Dartmouth College Oral History Project
The War Years at Dartmouth
Interview with Harlan '46 and Evelyn Brumsted
By Mary Stelle Donin
June 30, 2008

DONIN: Why is it that you came to Dartmouth as your undergraduate school?

BRUMSTED: Very clearly the fact that I had the opportunity to have essentially a

childhood buddy attend Dartmouth College. In other words, someone who was, in the language of that time, a chum: a guy that I went to the movies with on Saturday afternoon and to the extent you hung out with a neighbor kid, this was the person. And it was Nikitas C. Manitsas [phonetic], class of 1944, now a retired general in the United States

Army. Dwelling at Alexandria, Virginia, I believe, or vicinity.

DONIN: Where did you grow up with Nikitas?

BRUMSTED: Batavia, New York.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

BRUMSTED: And he had relatives at Buffalo—I believe the Dipson family—who

were yet earlier than that, perhaps in the '30s.

DONIN: Who went to Dartmouth.

BRUMSTED: Who went to Dartmouth. Who influenced my friend, Nick. And then

Nick went there and said, "You've just got to come here," and so on. So, I applied. There were a couple other colleges where I had been

accepted, but Dartmouth was my choice.

DONIN: Did you go visit it before you actually applied?

BRUMSTED: You know, I can't remember. I do not think I did, but the literature,

pictorial aspects of the Outing Club, and things that I just loved there: they became objectives. And so, it most likely was from the literature.

DONIN: So you applied and then arrived there in the fall of 1942.

BRUMSTED: Nineteen forty-two. We had two options: we all were invited to come

early, so to speak. There were summer admissions and then early September at the typical time of year. And I chose the latter. I had a summer job and stayed with that, and so was an entrant in the fall.

DONIN: So, of course this was 1942. Pearl Harbor had already happened.

BRUMSTED: That's correct.

DONIN: What were you thinking about your military career?

BRUMSTED: Well. I don't remember the exact nature of the literature. We were well

informed of opportunities that would be before us, and I was there probably relatively few weeks before I learned that if the United States Naval Reserve was the choice, there would be the opportunity to go into Boston, I think in December of '42, and essentially be sworn in. And that's what happened in my case. I did join the United States

Naval Reserve at the end of that first semester.

DONIN: And at that point the college was running these accelerated semesters

that were going year-round, weren't they? They started—that summer

before you matriculated, I think was their first summer of running

classes over the summer.

BRUMSTED: I'm not sure, but I interpreted the fact that we could come in the

summer as a part of that acceleration.

DONIN: So, when you matriculated it was Ernest Martin Hopkins who was the

president.

BRUMSTED: That's correct. Hoppy.

DONIN: Hoppy. Do you have any memories of meeting him or the day that he

signed your matriculation card?

BRUMSTED: Not as specific as I think with our freshman dean, Dean Strong, who

was, of course, in that capacity much more of a presence with the class. But certainly I went to Hoppy's office and so on, but I think that the memory of Dean Strong is somewhat stronger. [Laughter] Strong is

stronger.

DONIN: Right. And was he a very sort of approachable man?

BRUMSTED: Very personable. Very personable.

DONIN: More so than the dean of the college, I gather, who you didn't want to

have to go see if you didn't need to: Dean Neidlinger. Do you have

memories of him?

BRUMSTED: I knew who he was and, in fact, he resided right on the edge of

campus, as I recall, and was very much a presence. In other words, it was still a small community, so you knew these people and you saw

them at various events.

DONIN: So when you matriculated, the campus was still essentially traditional

undergrads who were not in uniform. Is that right?

BRUMSTED: That's correct. I don't recall a uniform until early '43, really. And then

the only sign—I believe that we marched to class in just our civilian

clothes in early '43, at the start of our second semester.

DONIN: So, let's go back to the beginning of when you signed up in Boston.

Was it guaranteed that you were going to be going back to Dartmouth once you went and volunteered with the navy? Was it guaranteed that

they'd assign you to go back to Dartmouth for your training?

BRUMSTED: That was the whole purpose.

DONIN: I see.

BRUMSTED: In other words, if we went then, it would simply put us on track right at

Dartmouth College to be a part of their V-12 program. And that was it. The goal would be midshipmen school and also a commissioning, then, after midshipmen school, as an ensign in the United States Naval Reserve. Now, they had different opportunities for the type of work you did with the navy, of course, and I was pre-engineering and there was before me the option that I could stay and complete Thayer School. In

other words, a degree in civil engineering.

Actually, what attracted me, especially in terms of major and coursework and so on, was something highly innovative at the time. It was a program that already had started at MIT known as administrative engineering, and it was, I believe, a five-year program that included both Thayer and Tuck. And I actually can't name a colleague, a classmate, who pursued that, and after a couple of semesters I had to talk with Dean Strong about the fact that there was a key course that I did not do well in and so my dreams of engineering and of a four-year degree were suddenly changed for me to becoming a so-called deck officer. In other words, an ensign who did everything aboard ship and got his assignment later after becoming commissioned or going on shipboard or some other capacity with the navy.

And, of course, by not pursuing, being able to pursue that four-year degree, that just opened my whole world for a change of majors and a complete direction in my life where I had thought engineering. I had taken, gee, nine hours of surveying—three different courses—and a couple of other pre-engineering courses, all of which I enjoyed and actually have used some of the surveying in the early portions of my career in conservation work. But the facts were that the math and I just didn't get along and so that was my problem at the time, and it permitted—well, going back as a married couple and all those good things.

DONIN:

But the classes you were taking during your first semester, before you'd actually signed up to join the navy, you were on just a regular freshman track at that point.

BRUMSTED: That's correct.

DONIN: Liberal arts courses, English, math.

BRUMSTED: That's right.

DONIN: But then that changed once you'd signed up with the navy.

BRUMSTED:

No, actually it didn't. The navy just came in and sort of, well, engulfed the total. In other words, you simply had a new personal classification. That's what it meant: that you were an officer's candidate. That, I think, defines it best. You became a candidate officer in the United States Naval Reserve. You also had the Marine Corps as a choice at Dartmouth. And so, that established your status, your direction, but with the wonderful design of the V-12 program, it just permitted you to continue academically in a track. Somebody who had been a philosophy major could be a fine deck officer and that's what happened. Engineers had that option of completing the bachelors and getting that degree, and I think either four or five was the limitation on the number of semesters available for those who would become deck officers, so to speak.

DONIN.

So when you came back after having enlisted, did you have to change dormitories or did you stay in the same dorm?

BRUMSTED:

No. We stayed there, as I recall. We did change dorms, I think, definitely by our third term and possibly by our second term. But, I started out on what they called the Gold Coast in Streeter Hall, and then moved across the street to Lord. And I had a single room as a

freshman first term, and then they bunked us two, so you had a roommate, over in Lord Hall. But I'm not sure whether that was the second semester or the third, but it could have been.

DONIN:

And you continued going to school over the summer, right? You did one term right after another with no breaks.

BRUMSTED:

Well, in getting that schedule started, they did something unique. They gave us a spring term, plus a so-called spring of '43 intersession. That came along about, let's say, mid-April. And so we had a second semester, aspects of which I can recall very well. I particularly liked my English and that there was a research theme. I loved that sort of work. It was a super experience; I got an A+ grade. It was on a conservation subject, nationally, and just a super time. And then we completed the semester, I'd say a month earlier than today's spring semester, had a vacation—let's call it Easter vacation or something like that—and came back, and the new intersession, as it was called, began.

