

Dartmouth College Oral History Project
The War Years at Dartmouth
Interview with Francis Drury '48
By Mary Donin
6/9/08

DRURY: As a child, I grew up in a town just east of Cleveland. My dad was working in Cleveland. He had his own little construction company, and one Sunday I heard a loud shout from the living room and I dashed into the living room to see what the source of the noise was, and there was my dad on his knees on the living room floor with the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* spread out before him and he was looking down at the headline of the sports page, that big black headline on the front page of the sports page, which read: "Dartmouth 14, Yale 6." Well, I didn't know what Dartmouth was, but then and there, dad told me about Dartmouth, and that's when I became a Dartmouth man. [Laughter] And then, within two years, unexpectedly to both of us at that time, we were living in Hanover as Dad came back to get his civil engineering degree, which he found he needed in the construction business.

The intention at the time of his coming up here for a temporary two-year period was simply to get the degree and then move back to Cleveland, but the family loved Hanover so much that Dad decided to stay on here. He put up his shingle over main street: "Dan Drury: Civil Engineer," and was a north-country engineer in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. And he and mother lived here for the rest of their lives.

DONIN: Oh, is that right?

DRURY: And we—there are three sons—grew up here, and I was lucky enough to go on to Dartmouth after Hanover High School. I always thought that the decision by the family to stay here in Hanover was just for us, momentous, and they could not possibly have done a better thing for the family.

DONIN: Now, I was peeking in the alumni directory and it would look like you had two brothers that followed you here. Is that right?

DRURY: My brother, Andy, the second of us, entered Dartmouth, but it wasn't what he needed, so he went on to another college and did not complete his education at Dartmouth. My younger brother—the younger of the two, Herbie—stayed on and graduated in the class of 1952. So, you're right. And then my daughter was here at Dartmouth in the class of '79.

DONIN: Oh, so this is—we're talking three generations now.

DRURY: Right.

DONIN: Wonderful, great. Truly a greenblood family. [Laughter]

DRURY: You bet. We were all proud of it, too.

DONIN: So, let's go back to either the spring or summer of 1944. It's well known that your class came in two different groups: a small group, I guess, in March of '44, and then a larger group—although it wasn't particularly large—in the summer. So, which group did you come in with?

DRURY: I came in the larger of the two groups you're talking about in very, very early July, 1944. I think it was July 2nd. We were less than a month after D-Day in the European World War II. I would say there must have been about ninety of us, about. I don't know how big that contingent was, but we entered in very early July. In fact, the July 4th weekend was after our arrival here, and we had no classes until the return from the July 4th weekend, but most of us were students then. We stayed here and a large group of us went on a great DOC hike that same weekend, up over Mt. Washington and the northern half of the Presidential Range. And quite a few of us got to know each other pretty well on that single hike.

DONIN: Now was that hike organized by the Outing Club?

DRURY: Yes, by the DOC. And we had the Navy truck. The commandant of the Navy here—the Navy and Marine operation in Hanover—was persuaded by the soccer and lacrosse coach, Tommy Dent, to assign to the DOC on weekends the Navy's large stake truck, which could be used to take the boys out to the mountains for hikes and climbs, which would put them in great condition. And the commandant agreed with that, and every weekend that summer that truck was made available to us for god knows how many great hikes through the White Mountains and the Green Mountains.

DONIN: That's terrific. Was that one of the things that attracted you about Dartmouth was the outdoor activities?

DRURY: Well, you know I had decided on Dartmouth and I never changed my decision when I heard Dad shout and his explanation afterwards. So, growing up here in Hanover and attending Hanover High, I knew all about all the activities that were available at the college, so I knew all about the chance to climb on weekends, sure. That certainly affected...

DONIN: And it sounds like you were quite an athlete at Hanover High, too. Weren't you quite a good skier?

DRURY: Well, we were a small high school, and we had a pretty good ski team, and I was one of the members. And, of course, another of our members was Colin Stewart, who was on the 1948 Olympic team and got seventh place in the special slalom event, which at that time was the highest alpine event that any American had achieved in the winter Olympics as of that time.

DONIN: Fantastic. I'm sure he was a great leader for all of you to want to be better skiers.

DRURY: Oh, sure. Of course. We all loved the sport of skiing, but being lucky enough to grow up here. So, a large number of us kids kept right on going on skis, and would ski still today if we could.

DONIN: Right. Now, were there any other students from Hanover High that were at Dartmouth at that point?

DRURY: Well, at that time, John Wood, who was the stepson of Stump Barr, who was the college's investment treasurer, was also in my class at Hanover High, and he entered also with us in July '44, just after we got out of Hanover High, but he was drafted within five weeks and never came back to Dartmouth after the war. He went on to the University of Colorado instead. And there were—Wilcomb Washburn was a member of our class of 1948, but he was in Hanover High for only two years before he went on to Exeter and he graduated from Exeter in 1943, rather than '44, and was valedictorian of his class at Exeter. His father was a language professor here at Dartmouth. And Joe Bannon of the class of '43 in Hanover High was also in our class of 1948.

