN

BARRADALE: And there were lots of war stories back and forth, you know, telling what they had done.

DONIN: Do you think that the veterans were treated differently on campus than the traditional undergrads? When you came back in '45, you had the incoming class of '45.

BARRADALE: The veterans would go to their fraternity. I can remember going to a fraternity—I think it was Psi U house that this happened—and there were veterans and civilians—younger—and this was the two groups getting together at the fraternity. They were the same fraternity; they were brothers. I can remember this Naval Air Corps guy getting up there and he just was a little bit high, and he's a real outgoing guy, and he got up and he walked around the table that was there. He went through the routine of what he did with each lever on his airplane, coming in for a landing: "You get to five hundred feet, go into the wind, auto rich, flaps down, twenty degrees"—all the way through the routine—"and tail down landing." And everybody was just hilarious. It was wonderful. It was absolutely wonderful. But it didn't take long for the two groups—because the younger group coming in, they were willing to kind of get a little maturity experience of what had gone on and they were trying to get back to where the college was.

DONIN: Sure.

BARRADALE: They wanted to see these old traditions, and that's why I mentioned about Green Key and Palaeopitus.

DONIN: I guess all of that started getting back in gear—

BARRADALE: It began to generate then, yeah.

DONIN: In '46. I guess the end of '45 and '46, yeah.

BARRADALE: I laid a real lead balloon when I was made president of my class about ten years ago. We had a class meeting and I said, "Okay. I've waited a long time for this. I'd like you all to chant." "Chant? What are you talking about?" So I started out: "One, two, three, four..." Do you know what I'm saying? "Five, six, seven, eight." And you go on as a freshman to protect yourselves against the upperclassmen who were giving you a hard time. You would chant. The class of '44: "One, two, three, four," and you would go all the way to forty-

four. Well, by the time we got to the forties, I had pretty good participation, but I never did it again because it went over not that well.

DONIN: I never heard about the chanting.

BARRADALE: Yeah, well that was a thing I thought it would be kind of nice to start again.

JOAN
BARRADALE: I had forgotten that.

BARRADALE: And, of course, they'd modified some of these things. We used to have a pull.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

BARRADALE: Do you still have that?

DONIN: Um, no.

BARRADALE: You have a coed—

DONIN: It's different now.

BARRADALE: I can remember we had someone who was a—he was almost wheelchair-bound—who got in that rope pull. It was kind of nice.

DONIN: Now when you went to the fraternities, I assume Joan couldn't come, right?

BARRADALE: That's correct.

JOAN
BARRADALE: And Sphinx, too. That was always very secretive.

BARRADALE: She didn't have a bathing suit, so...

JOAN
BARRADALE: It's still secretive. I don't get anywhere asking... It's still the same.

DONIN: Nothing has changed. They just did a big renovation of it last year.

JOAN
BARRADALE: Yes, they've been trying to get money for that.

DONIN: They're pouring lots of money into it. Oh my goodness.

BARRADALE: They collected a lot of money.

DONIN: Yeah, I bet.

BARRADALE: I've not been a large contributor to that, I'm afraid.

DONIN: Well, there are so many ways to spend money.

BARRADALE: There are other things, I think, that have a higher priority for us.

DONIN: Exactly. I think I'm going to turn off the tape.

BARRADALE: Can we give you a very high grade for being so nice to us?

JOAN

BARRADALE: Yes.

DONIN: You don't need to do that.

BARRADALE: Yes we do. We want to.

[End of interview]