For me, that became an exceptional experience, to put it mildly. I contracted—probably riding on troop trains where there were no seats, and I had this long, long train ride to go on the Boston & Maine to Springfield, Mass. Then the New York Central to Albany/Troy, where they changed and you got on the Chicago route and, again, I lived in a town where there was a station where most of the trains stopped. Right after Rochester came Batavia. On those rides, it was so crowded that there were people breathing in your face. It was like riding a New York subway train during the rush hour. And, of course, this was a year and a third after Pearl Harbor, and so things were really wound up and going with the trains involved in the Great War effort. And I contracted bacterial meningitis.

We, as '46s, had the opportunity to pledge fraternities in our second semester of our freshman year, which was not standard procedure at Dartmouth College; you did this as a sophomore. I joined SAE and I had a marvelous class: forty-six friends—that is the pledge class—and students in the class of '45 and so on that I knew in the Outing Club and all. It was just a great group, these people still around there. The long and short of it is, at one of our first parties during this intersession, one beer did me in. As characteristic of the disease, it's marked by extreme headaches and just passing out. So, a fellow who was a roommate—and I could have had several roommates, I just don't recall the living accommodations there—but recognized that something was wrong with me because I would breathe and then stop breathing.

So, they called Dick's House and they didn't have an ambulance, but they had a hearse.

DONIN: I've heard about the hearse.

BRUMSTED: So, I'm not alone. I got to ride in the hearse. The story goes that there was a huge amount of—or a large number of brothers who hung on the

sides and otherwise enjoyed the party. So, my timing was great because sulfadiazine takes care of this bacterium. I was lucky and the doctor was just a wonderful gent, and I'll try to come up with his last name. He was marvelous. Anyways, he said that there were no Dartmouth men being accepted behind the pearly gates just then, and

so I got to take the cure.

Also, I became exhibit number one for a steady stream of med students, because the opportunity to have a live spinal tap demonstration was rare. [Laughter] So here was this guy lying on his side and the doctor could come in and run his finger up and down those bumps on your spine and said, "We'll do it right here." It makes you cringe. I don't know if I even felt it I got so used to this. So they made a spinal tap, and got a sample of the contents and analyzed this and I got better, and better, and better.

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DONIN: So your whole recovery was at Dick's House. You didn't have to go

home or anything?

BRUMSTED: No. It was right at Dick's House, and I can even remember, probably

because it was so great to get out of the place, that I'd go for walks and

what may have been a nurse, but probably was an aide in the

healthcare process, I'd even go downtown, but just for the walk. But what was so miraculous about this was that I may have gone—well, they probably had a navy doctor there, and they gave me a physical, and I just kept going. So, I guess all that fresh air as an Outing Club member and so on, it worked well. My mother came to visit, and she kept Evelyn informed, and had a lot of people lighting candles for me, and so on. So, I was very thankful for that. But I had really wanted to take three courses, and I think I even bought the books. A course in geology was one that I especially had my eyes on, and, of course, that

was a washout.

DONIN: So you lost a whole term then.

BRUMSTED: Well, I lost an intersession.

DONIN: Oh, intersession. That's right.

BRUMSTED:

And so I think these intersession courses may have had half or two-thirds the value of their—no, since you took a smaller load, they probably—you took nine hours, in effect, rather than fifteen, so it probably was... But I think the intersession was probably about two months in length. Two—maybe it was ten weeks. Something like that. Then we started up again in July, and that put them on synch for a trimester of some kind. So, I just kept going.

But it was very, very memorable times, because not only getting extremely ill like this and surviving and so on, but by that spring and then for sure by summer, a brand new program got started and that was the college naturalist program with Douglas E. Wade, and I think I first may have met him at the swimming pool, something like that. He was asked to help give swimming tests and so on. And then there were various announcements that he had been hired as college naturalist, and this became just something that—I believe you've read some of the things I've written on this point over the years—and that's how greatly I appreciated the fact that even though we had this huge war with conscription, people there on campus—you'd see them on Monday and by Wednesday they'd be gone and you'd never see them again. I'm referring to staff, you know, and their draft number came up and they were gone. It would have been so easy to put a sign on the door: Closed for duration.

Their incumbent college naturalist left for another opportunity, and they advertised, and this fellow Douglas E. Wade, who by just an absolute incredible quirk of fate—as a buddy uses the expression—he had been one of the graduate students of Aldo Leopold at the University of Wisconsin at the masters level; he completed the masters degree. He was married to a woman by the name of Dorothy Rich, and so his wife was Dot or Dotty. They had a wee daughter and son. And with this Leopold background—Leopold being not only Yale-educated, but he was also the product of a leading men's prep school in the northeast. I think he was from—his parents were at St. Louis, I think was his home, but he was in the United States Forest Service and then transferred to the Forest Industries Lab at Madison, where he was subsequently hired by the University of Wisconsin to be a pioneer in teaching a brand new course that had never been taught there. Cornell and a few other schools had such a course. It was in what would be called today wildlife management, but in that day it was referred to as game, which is species of wildlife that are the object of sports hunting.

And so, Leopold was not only a whale of a good scientist who especially perceived the importance of ecology: the relation of living things to each other and to their environment. Literally, a study of home relationships. He wrote essays that just was compelling writing, and in '48, assembled a book entitled *A Sand County Almanac*, which included a collection—which was composed of a collection of his essays. And in the late 1990s, the famed New York City Public Library selected, let's say, several dozen books to become books of the twentieth century, and in the realm of natural history, *A Sand County Almanac* was one of the selections—

DONIN:

Oops, hold on. Let me turn this over. Okay, so *A Sand County Almanac* became one of the Public Library's...

BRUMSTED:

Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* became one of the New York City Library's selections as a book of the twentieth century and, interestingly, a very, very popular field guide to the birds by its famous author Peterson: *A Field Guide to Birds* was a companion. I like to list them together, because you might not think that *Sand County* is as popular as a bird guide, but it is. It is just a grand collection.

Doug and Dotty Wade had a story that I'll always remember. Apparently, Doug had been travelling and came home and Dotty was snoozing, and he said, "I just acquired Leopold's new essay. It's entitled 'Marshland Elegy." And he started reading it and while it was prose, there in sort of my dozing condition, I thought Doug was reading poetry to me, it was just so beautiful. Well, so that's a classic. And so here am I, somebody who aspired to be an engineer, but always an outdoor person—fishing, particularly—and along comes somebody who introduced us to not only rudiments of field ecology, as he'd lead field trips and so forth, but in the vein of Robert Frost or Paul Sample, was introducing us to some classic literature that—well, when we're talking now—1943, let's say; Doug's earliest arrival was '43 or '44—this is still four or five years before *A Sand County Almanac* had been assembled and was issued for the public.

And here we, as Dartmouth students, going into Doug's office, which was a nifty, tiny building on campus that had to be razed because of the Hopkins Center. It was at the very south end of the library: a little white building with white pillars on front that is probably in the picture books, but it, of course, had to give way for the eastern portion of the Hopkins Center. So, that had a fireplace, too, and DOC-types with their guitars and harmonicas and singing voices and quarter kegs of beer and all this would go there and sing, just like they did in

22 Robinson Hall. And with, well, Doug hung out with them in Robinson Hall, as well. But it was just—to think that the college provided this when we were in the throes of a two-theater war was absolutely remarkable.

And one of the great things was the harmony, the apparent harmony that there was between the administrations. The navy came in then, in '43, and set up the V-12 administration. So, they just loved the fact that we had an outing club, because here's part of the conditioning and so on. Don't have to—these guys have to go to classes; there's very limited time to run around and do calisthenics and so on. That will come later. They've got to study now. But you mean they go hiking weekends? How can we help? Well, one great way you can help is if somebody can come in as late as Thursday or even Friday morning and say, "I'd like an Outing Club order for a group of four Friday night through Sunday noon," and you would stop in Friday afternoon at three o'clock and give them your name, and somebody at Thayer Dining Hall would disappear into a cool room and come out with an orange crate, and it would be marked Brumsted, and it had your whole thing, menu, right there: hamburgers tonight, hot dogs tomorrow night, beans both nights, whatever. [Laughter] And there it was. You put it in several knapsacks and give them the orange crate back to them. So, it all worked together.