DONIN: So, Hanover was well represented in your class.

DRURY: It was, yes.

DONIN: Now, I gather there were also some—there were other faculty children around at Hanover High. They happened to be women, I guess, so they didn't attend Dartmouth. I'm thinking specifically of Tom Dent's daughter, I believe.

DRURY: Jean. Yes.

DONIN: And there's a Barbara as well, right? Barbara Dent? Is that right?

DRURY: Barbara is Jean's younger sister, yes.

DONIN: I see.

DRURY: Of course, we didn't have co-ed education at Dartmouth. So, they couldn't go here even if they had wanted to. And Jean today, I think, is still in Fairlee where she's a town officer—I think the town financial officer.

DONIN: Oh, how interesting.

DRURY: So, she is still there. I don't know where Barbara is.

DONIN: She's living down in New London with her husband, Richard Hinman. They call him Bull Hinman.

DRURY: Oh, sure. And he was from the family at the foot of the Balch Hill Road, that great big stone house there. And that's where the Himans lived for generations.

DONIN: Right. And, of course, I'm trying to remember the other girls that were on campus then that we've talked—oh, Pudge Neidlinger I guess had two daughters, also, at the High School, right?

DRURY: He had three daughters at Hanover High. Mary was the oldest, who married Bob Kilmarx, '49, and Sally married a man named Hudson and I don't think he was a Dartmouth man, but Susan, the other twin—Sally and Susan were identical twins—and Susan married Malcolm McLane of the class of '46, who was captain of the ski team and a Rhodes Scholar. Both of them just died recently.

DONIN: Yes. Very sad. But it sounds like Dartmouth at that time was much more of a—what's the right word? It seems there was lots of mixture between the so-called town Hanover people—the kids—and the Dartmouth people. It was a much more sort of open campus, I think, if you were a Hanover kid and certainly a child of the faculty.

DRURY: Maybe... You're correct; the town and the college were close. As an example, when President Hopkins, who was a very popular man in Hanover, walked down the street, people would pour out of the stores to shake his hand: the owners of the stores, and the people—the Hanover citizens. When he went down the street, it was a real parade of handshakes for him, and he was very popular as a personal human being among the Hanover citizenry. And most of the other people who were

officers of the college, like Sid Hayward and Dean Strong and Dean Neidlinger; they were all citizens of the town. Dean Neidlinger used to— what's the word I want? Attend a couple of the slalom gates in the slalom races out on Oak Hill between kids and then later between college students. He entered into the local activities, as did many of the college officers. And, of course, there weren't very many college officers in those days.

DONIN: I think maybe that's why they were so much more identifiable within the town is there were so few of them that everybody knew who they were.

DRURY: Right. And, of course, they all had kids here in Hanover High, and a lot of the Hanover High kids knew that they were going to go on to Dartmouth, so there was a close affinity or unity between town and gown here in Hanover.

DONIN: How was it having your father as a member of the faculty?

DRURY: My dad was not regularly a member of the faculty. He filled in at Thayer School only during a couple of semesters when the regular professor was off.

DONIN: Oh, I see.

DRURY: Because Dad had his own business as a North Country engineer, and he worked mostly out of town every day, except when he was drawing on the board, and he had a—he only employed one or two people and so he was out and around and he covered Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. He helped design roads and there were mills around that needed civil engineering help. There aren't many mills operating in northern New England any longer, but in those days there were. There were seven railroads in Vermont and a couple of them in New Hampshire—little independent railroads—and he took care of them, designed their tracks, and was kept pretty busy, and loved it because it made him an independent and he loved being on his own. But he only worked for the college, I think, not more than two semesters.

DONIN: Oh, I see. I misunderstood. Looking in the history of the employees of the college, I saw him listed, but I didn't check his dates.

DRURY: Right. It wasn't very long and he was never a full professor. He was a fill-in when they needed a guy, reluctantly, more or less, but he did it because he thought he should.

DONIN: Right. So, let's go back to your experience once you matriculated here in July of 1944. What dorm were you in?

DRURY: I was in Richardson—on the top floor of Richardson—and we had a good group of people up there. You've already interviewed John Van Raalte. He was on that floor. Colin Stewart and I roomed together. Johnny Wood, who left so soon afterwards, had the room next door to us that he shared with someone. I've forgotten who it was. And I think I counted five of our people on that floor that first July semester who are here today with us.

DONIN: Isn't that great?

DRURY: It's great.

DONIN: Now, did they put you and Colin Stewart together because you were both skiers or both Hanover people?

DRURY: I suppose. I never asked how it happened, but I don't know that we did anything to arrange it that way. I don't recall that we did, but now that you make me think about it, I think we did say, "Why don't you put us together and Johnny Wood next door to us, if it's possible." So, they did.

DONIN: And the school year started early, because the classes at that point were being accelerated, right? Or the terms were being compressed, anyway.