DONIN: So the navy released you to do Outing Club stuff?

BRUMSTED: Absolutely, absolutely. In short, they just loved us. And this was just

routine, like it started off on the first semester: this weekend we're

going to go hike over in Vermont. [Whispering]

BRUMSTED: Wow. Boy. Well, it-

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Don't forget they gave you the truck.

BRUMSTED: Oh my goodness sakes. Thank you, thank you.

DONIN: The navy provided a truck?

BRUMSTED: The navy provided a truck and I can show you pictures. This was a

sizable truck. This was a truck that you don't see much in the modern context, but it had a high, flat back, but then it was called a stake body truck—that they had fence-like sections that you would put on the three open sides, or even on the fourth side—and then you could just—well, what we did was we just had at Robinson Hall, down in the basement

in the DOC storage areas, a lot of mattresses, single bed mattresses. We just put those in there. And then, over the top, we put a tarp and had that tied down so it could be raining, it could be snowing, it could be colder than all get-out and still you then had your parkas and everything, and you were protected from the weather and so on. I even helped drive on some of those events. But that was mighty memorable. So they were really for us. I can see those guys talking together and telling them how they could help us.

All of this happened without Dartmouth's ace in the Outing Club office, who was John A. Rand, '35, '36, '37, a member of the 10th Mountain Division. And John Rand, of course, would have been one of the first to get called. Man. And so, they tapped a guy who was saved by the out of doors—he was a goner—in not World War II, but World War I: Thomas J. Dent, who coached two sports, not only soccer, but lacrosse. And this guy was a member of the board of advisors of the State of New Hampshire's fish and game advisory board to the state conservation agency. He was just an ace fisherman. He was Scottish. That was Tom's background. And the doctors, after his taste of World War I, he was so severely gassed that his lungs apparently were a mess, and they said, "Take your salmon rod and get out of doors and stay there. You're lucky. It may save your life." And it did.

He was so good at tying trout and salmon flies—the bits of feather and fur that you put around a hook—that I could go in his office in that front room north of Robinson Hall, where in that day the advisor or general manager of the Outing Club had his office, and he could reach in his desk drawer and pull out a little tray of these materials for making a trout fly, let's say, and tie that fly without a vise; the device being, literally, a little clamp device about the size of the microphone—at the height of the microphone—but no, nothing like that was on his desk. He'd use a thumb and forefinger to hold the hook part of the hook, the sharp part of the hook, and then, having some appropriate types of cement in open vessels with a little dropper that he could apply, he would put on a piece of feather and you start your thread first and make a little body out of thread, so there's always a loose piece of thread with the spool down there, so that you can add things to this with just a couple turns, and when appropriate, take a dab of that liquid cement and put it on there. And, you know, he'd talk to you and be doing these things and pretty soon, he'd bite the thread and throw this at you and say, "There." [Laughter]

DONIN: Fantastic.

BRUMSTED:

He was just absolutely fantastic. So, again, it's the very same thing. John Rand left and Hoppy obviously—and his deans—put their heads together and said, "What are we going to do now?" And instead of closing the door, they said, "Well, we'll talk to Tom Dent about this." So, well, a person such as I, then, who never set foot on a lacrosse or soccer field can say that I went to Dartmouth College and got to know, really know, Thomas J. Dent, probably better than the average person on his team. So, this was just absolutely terrific. And, of course, I was

not alone. Many others had this experience.

DONIN: You guys called yourselves chubbers, right?

BRUMSTED: Right, right.

Where did that name come from? DONIN:

I honestly don't know. I would say that going back to that book about BRUMSTED:

> Dartmouth out of doors probably has a source in there, but that's what the students apparently at some early point after the Outing Club was formed in the teens, I think, the students dubbed these guys, who went

hiking weekends on the Appalachian Trail.

So is it fair to say that the Outing Club was your most important sort of DONIN:

extracurricular activity?

BRUMSTED: Absolutely, and that I was privileged to move through the chairs, as it

were. As a matter of help, convenience, necessity—whatever you want to call it—because of the fact that older, more experienced students had—well, like staff, they weren't being conscripted; their numbers weren't coming up, but they were in these various training programs at other institutions, and, indeed, at military facilities. So, somebody who was class of '44 and was the ideal candidate for president of the outing

club was gone, and in their place some of us of lesser rank, or advancement, or whatever you want to call it-experience-I got to chair Cabin and Trail and maybe head some other committees, and in those first two years I was also, at least for a semester, president of

the Outing Club at some point. So, these brought incredible

opportunities to meet with faculty outside the classroom. So, just like Tom Dent in this office. And so there were people like Fred Page, who was a botanist and taught a course in forest botany, and he gave lots of time to the Outing Club, and I couldn't wait to take a course with him after getting acquainted with him at these board meetings that we'd go to. Well, you'd go to these board meetings and you'd also have studies

and so it was also pointed out to me by certain faculty that the tail

wagged the dog at times, too. And I can remember a professor of botany making that clear to me at one time. [Laughter]

Oh, boy. So, the fact of that rapid turnover, if you will, of students in line for leadership positions—well, this just established the fact that it included the sophomores and even freshmen into leadership roles. It advanced and increased the rapidity of moving up, as it were, into leadership positions. And so that became an advantage of the time and all the arrangements and so forth.

DONIN: You couldn't have had much time, then, for SAE at this point.

BRUMSTED: Well, you're absolutely right. There wasn't much going on there, as I recall. I believe—in fact, I'm positive that as outstanding an event in my life could have happened that could have happened at SAE happened to Evelyn and me because she came over and visited, and I had the opportunity in a dark corner of that fraternity house to present her my SAE pin in an appropriate two-person ceremony.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: We went to high school together.

BRUMSTED: So, we had known each other for a long time. So, before I got to go briefly to one of the hottest spots in the Pacific as World War II had its

abrupt ending out there, which was Okinawa, I got to establish something that had the practical status of an engagement ring.

DONIN: Well, at that point the fraternities weren't all that active, anyway, were

they? I mean, some of them were barely functioning, I thought.

BRUMSTED: Some may have closed, but as I said, that they, too, were open and I

had a nifty experience in SAE of meeting Andy Scarlett, from whom I took a marvelous course that he sort of ginned up just for the needs of the engineering students there then. It was a course in the chemistry of engineering materials. There wasn't much math in it, and I think I may have even pulled off an A, but Andrew Scarlett—Andy Scarlett—was not only an outstanding professor of chemistry—I think physical

chemistry was his field—but also he was the faculty advisor of the SAE

house in that era. And a very popular-

It happened that our arch-enemy in the Pacific, Japan, had done some outstanding things in metallurgy, which had hit the literature before the war, before Pearl Harbor, and so on. So, Andy had a lot of up-to-the-minute things to put in his course on chemistry of engineering materials, and I remember that aspect of it, that there was a lot doing in metallurgy in parts of the world, and boy, he had control of that.

But it was a great strain, especially when we came back as a married couple. I don't think I was in the fraternity house twice those two years, because there was not only the Outing Club, but there was Doug Wade's program. And then I was into my major in botany and zoology. That's field-oriented, so there were lots of field trips and special things, and more people to meet that I had not known before. It was just like starting over in a sense. My responsibilities in the Outing Club with John Rand there became so serious that my second summer—it would have been the summer of '47—I worked for the Outing Club and actually set up the model freshman trip that's used today.