DRURY: At that time, the college was run on three four-month trimesters a year, and there was actually each of the three trimesters was of equal length, and it was done because of World War II. So, it was quite possible—it's still possible now, here at Dartmouth, I guess—to go through college in a much shorter time, which the military wanted. I mean, we needed eight semesters, so trimesters, I think it gave you the chance to get out in two and a half, two and two-thirds years instead of four years.

DONIN: And did most of your class enter with the thought in mind that they would be enlisting before they graduated, that they would get into the war?

DRURY: Most of them came in—most '48s that summer had one thought on their minds, and that thought was: The draft is going to get me, put me in the army when I'm eighteen or soon after I'm eighteen, so I'm going to get as much education as I can before the draft hits. And who knows? Maybe because I'm in college, I'll even get a deferment. Who knows? But, that was the prime concern of a great many of the boys. As soon as you were eighteen, you were dog meat for the army and who knew how soon you would get the letter from the President: "Greetings from your local draft

board.” So, fellows hoped that, hell, maybe they would get in a term or a year or something before they were drafted. And that also had another effect that it made discipline a little less than normal and it made that summer of 1944 an awful fun time. [Laughter]

DONIN: In what way did they lighten up on the discipline?

DRURY: Well, the college didn't really lighten up, but the boys didn't work too hard, a lot of them, especially those who knew very well that their time here was limited. And the college had two—let's say inspectors—that kept order and peace and the rules on the campus, and maybe John told you about them. Nelson K. Wormwood.

DONIN: I've heard that name.

DRURY: And his sidekick, whose name was Laughing Boy. One of our fellows pinned the nickname Laughing Boy on him and I, for one, don't know what his real name was. [Laughter] And those two tried to keep order in the three civilian dorms, and they did so to varying extents at varying times. But sometimes there wasn't any order.

DONIN: I can imagine. I mean, to have a staff of only two campus policemen keeping track of—I assume they also had to keep their eye on the military guys, too.

DRURY: Oh, no. The military were under military discipline.

DONIN: So they didn't have to enforce anything with them.

DRURY: I never heard of any military here getting into any kind of extracurricular trouble by pulling pranks in the dorms or anything like that. Each dorm was a ship and it was manned and officered as such. So, the discipline among the Navy and Marines was pretty taut as far as I could see, and there were few little things that happened. I know Sam Wilkinson in our class wrote a wonderful little memoir years later. He was in one of the Gold Coast dorms occupied by the Navy—Gile, Lord, or Streeter—and reveille blew every morning at six o'clock and that's how everybody was up. And you were supposed to be up and out of bed and down on the field for a review in so many minutes. I don't know what the time was, but Sam told a story of early one morning when it was still half dark, one of their members was late when they got outside for the formal review, and he rushed out of his dorm still just half dressed—didn't have the buttons buttoned or anything else—and he dashed into the crowd and he said, “Hold them off while I finish dressing.” And they all gathered around him and the officers never

did find out who that fellow was and they tried hard, but they finally gave up and the guy got away with it.

DONIN: That's great.

DRURY: That's beautifully written up by Sam.

DONIN: That's wonderful. Where is that little memoir?

DRURY: I don't know, but Sam is coming here this weekend.

DONIN: Oh, is he?

DRURY: Yeah. Ask Sam.

DONIN: Yeah, I'm going to.

DRURY: He's rather sick. He walks with a terrible slouch, so look for him. If I see him I'll tell him.

DONIN: What's his last name?

DRURY: Wilkinson. And he lives right outside Portland, Maine. Sam Wilkinson.

DONIN: Okay. Well, I will definitely try to track him down. Great.

DRURY: I'm sure there were other incidents in the Navy and the Marines that I just don't know about.

DONIN: Right. But you must have been conscious of them sort of marching around in formation on the Green.

DRURY: Well, most of the times, all the activities were joint—civilians and Navy Marines—all the classes were joint; all the extra-curricular activities, to the extent there were any were joint, except military classes, which, of course, we civilians did not partake of. The reviews—there was often a review on Saturday marching around the campus in their various units. And, of course, we weren't part of that, and we used to stand around with the townspeople and watch the units go back and forth and learn how to march together. Some of those units got good. They were terrific.

DONIN: They certainly looked good in the photographs that we have. It's amazing, amazing. Now, did you share meals with them?

DRURY: No. They ate in their own dining hall. You know, thinking back on it, did we have a dining hall?

DONIN: Did you eat in Freshman Commons the first year?

DRURY: Well, I'm trying to remember, Mary, if we did or not. I think we did. I just don't—I don't recall now, because I can't remember going over there regularly, but if we didn't eat there, where did we eat? I don't think we went downtown and ate in the restaurants. I should remember that, but you know, I'm not sure now.

DONIN: Yeah. I mean, I assume they had Freshman Commons and then they had Thayer Dining Hall behind it serving food, but...

DRURY: Well, Thayer, I think, was occupied by the Navy.

DONIN: Oh, I see.

DRURY: I think the military took over Thayer. Commons: I remember standing in line for Commons in October '45, but that was a year later, and I guess we may have eaten in Commons, Mary, but why don't you ask John about that?

DONIN: I should ask John about that.

DRURY: Yeah. For some reason, I just don't recall where we ate, and it may have been that we ate in Commons maybe only one meal a day or something like that, but it must have been Commons.

DONIN: Now, your freshman year, then, did it start out like the traditional freshman years here, it seems, with everybody wearing their beanies and having to carry furniture for the few upperclassmen that were around?

DRURY: We had none of that. They didn't have a football rush in the fall, and there were no beanies, no carrying furniture. All of that was—you see, there weren't many upperclassmen. There was no one around, virtually, to do that sort of thing. The number of upperclassmen was very small. After all, all the dorms on that side of campus, on the west side of campus, belonged to the Navy and Marines and that meant South, Middle, and North Mass, Butterfield—what's the one beyond Butterfield? I can't think of it.

DONIN: Is it Hitchcock?

DRURY: Hitchcock. Hitchcock, yeah. Butterfield, and Hitchcock, and one more: two names. I can't think of it right now. And, the Gold Coast—Gile, Lord, and Streeter—they all were occupied by the Navy and Marines, and you know there were well over two thousand of them. And the existing undergraduate student body was housed in three dorms: the old Crosby, which is the present-day Blunt, plus Wheeler, plus Richardson. And in the three Fayerweather Halls were graduate students. There were the med students and the Tuck students, I think some of them may have lived—Tuck had two dorms of its own and maybe all the students could live in those two Tuck dorms down there. And, of course, we had Thayer students, and there may have been Thayer students in the three Fayerweathers, or some of the Fayerweather Halls.

DONIN: Now, you had classes, then, with all these trainees.

DRURY: Oh, sure. Everything was joined. All the classes were joint except the military classes that were strictly V-12, V-5.

DONIN: Now, were they sort of incorporated into your class activities? I mean, they didn't have social time the same way you did because I assume their schedules were much more tightly run by their military officers than the traditional undergraduates.

DRURY: Well, for classroom work, we all participated equally. There wasn't much work outside the classroom. I mean, there were labs. And we were all equal in the labs and in the classrooms. In social activities that the professor might organize, we, as civilians, could attend and the individual Marine or Navy man could attend to the extent that he could work it out. I mean, if it fitted in with his schedule, maybe he could attend the social event if there was one.

DONIN: Could they participate in sports?

DRURY: Oh, sure. You bet. Everybody participated in sports equally. And in the fall of '43, Dartmouth had an excellent football team composed of Navy, Marines, and civilians. Our 1944 team wasn't so good, but, again, it was a joint team: civilians and military. And that was the year—the first of our two games against Notre Dame. We were blasted in Fenway Park in 1944 and then we went out to South Bend in 1945—the fall of '45—and the war was over by then, but we played Notre Dame at South Bend and were, again, beaten. We did not score and they beat us by a lesser, a much lesser amount than they had in Fenway Park.

DONIN: It must have been an advantage to have some of these older, stronger military guys on the team, I would think.

DRURY: Well, I think maybe. You know, don't forget that most of the V-12 and V-5 people who entered the college, most of them entered directly out of high school, just as we civilians did. By far, the great majority in the first V-12 group of Navy men that entered in very early July '43, I think there were only eight men from the regular Navy, and most of the rest of the fifteen hundred or so were directly out of high school.

DONIN: So there was no great advantage in terms of age or size or anything.

DRURY: No. There were a few fellows who had served in the military or who were older who might come here in the military. Maybe there were a couple who had been in the regular service who were older and who came here might have had the advantage of age, but there were very few of those.

DONIN: So, for the traditional—the small group of a hundred and whatever it was—fifty—that came in in the summer, it sounds like even though some of the organizations of the college, like the fraternity houses, at that point their activities had been suspended because of the war—

DRURY: Yeah, they were closed.

DONIN: They were closed down. Were you able to enjoy some of the other traditions that Dartmouth was beloved for? Did Winter Carnival go on? Did Green Key Weekend go on? Those sorts of things?

DRURY: In the first year, there was no Green Key. The last Green Key was held in—Green Key Dance, Green Key Weekend was held in May, 1942. It wasn't resumed until May '46, so that certainly didn't exist during that first year for us. What was the other one you mentioned?

DONIN: Winter Carnival.

DRURY: Winter Carnival. We had a Winter Weekend, but it wasn't social. I mean, it was just a winter weekend and we had a small ski meet, and we had ski jumping out at the big jump, and we had a slalom up on Balch Hill. That was about the extent of it. Kids from, I guess, seven or eight other colleges joined in: West Point, and UVM—there was a guy—one jumper from Williams was here. But it was a very small, very informal meet.

DONIN: Best they could do, though. Better than nothing, I guess.

DRURY: You bet. It was fun. We had a good time.