DONIN: Amazing. Did you?

EVELYN BRUMSTED: He did.

BRUMSTED:

That's still used today. And with John Dickey, it all just worked out admirably. It was the very simple principle of experience—C and T, Cabin and Trail, the group that specialized in hiking and the use of the cabins and so on—just to go where the leaders wanted, although we planned out where these trips would go, but then everything focused on winding up at the Ravine camp on the last couple days. And some of that had to involve transportation, obviously, but in other cases you just pointed the groups in that direction. I knew all these chubbers from way back pre-war and so John and I could work this all out and wherever these people were in Massachusetts, and even the Midwest, or down south, or wherever, we got in touch with them and on the appointed day they came and they met their groups and went around their hike and then for two, three, four days, whatever the schedule called for, and then came to the Ravine camp. And there John Dickey. in an appropriate flannel shirt or whatever stood by the fireplace and welcomed them all. They climbed Moosilauke and did all of these great things.

DONIN: Amazing. I mean, that is still going on today.

BRUMSTED: That's correct, and it was going on—you see, I don't think I had a

freshman trip opportunity when I matriculated by coming in September, but there had been a freshman trip in the summer, I believe, for those

who arrived at that time.

DONIN: So this was something that John Dickey endorsed and encouraged?

BRUMSTED:

Well, I think that one way or another, they got there anyway. They maybe just were taken from wherever they were and maybe not. I'm not sure how thoroughly the Ravine camp was involved, but since—I also, my first fall, happened to be on the first hike that climbed Moosilauke and found the summit camp burned to the ground, hit by lightening: October storm or whatever. And we also knew then and/or later people like Dick Backus, '44, who sort of paved the way for me to come to Cornell, and it was his dad who interviewed me as an applicant at Batavia. Sidney Backus, of Backus, Backus, Backus, and Backus in downtown Rochester. [Laughter]

So, actually, I think I was invited to his home. I did not go to an urban office. I had the first experience in my life seeing strawberry jam made by the sun process, in Dick Backus' backyard. I didn't even know he had a son Richard at that point. I just knew that I was visiting somebody called Sidney. I think there was a big table, like a ping pong table, and Mrs. Backus had strawberries out there that were cooking from the sun. I'd heard of this, but I had never seen it before or since.

Did you meet Dick on any of these interviews? He earned the PhD here at Cornell in—wow. He's an ichthyologist and a marine specialist, who—appropriate to our equipment this afternoon—developed special interests and competence in ocean sounds: the sounds whales and other mammals make and so forth. He was one of the pioneer scientists in that realm; a very good researcher. Anyway, he was graduated just as I wanted to come here after—in '48— for a quick masters that they had figured out, so I could do what her dad said about qualify myself with some courses to get a job with the state of New York.

Dick introduced me to the person who was to be my advisor, a Professor William J. Hamilton, Jr.: not only a scholar, but a great jokester, a person who would just make you laugh with his wisecracks and so on. A very interesting, and affable, and enjoyable person. So, Dick introduced me to these good things here. I hope he's still well. I'll have to use that directory.

DONIN: Right. Check with Noreen.

BRUMSTED: And check with Noreen.

DONIN: Right. Oh, good timing. So, let's pull your other half into this now.

BRUMSTED: Marvelous. She did great things, just like that picture that's over there,

where they're looking in a pot. Where she is-

DONIN: Oh, when they're stirring the pot. Oh, that pot. Yes.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: He knows that pot.

DONIN: It's a picture in the reunion book, yeah. I think it's the other one. The

twenty-fifth.

BRUMSTED: The twenty-fifth. That's what I thought.

DONIN: Those orange pages.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: You sent it in, Harlan.

BRUMSTED: What?

EVELYN BRUMSTED: You sent those pictures in.

BRUMSTED: I know that. Well, I sent the page numbers to our friend Mary.

DONIN: Yup. Okay, Evelyn, so let's get you into the picture here. You and

Harlan went to high school together?

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Yes. We started dating when we were seniors, because I lived in the country and he had to be able to drive to come out and see me. So, it didn't happen until senior year when he got his license. We only lived a mile from town. That's when things started. I graduated from Cornell. We both matriculated at college in '42, and I went through Cornell in three years because of the—We also had navy, army, and marines on the Cornell campus, and we had a three-semester system. So, if you followed the system with the armed forces, you were done in three years. There were three full semesters. I can remember going to class on Thanksgiving morning, because we kept going so fast. So, I graduated in June of '45. I was employed for a year as a county agent, as a home demonstration agent, and then Harlan came back in July of '46, and we were married in September of '46.

DONIN: He was out of the service at this point.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: He had been discharged at that point. We were on our honeymoon when his mother got in touch with us and said a letter had come and said that the student housing was not completed and it was

suggested that you leave your wife at home. So, here we were, married—what—four days, maybe five and he was to leave me at home. Well, it just happened that our best man, Ernest E.Q. Brazel, Quilly to us. He and his wife, Shirley, had gone back to Dartmouth and they had waited, also, for their room—or for their apartment—and so Harlan called Quilly and Quilly said, "Well, I can get you this room we had." It was in the middle of...

BRUMSTED: An apartment house.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: An apartment house, and where was it? It was on—

BRUMSTED: On the end of the road that goes to Lebanon. Now I'm speaking of the

road that goes by the east side of the athletic area and joins the road to

Lebanon from the bank.

DONIN: Yes.

BRUMSTED: There's a gas station there and also a white apartment house. Or there

used to be.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: There was at that time a white apartment house.

BRUMSTED: Three stories, four.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: And Quilly said, yes, he could get this room for us. Well, this room happened to be in the center of the building, and the only window was on to an airshaft, and there was—it wasn't even a single bed. It was a cot, I think. Not a very large cot. It's a good thing we were newlyweds, because that's what we slept on for the first month in Hanover, and because we didn't know what the weather was, Harlan would run downstairs—I think we were on the second floor—Harlan would run downstairs, stick his head out the door and see what the weather was, and then he'd come back up and tell me, because that first month we had no cooking area, so we ate at Thayer, I guess, didn't we? I ate with him at Thayer.

But at the end of the month, we moved into Wigwam Circle, and that's where the experiences really started, because Harlan was one of the only—no, there was one other. Hank Smith and Charlie Smith came back married. But, among his Dartmouth Outing Club friends, Harlan was the only one who was married. I was included in everything, I must say. We went on trips together. I went on the hiking trips on the weekends to all of the cabins and so forth. I said, this is

where I learned to change my blue jeans inside of a sleeping bag. Girls today wouldn't even think of that, wouldn't even have to worry about that.

But, we had many wonderful trips, and I was not a hiker. Even though I grew up in the country, I was not a hiker like Harlan and I can remember going, and going, and going on these trails and he'd say, "Just around the next bend. Just around the next bend," and we'd get there. But quite often we would be with a couple or three or four other Dartmouth Chubbers, and we really had wonderful times. I think I remember once making a pie crust—why, I do not know. Why would I be making a pie crust out in a cabin? But I remember using a milk bottle—a glass milk bottle—for my rolling pin. [Laughter] And I can't even remember why I would possibly be making a pie, or why I had taken the materials or anything. But, anyway, the only thing I remember is using the round milk bottle as a rolling pin.

BRUMSTED: Maybe there were fruits there, like blueberries. Something like that.

DONIN: Picking wild blueberries.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Maybe. Could have been.

DONIN: So, when you guys arrived in Hanover, you were essentially starting

your last fifth.