DONIN: Right. Well, did you have a sense that you were having a sort of traditional undergraduate experience at Dartmouth?

DRURY: Oh, sure. We were proud of being here because Dartmouth was still Dartmouth, and peace or war, there was no difference for us, I don't think, from any normal year class. We liked being here. We liked being with each other. We were proud of being here. And, of course, as civilians we probably, because we knew we were likely to be drafted, we had all the more propensity to have a good time. And so, we did have a good time together, and the athletic facilities were all working, and guys could practice soccer down on Chase Field, and practice football, or play football or baseball. Whatever you wanted to do, you could get a pretty normal Dartmouth life. The only thing was that some of the campus organizations did not exist during that war year that we were here, and it wasn't until the fall of '45—a little over a year, a year and a semester after we entered here—that peacetime was suddenly back here and the campus just bloomed with all the old activities reorganized, and restarting, and so forth. But we had enough to take care of us during that summer.

DONIN: That first year, right?

DRURY: Yeah, that first year.

DONIN: I gather there was quite a bit of competition just between the dorms: sports competition and games of sorts. I guess between—

DRURY: Well, we had a certain rivalry. We used to talk about: "We've got better this and better that," and so forth. So, it was a talk competition more than any real competition. There were some dirty tricks, but I don't think Wheeler or Richardson as dorm against dorm ever did anything that I can recall. Maybe John recalled some things, but there were things that happened that winter. One of the floors in Wheeler—and I don't know that this is true, but the story was that it was a very cold night—forty below—and they opened all the windows on one of the floors of Wheeler, took the hose down off the central hall, sprayed the hose on the cement surface of that hallway, and made a hockey rink, and they played a game of hockey that night, and, of course, the water dripped down below and it got the guys down there kind of wet, but they had a great hockey game. But it was the boys in Wheeler that did it themselves and it wasn't against one of the other dorms or anything.

DONIN: That's very creative.

- DRURY: Very creative stuff, yes. That's right. And I don't know—it took Wormwood and Laughing Boy—it was done very early in the morning, and they didn't catch onto it until awful late, if they did at all.
- DONIN: And by then it was too late anyway.
- DRURY: Too late. That's right.
- DONIN: The water had already been hosed.
- DRURY: Oh, I'm sure it was a mess.
- DONIN: Oh, golly. Good fun mischief, though.
- DRURY: Good fun, oh sure. There was a guy just inside the front door of Wheeler. As you went in the front door and turned to the right, he had the first room. And there must have been something about that guy that nobody liked, because one night when he was away, the boys went into his room, completely emptied the room, and re-erected all the furniture, and the lamps, and the bookcases, and everything else on the lawn right outside his room, so that when he got back, he found his room outside his room.
- DONIN: That's great.
- DRURY: I never knew who that guy was.
- DONIN: Right, or who did it. [Laughter]
- DRURY: Or who did it. But it was beautifully done, because the outside looked—the arrangement of the furniture and so forth was just like it must have been inside. That was the intent.
- DONIN: So, as the year progressed, did you start to see members of your class enlist or get drafted?
- DRURY: Absolutely. One by one, they were out of here. Some of them were drafted and then went into the Army. Others knew that they were likely to be drafted, so to beat the draft and the Army, they left and went into the Navy, Air Force, and Marines, or Coast Guard, or Merchant Marine.
- DONIN: And what did the numbers look like? How many of you ended up staying on campus after they all—I mean, I realize they didn't all leave at the same time, but your numbers must have diminished even more.

DRURY: Well, don't forget that although those numbers were diminishing, there were new students coming in all the time, because during that war period, all the normal collegiate—and to some extent high school—schedules were dismantled and so guys were coming in every semester, and a lot of returning veterans got out of the service. They were wounded or came back. So, we always had new people coming in every trimester.

DONIN: Of course, that's right. Then, of course, by May of 1945, when the European war ended, you must have seen a big influx of Dartmouth—the traditional undergrads who had gone off to war came back.

DRURY: They started coming back in greater numbers, yes. But, of course, the Japan war was still on and we had a lot of Marines here, and it was understood that the Marines were going to be the ones that would have to lead the invasion of Japan, so an awful lot of young guys in the Marine Corps, many of whom had seen active service, came here to try and get their officerships awarded before they led the attack on Japan, or participated in the attack on Japan.

DONIN: That was the V-5, right? Was that the V-5?

DRURY: Well, the V-5 were the same as the V-12. Really, there were V-12s who were officially Marines; the Marines were in the V-12. The V-5 was oriented toward flying. So, those who were in the V-5 were headed for aviation, and for some reason they made that a separate designation. But I don't know and never have known how clearly separate they were until oftentimes when they said V-12 they meant V-12 and V-5.

DONIN: And V-5 both. Right.

DRURY: Yeah. In fact, if you just said V-12 or I've said V-12, V-5, that would get by, but the V-5ers always were a little jealous that their separate nomination wasn't always recognized; that's why I mentioned them.