BRUMSTED: Fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth. My fifth semester.

DONIN: And you had no plans to do anything, right? I mean, you didn't know

what jobs were available.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Well, I had no plans except to maybe look for something. So then I did contact the extension—no, the first—I don't think I got into extension until the second year. The first year I did kind of odds and

ends things. I did teach the... I did at one time do alterations for people, clothing alterations. I had a little Singer sewing machine and I used that. I can remember several customers that I had that just needed skirts shortened, lengthened. Doing that type of thing. Of course, that, I could do. I was well equipped to do that, to know how to do it and so forth, and how to adjust patterns or clothing if something

was too large and so forth. So, I did that, but I think it wasn't until our

second year there that I got into extension.

So I was hired as a part-time home demonstration agent, and I did all sorts of things. We didn't have a car, so the extension agent loaned me her car, and I would go to different places out of Hanover to give lessons on cooking, and on—well, for instance: making slipcovers. Doing things like that. I do remember holding what was called a sewing machine school, and everybody brought their sewing machines, and if there was something wrong with them I was supposed to figure it out. We did pretty well. I have a better engineering bent than Harlan; I didn't fail anything. In fact, I took a course at Cornell that was designed specifically for women, and it taught us how to design a plumbing system, how to do small electrical repairs, which I still do. So, I did have that background of how to fix things. So, that was primarily, but it was really a part-time job. I didn't do it a lot.

BRUMSTED: Now that was for the county of Grafton.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Grafton County.

BRUMSTED: The local county in which Hanover is located. As I recall, that was a

huge county. Am I correct?

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Yes, it was the largest county in New Hampshire, and the

headquarters I don't think I ever got to.

DONIN: They're way up north.

BRUMSTED: Woodsville, wasn't it?

DONIN: Yeah. Good memory.

BRUMSTED: Yeah, thank you. I didn't expect to pull that out. [Lebanon]

EVELYN BRUMSTED: But I think one of the things—I remember speaking of the fact that Harlan was the only married member of this really very tight-knit group of young men, and they'd come to me if there was a big weekend and they were going to have dates come in. They'd come and they'd say, "Suki, all you have to do is cook, you know. We'll do everything. We'll buy the food and all you have to do is cook." You realize that what I had to cook on was a double hotplate with a little tin oven that sat on the top. Now, Harlan's mother had given us one of those roaster oven-type things that you put the top on and so forth, so I did have that. But I do remember—and we have pictures of Wigwam Circle with all the tables set up and so forth and all these men with their dates sitting in there, and I had cooked—I think the most I had was for

fourteen, but I think at one time we had fourteen, and we have pictures of this group crowded in our little Wigwam Circle living room and I had cooked for fourteen.

DONIN: I'm surprised you could fit fourteen people in there!

BRUMSTED: I think it was just this size.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Well, I don't know that it was that big. It was not that big.

BRUMSTED: I think it was.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Well, anyway, we've got the pictures. It may not have been fourteen, but somehow that sticks in my mind.

BRUMSTED: It was possible, evidently so.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: But the other thing was, after—we quite often went out on the weekend with Jim Schwedland, who was a very close friend of Harlan's—

BRUMSTED: Deceased.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: And one of those men who came back who never would have been able to go to Dartmouth, or maybe any college. I'm not sure. But, because of the V-12 was able to come back, and go to Dartmouth, and have a Dartmouth education. And he quite often came back with us, and I would usually—Sunday night I would make chili, or I would make pancakes, or something, and he would eat with us, or a couple of the fellows would come back and eat with us on Sunday night when we came back from our trips. Let me think. You ask me a question.

DONIN: The rest of the people that were living in Wigwam with you; were those

women working like you doing part-time jobs around the college or

around Hanover?

every Brumsted: Many of them were having their first child. You know, because I was... I got to know some neighbors, but I really didn't do much with them, because we were out on the weekends hiking, and doing those things. Harlan had his own group that I became a member, even though primarily the one—one of the things that I do remember with a group of people: they would have combined Outing Club with other schools, with women's colleges—they'd have a weekend—and one of the weekends, we were asked to be chaperones when a group—I think

it was Vassar and Dartmouth—went to Lake George. And one of the couples was Phil Barrick [sp?] and Ellen—I can't think of her maiden name—anyway, that was the trick. They always said, "Oh, you were the ones that brought us together. You were the chaperones and you didn't look where anybody went to sleep." [Laughter] And all I remember is I was never so uncomfortable, because my sleeping bag—it was before they had all these rolled up—

BRUMSTED: Foam.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Foam mattresses they have now, and I was on a rock, and I just thought I would never—

BRUMSTED: It was a rocky island.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: It was a rocky island, it was. But they claimed, they said, "Oh, you were the ones that got us together." But I don't know that I went on—that there were many of those that I was involved in, and I think Harlan was involved in many before we were married—

BRUMSTED: Well, several. They still weren't numerous, because the transportation posed some problem: gas rationing and so forth.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Well, but there are pictures.

BRUMSTED: Yes. The name for the organization that sponsored them—or you could do this in the name of—was the Intercollegiate Outing Club Association: IOCA.

DONIN: This is where this photograph comes from.

BRUMSTED: Was taken. Right. And that was at Smith College, I believe, and a couple of us gave talks that day. Right. Well, it was a workshop, too. Terrific to have that.

DONIN: But I misunderstood. I thought these were wives, but these were actually the women who were members of the outing clubs.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: From the other colleges.

BRUMSTED: Right.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Well, as far as the cooking classes, I can't remember if that was part of my extension. I think it was.

BRUMSTED: I think it was, yes.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: I think that was part of my extension duties, that I taught these classes in basic cooking. It was really basic.

BRUMSTED: Today you'd bold that.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: My turn, my turn.

BRUMSTED: Right.

DONIN: Where was this being—

EVELYN BRUMSTED: I'm trying to think. It was in the college someplace.

DONIN: Right. It was on campus. And those were also the married wives who

were living—

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Those were only the wives of the people who were at—Yes, the

married wives who had come back. I don't even remember how it was advertised. I really don't have any recollection of that. All I know was

that somehow—I think I was the one who proposed it...

BRUMSTED: To your boss lady.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: I'm not sure. I'm not sure. But anyway, it happened, and I had

this series of two or three sessions of it, I think, of women coming. I can't even for the life of me remember, but remember it had to be basic. You know, why do you boil—What do you do with an egg and why do you do it? Trying to think back to my food chemistry and so forth. Everything was so—was such a—plus, growing up on a farm, and being a part of a kitchen, and a big family; a lot of it was osmosis, I knew. And then when I got to college, it was explained why you did things certain ways, and that's what I would try to explain to these women. When you do certain things, why you do it and why you do it in a certain system. You know, even making a pie was a major, major—it may still be. It still is for a lot of people. People still come to me and say, I can't make a pie, but now it's much easier because you can buy

really good crusts.

DONIN: Right. You can cheat now. [Laughter] Now, did you find that your social

group was mostly the DOC guys, so the other married couples that

were living in Fayerweather or were living in Sachem, you didn't have that much interaction with them because you never saw them.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: No, I got to know a few of the people that were our neighbors—

BRUMSTED: Right around us.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Who lived in the apartments near us, but I can't—we really didn't—as Harlan said, he rarely—I don't ever remember his going back to the SAE house or anything of that sort.

BRUMSTED: We did go to the White Church. In fact, we joined at the White Church, but we didn't go to their social events. But strictly the services—

EVELYN BRUMSTED: We did, we did. We can say Harlan was first a Baptist and I was brought up a Methodist. We went to Hanover and we were Congregationalists. We came to Cornell. We went to Sage Chapel. We went to a little tiny church when he was working for the State of New York—it was a Presbyterian church—and the Presbyterian minister there alerted the Presbyterian minister in Ithaca, so when we came back, he invited us to the Presbyterian church. We've been Presbyterians ever since. [Laughter]

DONIN: You tried them all.

BRUMSTED: Almost. Now, in 1946, wasn't sugar still rationed?

EVELYN BRUMSTED: I think that they—I'm not sure about that.

BRUMSTED: Didn't you have some feelings about—

EVELYN BRUMSTED: There might have been some shortages where the men would maybe give me rations to—I don't think so. I can't remember that part.

My problem was trying to get foods cooked on the—

DONIN: Little tiny burners?

EVELYN BRUMSTED: On the two burners and the kind of reflector oven that you put on top.

BRUMSTED: On some of those wonderful parties, when they would bring even their parents—some of these people, they'd bring their parents. We'd invite them over—that there were some persons who would drink coffee and as they loaded spoons full of sugar, you would sort of wince. [Laughter]

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Cringe. So maybe it was just a shortage. I'm not sure that rationing was still on at that point.

BRUMSTED: Well, they could have managed.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Oh, and I think one of the funniest things was: this one young man—again, probably someone who wouldn't have been in college had it not been for the V-12 program—came over and I had made a cake, and I to this day don't use cake mixes very often. He had a piece of this cake that I made and he says, "Oh, boy. This is almost as good as store bought." [Laughter] I'll never forget that as long as I live, because even now, it's grandma's cake for birthdays: the cake from scratch.

DONIN: It's becoming a rare, rare treat to have cake from scratch. You must have been a very popular person, then, because of your cooking.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: I think so, as far as that goes. We had a wonderful time those two years in Hanover. We really did. I do have to—I guess I told you before that the first year we were there, there was a month. It could have been February. I'm not sure. But, there were thirty days where every single morning it was at least thirty below zero, and it was gorgeous. You know, the white, the snow was beautiful and, unlike Ithaca, the humidity was non-existent, almost, and it was just the most beautiful snow and so forth. Well, we'd get up—we had this space heater in the apartment and we'd get up—I usually got up and turned the space heater on at five o'clock in the morning, and then Harlan got up and he would go for an eight o'clock class, and he'd come back and he'd say, "Oh, it's hot in here," and he'd go to turn the heater down and I'd say, "No, no, no, no. It's only crawling up to fifty," but of course there's such a differential between thirty-below outside and fifty degrees inside that it seemed hot. But I can remember writing my folks in Florida and saying, "You know, we've had thirty degrees below zero," and we had no insulation under the floors. They were just open—these barracks were just opened underneath, and so you had a—what do you call it when you've got an area of absolute cold that doesn't-

BRUMSTED: Well, cold air is heavier, so down next—

EVELYN BRUMSTED: I know.

BRUMSTED: It's a layer of air.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Oh, but there's a word. Anyway, it was so cold that I got arthritis

in my legs and in my knees, and it was before, really, women wore a lot of slacks. You'd wear them if you were going out hiking and so forth, but I can remember thinking: Now, tonight I'm going to get dressed up; I'm going to put a skirt on. And I'd put a skirt on and I'd be so cold before we got through dinner I'd have to go put a pair of pants back on because the floor was so cold. Well, you know the word. What is it when the bottom of the lake is cold? There's a word and I can't think of

it.

DONIN: It'll come to you.

BRUMSTED: Well, it was a layer of cold air, which is heavy.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Yes, that's right, but there's a—anyway, that, to me, was the

cold of where we didn't have any insulation and the apartment floors in the lower part of the apartment were so cold and you couldn't seem—I don't know whether we had fans or what we had, whether we could

circulate, but...

DONIN: My understanding is that that housing belonged to the navy, and it

originated over in Portsmouth.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: It came from someplace.

DONIN: Portsmouth or Portland, Maine, or something like that. And it was

dismantled, and trucked over to Hanover, and reconstructed, and it was shabby to begin with, so there was practically nothing to it.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: That's right.

DONIN: And you used—those space heaters were fueled with kerosene?

EVELYN BRUMSTED: That's right. Harlan would go out and—

BRUMSTED: I showed you my picture there, putting...

DONIN: Terrifying, terrifying.

BRUMSTED: Well, it worked. It worked.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: And now, of course, they wouldn't let anything like that happen.

We survived.

BRUMSTED: Yep. There's my picture on the right, I think.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Next page.

BRUMSTED: Next page.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Up in the corner. Is he-

BRUMSTED: No. On the right-hand side.

DONIN: Oh, here you are. In the dance?

BRUMSTED: Well, I'm there.

DONIN: Here?

BRUMSTED: Yeah, I've even got a fraternity brother there. Two of them with me.

DONIN: These are all SAE guys?

BRUMSTED: Yeah.

DONIN: This is you?

BRUMSTED: Yeah.

DONIN: Is this you?

BRUMSTED: Yeah.

DONIN: Oh.

BRUMSTED: That's our senior prom. The person on the left is the late Roger S.

Brown, who was a pilot in the navy, and he gave me one of the greatest personal thrills of the four years that I was in the military. I can't name the base where we were. This could have been Hawaii, or it could have been stateside, but do you know what a gull-winged airplane is, where the wings slope toward the body and then come up so there's a V in the wings of the airplane as you look at the airplane straight ahead. The navy had a single-engine, single-pilot pursuit plane called a Corsair, and it was my favorite plane to watch on carriers and various places where I happened to be, and I would keep track of these Dartmouth friends, and they with me, and if you knew their ships

to which they were assigned or otherwise their activity, at a port there would be a list of the ships in harbor, or what was going on. So, by gosh, there is minesweeper number and Jim's on that. So you could then—

EVELYN BRUMSTED: You mean Roger.

BRUMSTED:

—talk to a sailor and they'd run up and they'd use the flags. They'd send regards over to Jim. It was really great. So, I kept track and one day he came in with a Corsair he was flying, and I was waiting for him at an airport like, outside next to a building, and there was the tarmac, the strip where he could taxi in from landing. And he came in in this Corsair and taxied right up to me. You know, I could touch the tip of the wing and give him a salute. The poor guy was killed here in central New York in a glider accident after the war. It was very tragic.

The other gentleman is Don Wales: a very fine Outing Club member. And I've communicated with him a bit, but not in recent years. And I don't think... You mentioned Neidlinger. Neidlinger had twin daughters, and so—

EVELYN BRUMSTED: That's his daughter with Roger.

BRUMSTED: With Roger. The woman with the black top is a Neidlinger twin.

DONIN: Sally or Susan?

BRUMSTED: One or the other. I don't remember. [Laughter] That was guite a few

dances ago.

DONIN: Now, when you wore dresses like this, did you make these dresses?

EVELYN BRUMSTED: I made that dress, I'm sure.

DONIN: Wow.

BRUMSTED: Really?

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Oh, sure.

DONIN: That's a skill, not to mention a money-saver, too. It saves you a lot of

money.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: I don't do it much anymore. I used to make a lot.

DONIN: Now, are there other pictures you want to go through in here and talk

about them? Isn't there one when you're pouring kerosene into-

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Yeah, I think that's—

BRUMSTED: Yeah, I think it's right here. You see, there's Thayer School in the

background. And what we have is simply an open pail. An open pail.

You know, if you tripped on the step...

EVELYN BRUMSTED: And a funnel!

BRUMSTED: I can't believe it. An open pail and a funnel. And look at that: there's an

inch-wide stream of kerosene coming out of that spigot. And we'd pour

this in a reservoir in the back.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: And this is when they were still smoking, too. Everybody was still

smoking. I never smoked, but Harlan smoked a pipe.