DONIN: So, let's talk about the academics a little bit. Did you know what you wanted to major in when you came here?

DRURY: Well, I had an idea. I thought I wanted to be a doctor, so I started out as pre-med, but it didn't take me very long—I was lucky to realize that I didn't really want to do that, and so I switched to liberal arts.

DONIN: And what did you choose as your major?

DRURY: International relations.

DONIN: Oh. And did you have a particular professor that made an impression on you?

DRURY: You know, I never met a professor that I didn't like, and they were all different. I guess you could say some were better than others, but I liked them all. Of course, certain courses probably meant more. I was awfully fond of history and literature, so those two subjects, I took courses whenever I could in those fields.

DONIN: And did you have the sense that the students were sort of rushing to get as much education as they could before they were going to either be drafted or enlist?

DRURY: Oh, absolutely. I mean, that's—I guess as we said in the beginning, when they came here, a prime thought was that they were going to be in the military, so let's get as much college education as we can before we're called in. And I didn't mention that one of the points of their thinking was that maybe the more education we had, the better off we'll be in the military.

DONIN: Sure. And, at this point the school was running year-round, as we talked about.

DRURY: Yes.

DONIN: Was it your choice to go during the summer, or did everybody have to attend during the summer?

DRURY: Well, if you were a high school kid who was planning to go to college and you could enter in the summer, you did. You didn't have to, but the military was out there for you, and if it wasn't out there—I mean, if you were 4-F, you conceivably could have waited and entered in November instead, but most young guys, if they wanted education, especially if you were going to be in the military, you entered college as soon as you could after high school.

DONIN: You jumped right in.

DRURY: You bet.

DONIN: So you went year-round.

DRURY: Yeah, that's right. We graduated in June out of Hanover High and the second of July was pretty soon thereafter.

DONIN: Now, of course, at this point the college had also suspended graduation ceremonies. Is that correct? In '45 there was—

DRURY: No, there weren't. For example, in June '44, I have no idea what the college had, if anything, in terms of a graduation ceremony. I just don't know if there even was one. In June '45, again, I don't think—we were in college at that time and I don't remember a graduation ceremony. I think the college just handed diplomas to the guys who happened to be graduating, say, at the end of the June trimester, or at the end of even the February trimester. There was no Bema ceremony. In those days, the graduations all took place—and the passing of the diplomas all took place in the Bema and there was no Bema ceremony, I'm sure, in the summer of '44 or the summer of '45.

DONIN: It seems to me—I don't know if I read this or where I got it in my head, but I don't think they resumed them until the spring of '46 was the first official graduation ceremony since the United States ended the war.

DRURY: Oh, that's right. Yeah. Well, the war ended, as you know, in September '45, so June of '46 was the first post-war Bema graduation ceremony. Yeah, I attended that. I mean, I had some friends who graduated that day, so I went to it.

DONIN: Sure. Now, were you on campus for VE Day and VJ Day?

DRURY: I was here on VE Day, which was in May '45, and I remember that the Marines in the V-12 unit had a smoker down in the gym where they all gathered and they had prize fights and everybody was feeling good. I don't know what else took place, but if there was a ceremony in the Navy part of the V-12, I'm not aware of it. There may have been one. We civilians did nothing; it was just a normal day for us.

DONIN: You used a term that I'm not sure I know what it means. What's a smoker?

DRURY: Well, they called it a smoker, but where they all sat around and watched these boxing matches and I guess it was a very relaxed sort of affair, except for the boxers. [Laughter] I think it was completely informal. I didn't go, but I know that that's what the guys called it afterwards.

DONIN: Smoker. I've never heard that term.

DRURY: I can tell you who told me that. A fellow in my class, a V-12er named George MacGillivray called it a smoker, so it may possibly have been his

moniker for it, but I think it was more than that. I think that's what the Marines called it, but you may want to check on that.

DONIN: Yeah. I should look it up and see what it means. So you said that was the VE Day when they had the smoker.

DRURY: That's right.

DONIN: Right. And what about the VJ Day? You weren't on campus?

DRURY: VJ Day, my roommate and I were hitchhiking and working our way around the United States, and that night we were on an Indian reservation in Montana and we were hitchhiking from mid-Wyoming to Glacier Park and a combine unit picked us up. A combine unit is one of these units that goes from farm to farm and handles the wheat crop.

DONIN: Oh, yes. Right.

DRURY: And we were hitchhiking to go to Glacier Park, and this combine—it was hard to get rides. You know, gasoline was rationed. So, this combine unit came along and they were going north to another place to do their work, and they gave us a ride. We stopped that night—

DONIN: Oops. Hold on one second. I need to put in a new tape here.

DRURY: Okay.

DONIN: Okay, so the combine unit.