DONIN: Oops. Let me turn this over. Pick up where we left off here. So, we've

got this open pail of kerosene and you're smoking a pipe?

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Well, he didn't have the pipe—No, but I'm just saying that

everybody did smoke at that point. I mean, all of them smoked.

BRUMSTED: Well, not when I'm in the process of doing that, but I was a pipe

smoker. Many, many people smoked. There was a very high proportion

of people smoking.

DONIN: So these big black tanks are what contained the kerosene.

BRUMSTED: That's a fifty-five-gallon drum: your common gallon—your common

drum-

EVELYN BRUMSTED: I can't remember whether we had to pay for it or not.

BRUMSTED: Oh, yes, I think so. And they were simply on a cradle of x-shaped—two

two-by-four xs.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Yep. You know what I've got someplace—and I can find it—is

our first year and probably our first two years of absolutely every penny

we spent.

DONIN: Oh, fascinating.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: I don't know whether that would be anything—

DONIN: Oh, love it.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Well, I'll find it. I think I—I'm sure I wouldn't have thrown that away. It's got to be someplace, but I'll look at that. But, I can remember our food cost us ten dollars a week. I could not go over ten dollars a

week for food.

DONIN: Because at this point you were living off the GI Bill, right?

EVELYN BRUMSTED: That's right. The GI Bill took us all the way through to the last

semester of his PhD.

DONIN: Wow.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: It took us through the two years in Hanover, the one year getting

his Masters, and two and a half of the three years when he got his PhD. My father said, "Don't you think you ought to wait until Harlan gets his degree"—we were both twenty-two, you realize. My father said, "Don't you think you should wait until Harlan gets his education finished before you get married?" And I said, "Oh, no." And seven

years and two children later, he was finished. [Laughter]

DONIN: Right. So, the G.I. Bill paid for your tuition, but there were living

expenses attached to it.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Yes.

DONIN: And it gave you ten dollars a week?

EVELYN BRUMSTED: No. That was my budget.

DONIN: Oh, I see.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: My budget was ten dollars a week for food. We did well.

DONIN: Wow. But if anybody could stretch it, you could, probably, because—

BRUMSTED: Yes, she could. The inflation—

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Yeah, and I still do because I don't buy everything that's, you

know, put together ahead of time. I don't do that.

DONIN: Right.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: So, anyway. I don't do it on ten dollars a week, and I don't skimp. If we want to eat something, we eat it at this stage in our life.

BRUMSTED: So, my parents paid tuition for two semesters, I think, before the

military cut in. At least one. At least one semester.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: I think that's true, because when we hit that last semester with no money, she gave us money and my mother and father gave us some money. In other words, I didn't work. I worked hard. I was not employed. But your mother gave us—I can remember the five thousand dollar check she said we did not—this was saved for Harlan's education, and we did not have to spend it, and here it is. Maybe you don't remember that.

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BRUMSTED: I don't remember that.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: I do.

BRUMSTED: But, you see, the factor is just unbelievable, because while I think that

my tuition that first semester was of the order of \$365 at Dartmouth

College.

DONIN: Gee.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: And my freshman year at Cornell, the whole thing cost three

hundred dollars, but I waited table for my board.

DONIN: Right. Now, in terms of the college traditions that were reintroduced

once the war was over and once President Dickey came back; you got to enjoy all of those traditions like Winter Carnival, and senior prom, and homecoming. I don't know if they called it homecoming. Dartmouth

Night, I think they called it, in the fall?

BRUMSTED: In the fall.

DONIN: With the football game?

BRUMSTED: Yes.

DONIN: Green Key in the spring.

BRUMSTED: A dance.

DONIN: Yeah. And I've seen a picture—and I don't know whether it was outside

of Wigwam or not, or whether it was Sachem—of the ice sculptures

that everybody did.

BRUMSTED: That's Carnival.

DONIN: Winter Carnival. There was a picture of a big huge stork with lots of

little baby storks around it. Do you remember that outside of—

EVELYN BRUMSTED: No, I don't remember that one.

DONIN: It may have been a different year than when you were there. So, those

started back up again when you were there, when you came back.

BRUMSTED: Yes.

DONIN: And you, in fact, were chairman of Winter Carnival your senior year.

BRUMSTED: My senior year. And so John Rand was back on the scene as general

manager of the Outing Club. And again, it's obviously limited as to the number of things that a student chairman can do, and writing contracts with professional skaters to put on a show at Outdoor Evening, which is the Friday night of Carnival. You know, that's not for a junior or a senior even to get into. That's something that John Rand would do. Well, so just to work with a person like that, the learning must have been fabulous just every day. And of course I remarked also about not missing having someone there in that capacity of totally different, but

no less talented, than Tom Dent.

But, that Carnival where I was chairman in '48 was, like the previous one, pretty much a complete revival of the Carnivals of the past that they made movie films about. In fact, I saw part of the film maybe a year or two ago, and it showed the guys having meetings and

planning things, and it's just exactly what we did.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: I'm going to go, because I think I can bring a picture of

everybody sitting around our living room.

DONIN: Fantastic.

BRUMSTED: Wonderful.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: You keep talking.

BRUMSTED: All right.

DONIN: All right.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: And I'll see if I can find that picture.

BRUMSTED: Okay, thank you. Well, the great class of '46 has Lowell Thomas, Jr. as

a member. Is he still alive and well?

DONIN: I don't know. I haven't-

BRUMSTED: Well, they went to Alaska and retired there. I grew up—I'm an only

child, so my two parents and I would listen to Lowell Thomas, Sr. nightly. I think it was 6:45—a quarter of seven—where we would sit down in front of the big, tall cabinet radio and listen to Lowell Thomas broadcast from Singapore, or someplace where he was. So, the fact that Lowell Thomas, Jr. was there was great. And my senior year, when I was chairperson of Carnival, we got Lowell Thomas. We invited him to come as one of the judges of the queen and so on. And as chairperson, I did preside at the Saturday night banquet, where the various winning teams were awarded and individuals recognized. And his son, my classmate, won some honor like the alpine combined—the

combination of cross-country and-

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Downhill.

BRUMSTED: And downhill or whatever. And to see his dad—I think what I did was I

relinquished my opportunity—in private, I relinquished my opportunity to give him his trophy or whatever, and sent his dad up to do this.

DONIN: Oh, that's wonderful.

BRUMSTED: So, it was a special joy and delight to do that.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Okay, if you count the one who took the photograph, there's

fourteen people.

DONIN: What a memory.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: There's a couple other...

DONIN: And you had enough plates and china? This looks very elegant. Oh,

these are amazing pictures.

BRUMSTED: Yeah, well, when you grow up in a farm family, you just put a lot of stuff

in.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Guess when that was. There's Gus in his tux.

DONIN: Oh, that's—

EVELYN BRUMSTED: That's the wedding.

BRUMSTED: Today.

DONIN: Unbelievable. Today, in 1951. Look at that.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: And there is: Suki is home demonstration agent in Grafton

County.

DONIN: Oh, that's great.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Do you want these pictures?

DONIN: Yes, but don't take them out—

EVELYN BRUMSTED: No. I'll be sure they're marked. Supper at the ravine camp,

February, '47.

DONIN: Amazing.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: June 11. Photographed by W. A. Gustafson.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

BRUMSTED: No, it's J. A.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: And then these are all...

DONIN: This is incredible. Look at the quality of—

EVELYN BRUMSTED: There. That's got to be—That's at the ravine camp, and here is

Harlan's good friends. Here's—Well, all of them I can name. These

guys built a-

DONIN: Oh, Dave Kendall, class of '45.

BRUMSTED: Did you interview him?

DONIN: I'm going to when I go to Maine.

BRUMSTED: Oh, wonderful.

DONIN: Yes.

BRUMSTED: Wonderful.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: And then we have... Here's a meeting of—Harlan would have to

tell you. But anyway, that would be a meeting of probably over in-

well, here. That's the-

DONIN: Is this the Outing Club?

EVELYN BRUMSTED: No, this is the—where Doug was. Doug...

BRUMSTED: Doug Wade. The naturalist's office.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: That's the naturalist in the naturalist's office.

DONIN: Yes. Oh, here they are with their guitars. These are great photographs.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Oh, this is Quechee Gorge. Who was your professor?

BRUMSTED: Oh, that is the long-time director of the museum, who also taught the

ornithology course.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Yeah.

BRUMSTED: Do you remember his name?

EVELYN BRUMSTED: No. Look that up.

BRUMSTED: I don't.

DONIN: The museum...

BRUMSTED: The museum director in the 1940s. Very interesting character: tall,

sharp features—

EVELYN BRUMSTED: There he is, right there in his whites. I don't have his—

DONIN: This is a perfect example of: we can look this up when we go to the

archives. The name of the museum.

BRUMSTED: And the name of the-

EVELYN BRUMSTED: He had everybody in his class for a picnic.

BRUMSTED: His ornithology class over at Quechee Gorge. How's that?

DONIN: That is great.

BRUMSTED: Yeah.

DONIN: These are wonderful. Don't get these out of order, though.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: No, these are—then we go to our oldest, our baby. That's my brother who was the dean; he's my baby brother. But anyway, then we started the babies, and family, and so forth. Harlan has so many, but these are a little different from Harlan's.

DONIN: These are great.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: I don't know what—oh. I think those are the ones I'm—

DONIN: Here, these belong in there, I think.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Well, we'll mark them and who they are and so forth and what they are, and get them to you.

DONIN: Yes. Once you're really sure your children don't want them.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: No, they do not.

DONIN: We would love to have them. There you are on the Green.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: There's that professor again, Harlan. Maybe if you saw him you would remember his name.

DONIN: Oh, yeah.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Don't you remember? He had a hamburger fork or a skewer or something and he was fencing with it.

BRUMSTED: Yes.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: See, that's got to be the ravine camp. And these guys—there's Gus. I've forgotten. Harlan knows this. They built an igloo to sleep in.

BRUMSTED: Oh, for Stefansson

DONIN: Oh, Stefansson, yes.

BRUMSTED: Stefansson visited campus.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Yeah, here we are. This was one of the most—can they still hear

me or not?

DONIN: Yes.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: This is one of the most—Well, my goodness we go back. This is

all Hanover here. This is all-

BRUMSTED: Bonanza!

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Yeah. There you are. There's the Cabin and Trail.

BRUMSTED: Oh, my goodness.

DONIN: Oh, look at this. That's great. Look at that. That's a wonderful picture.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: And this is the car that we used to call the—

BRUMSTED: Coach Mobile.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Coach Mobile. And Harlan and I usually ended up in the rumble

seat. But, here we are going off on—

DONIN: Oh, yes. Off on a hike or a ski.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Yeah. And there we are cooking in one of the cabins.

DONIN: You're doing the cook—Oh no, somebody else is.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: I don't know.

BRUMSTED: Sure.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: But there we are at the ravine camp. And a winter trip. I think

that's Gus.

DONIN: You're bundled up so much you can't see who's who.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: They were in the rumble seat then. But these are all Dartmouth pictures.

DONIN: Oh, these are great. Trip to readwall of Moose...?

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Oh, the headwall of Moosilauke. That was one of the most unforgettable times, because it had a terrific—

BRUMSTED: Thirty-eight hurricane.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Hurricane. There was so much blown down they couldn't get in there, but because there was so much snow, we snowshoed on the top of everything, right up to the headwall. There's the headwall, right there. Well, that takes care of my white pants.

DONIN: Oh, there go your white pants.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: So, but there we are on that trip.

DONIN: Oh. look.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Aren't we young and handsome?

DONIN: Yeah. Look how much snow.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Let's see. Here it is. The snow was seven feet deep. I can remember we took a—Well, we were on top of the spruces. The tops of the spruces were up like this, just a couple feet.

BRUMSTED: We walked on logs.

DONIN: Well, look how it's piled up higher than the cars here on the side of the

road. Incredible.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Well, and then there's my—There's another thing I did as a home demonstration agent then. Yeah, see, '47 to '48, I was not an agent. I don't know what I did that first year. I did the—

DONIN: You did the sewing.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: I did the sewing, but I can't remember what else I did. Maybe I didn't do anything. So, anyway.

BRUMSTED: Kept house.

DONIN: That was the model back then. The wives kept house and...

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Yeah. Well, we will mark these and get them to you.

DONIN: Oh, great. Wonderful.

BRUMSTED: This could go over with her collection there.

DONIN: This belongs back in there.

BRUMSTED: Yes.

DONIN: Wonderful.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: That was Schwedland. That's... This is in his—

BRUMSTED: Mary, the last picture that I just handed back, I had a Ewing name on

the back as one of the-

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Here I am. Harlan took one of them out, but there are the other

two. A couple more of me cooking.

DONIN: The other one is probably the one he sent into the—

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Yeah, it is.

BRUMSTED: Right.

DONIN: Amazing.

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Teaching the Dartmouth brides to cook. I think that's where it

started. That's where Dartmouth—Oh, here's a whole bunch. Winter in Hanover, '47. There we are, heading up the trail. There's Gus. Gus is always with us. Oh, there's the picture of Harlan. Oh, you can see he

had another one that he took out.

DONIN: Yep. You never got those back.

BRUMSTED: Oh, yes. They did send them back.

DONIN: They did send them back? They just didn't go back in the—

BRUMSTED: Yeah. I have copies of these, some in an album and some unmounted.

DONIN: Oh, good. That's good. So, what were you saying about that last

picture?

BRUMSTED: I noticed the name Ewing on the back. There were at least two

commercial photographers downtown, and they'd always be invited to come to these events, especially Carnival, IOCA, and anything we wanted them to. They'd love to do this, because within hours, they would post in 22 Robinson Hall on the bulletin board there, pictures. And they'd put a number and you'd sign up and how many do you

want? And so they'd sell them that way.

DONIN: It's a good business.

BRUMSTED: But what I'm saying is if they kept their negatives. If their archives are

someplace in the community...

DONIN: I wish they were.

BRUMSTED: But, it's uncertain or just unknown?

DONIN: You know what's even more outrageous is *The D* did not archive their

photographs that they took for so many, many, many years.

BRUMSTED: You're kidding.

DONIN: Up until about 1970, '80, they don't have any archives.

BRUMSTED: Really?

DONIN: I mean, it's just frustrating. Very frustrating. You know, you have the

pictures that were reproduced in The D, but none of the original negatives or anything. But, you know, they didn't have the money, I

don't think, or the manpower to archive stuff like that.

BRUMSTED: Well, Dave Kendall is a great, great person and—

EVELYN BRUMSTED: Oh, he was a great—He took lots of pictures. You'll have all

sorts of pictures from him.

DONIN: That will be lots of fun.

BRUMSTED: Oh, I think it's great that you're going up to Maine.

DONIN: I haven't put it together yet, but that's my hope, to do it over the

summer, needless to say, because there are about—I try to wait until I get a nice little grouping, like I had here. I had four of you and that was enough reason to come, and I've got about five of them over in Maine,

so that's my next road trip, I hope.

BRUMSTED: Marvelous.

[End of interview]