DRURY: The combine unit picked us up in northern Wyoming, and they went all the way to a wide spot in the road that was called Crow Agency: a little tiny town. But there seemed to be a lot of noise and there were Indians dancing around a couple of campfires and we didn't know what it all was, but we slept there out on the ground that night. We all had sleeping bags, including the people on the combine unit, and it was only next morning that one of the guys in the combine unit told us that peace had been declared, that the Japanese war was over. What happened back here on the campus on that day, I never did ask about. So, I don't know.

DONIN: You missed it. Right.

DRURY: But it was in the middle of a semester or a trimester.

DONIN: Yeah. Did you have the trimester off or you were...?

DRURY: We just took the trimester off and just decided that—I was 4F with sugar diabetes and my roommate was rather deaf and neither one of us could get into any of the services, and so we decided: Well, why not work our way around the United States and do something for ourselves that way?

DONIN: Terrific. That's great. An adventure.

DRURY: We had a great summer's adventure. We worked in some interesting jobs and we had a lot of really decent experiences that were fun.

DONIN: Now, who were all your roommates? I know Colin Stewart was your first roommate.

DRURY: Yeah, after Colin—Colin was there two terms and then got drafted, went into the army. So, another fellow that lived on our top floor of Wheeler named Keith McCloud, moved in with me after Colin left, and so we were roommates my third trimester. He went on to become a doctor.

DONIN: And then who came after Keith?

DRURY: Then after that semester, McCartney and I had our summer of hitchhiking, and then we came back in the fall and he and I moved into a room in Woodward, and another guy back from the Air Force in the South Pacific moved in with us, and the three of us occupied 210 Woodward, and McCartney and I stayed there for three—about a year and a half. I guess it was three trimesters at that time. And then we moved into the fraternity.

DONIN: Oh, that's right. They got up and running again.

DRURY: Yeah. During the spring trimester of 1945, they opened up, and we moved into the fraternity in the fall of 1947.

DONIN: Fall of '47. Right.

DRURY: Yeah. Fall of '47. And he had his full required points at the end of the February in February '48, so he left at that time, but I went on and didn't finish my undergrad education until June '48.

DONIN: So you actually graduated on time.

DRURY: I actually graduated on time, yes.

DONIN: But you must have been missing a lot of your classmates at that graduation.

DRURY: Oh, absolutely. Well, I went back and looked at it and read the '48s listed in the program for the '48 commencement and there were about 202 '48s who graduated in June '48. I felt—and I have never seen an actual figure—that our total class of '48 probably numbered—there were many guys that came in and went out and so forth—all kinds of shifts in and out of classes that occurred, but the total number of students who ever were in the class of '48 probably totaled somewhere between 380 and 425, so 202 of us graduated in June '48.

DONIN: But I assume at that graduation you probably had a lot of the lower classes.

DRURY: Oh, we had people from all the other classes, sure. We were a big mix. I suppose that the total number of us who graduated that year was between 450 and 500, so all the rest were from other classes.

DONIN: So what did all that ins and outs and comings and goings of your class do to the class's sense of belonging to one another and class unity and loyalty?

DRURY: Well, some of us knew that we had to work at unity if we were going to have any class spirit, so somehow over the years, we managed to get it. We worked on it though, and we had the regular reunion every five years here, and working up to the reunion I think helped. I know I was writing the class notes in the alumni magazine for a long time, and I made it a point of bringing the Navy and Marine guys who had been in our group into my write-ups and I really worked hard at that. I don't know if that helped very much, but it was something. But I don't think—we didn't have the class unity, probably, that we should have had, that we would have had if we had all entered at the same time and left at the same time, but somehow we had enough to still be together after all these years, and I think every one of us who is a '48 knows he's a '48 and may be happy about being a '48. So, I don't know any clear answer to your question, which is a good question. Gradually over time, I think we've managed to bring most people into the act so that they feel that they're '48s.

DONIN: Did you lose a lot who migrated to later classes because they were here and graduated with that class?

DRURY: We lost some. Oh, sure. For example, one of the best basketball players ever to come to Dartmouth, Ed Leede, left us sometime after graduation—I think it was after graduation—and chose another class, the class mainly of friends that he had graduated with and who were his close buddies at the

time he graduated. So, he joined them. That was just one example, and I guess that there were probably plenty of others who came in and went out.

DONIN: Right. And it seems when I hear these stories of people who do migrate to another class, it was almost always based on who their core group of friends were.

DRURY: Absolutely.

DONIN: Often fraternity brothers, but not necessarily always.

DRURY: Not necessarily at all, no.

DONIN: Maybe if they were on a sports team it was their friends from the team or whatever.

DRURY: Sure. They were close to them. That kind of closeness went to those transfers from one class to another. And there were—I can name a few of them: one wasn't in a fraternity or anything else that I can think of, but his friends were all '47s. He came here in March of '44 and there weren't many '48s here, so most of his friends at that time were '47s and there weren't many of them. Over the rest of his education, he was close to '47s and he transferred to '47 and he became treasurer of the class of '47.

DONIN: Well, Dartmouth friendships are very compelling, I think, aren't they? People trade that for their class loyalty for their loyalty to their friends, I guess.

DRURY: Yeah. I guess you could say that, but the fact that they changed class loyalty doesn't affect their loyalty to Dartmouth. I mean, that doesn't change.

DONIN: No.

DRURY: If I understood what you were asking. I think I misunderstood.

DONIN: No, I was just saying that I think when you're at that age, who your friends are, especially I think at Dartmouth, Dartmouth friendships are so meaningful it seems to me.

DRURY: Right.

DONIN: I can see how some of these young men would be convinced that they want to be with their friends rather than with the particular Dartmouth class they were placed into.

DRURY: Sure. Don't forget, that was made possible by World War II, and in peacetime you never hear of that sort of thing because it's—the structure of the system during peacetime: you enter in the fall of one year and you graduate in the spring of four years later and you're with the same group all the way through, so that sort of situation never comes up during peacetime where you have the chance—due to loyalty to someone else, of other people from other classes—to change classes. It doesn't happen. If it did happen, I wonder—I mean, if it were allowed today in today's situation, would people change classes? Maybe. I don't know.

DONIN: It wouldn't seem as likely to me.

DRURY: I think you're right.

DONIN: Because they've been immersed in this experience with the same people all four years.

DRURY: Right. I think you're right. But the wartime situation was so different that it was pretty logical that at the time of their graduation, if their last year or two had been mainly with people outside their class and they developed close friendships, there'd be—every instinct might lead you to want to change to their class.

DONIN: Did you find that there was a—and this is a further distinction, not a class distinction—was there also a distinction made between those people that were in the military and those that were traditional civilian students? Was that ever...

DRURY: Never a difference. There was never—I never heard of any animosity between the Navy and the civilians and the Marines and the civilians because we civilians weren't in the military, for example. I never heard of any bad feeling being expressed on that subject. Now, it may have happened, but I never heard of it even.

DONIN: Now here's another distinction that I guess I didn't make clear, and maybe I got this wrong, but a number of the people that ended up in your class didn't actually matriculate at Dartmouth, but they came here to be trained by the military and then fell in love with Dartmouth, and when they came back from the war they wanted to come to Dartmouth as a regular student

and finish their education, even though they had not matriculated here as a traditional undergraduate.

DRURY: Right.

DONIN: Were they all mainstreamed into the class without much distinction after the war?

DRURY: Oh, sure. Absolutely. I mean, you know if you came here—don't forget that most of the V-5s who came here were kids freshly out of high school just like we were. Maybe a V-12er had two semesters, three semesters, four semesters here, and then he left to go in the service somewhere else, and he may not have even had a class distinction when he left here. He was in the military; he wasn't a '48, or a '46, or anything else. He was a V-12er at Dartmouth. But then when he came back, he may have liked it here so well that after his military service was over and the war was over, he had to go somewhere to finish college. He wanted to come back here. When he came back here, he had to be put in a class and maybe he still had some old friends that led him to want to join this class, or maybe he was told by the administration—sometimes the administration told the boys: Well, you're in the class of '49. And he had no choice.

DONIN: And I assume that was based on the number of semesters he did here.

DRURY: Yeah, that's right. I mean, it could be. I never knew for sure what the administration's criteria were, but when the guy came back, if he didn't already have a class affiliation and having been only in the military here, he might probably did not have any class affiliation. He was given the affiliation.

DONIN: Very interesting.

DRURY: Now, I don't know all the rules that the college followed in assigning class affiliations, and I think the rules changed over time, Mary. They weren't the same at the end as they were in the beginning, so take what I say on that with a grain of salt.

DONIN: Well, you can see why the rules might be a bit fluid, because they were sort of flying by the seat of their pants, and they had to figure out what to do with all these students.

DRURY: That's right. Right. And there was a lot of pressure to come back, and I never knew if the number of applications to come back here, the number of formal education was ever—if that number exceeded the space

availability or not. I never heard about those years in that context, and I wonder if someone around here knows about that period. I don't know.

DONIN: It would be interesting to look in the archives to see what the housing records looked like, because my understanding was they were sort of stretched for space, especially for the married students; they had nowhere to put them.

DRURY: For a while, but in the spring of '46, you know they opened North Fayer. The whole of the North Fayer dorm was occupied by married students; mostly returned vets with their wives. But you're right; there was a shortage of space around here for years. I don't know if the dorm shortage still exists or not. I don't know if they've filled that in. At one time there was lack of dormitory space here for, I heard, five hundred students. They all had to find space outside the dorms.

DONIN: Living off campus.

DRURY: Living off campus, yeah. I suppose that's been covered now by the new dorms: Zimmerman and what all.

DONIN: And the new cluster on the north campus: the McLaughlin Cluster.

DRURY: Oh, I've never seen that. Okay. How many dorms are there there?

DONIN: Oh, I'm guessing, but maybe three hundred. Maybe.

DRURY: Three hundred students?

DONIN: Yeah.

DRURY: Okay. Is it one dorm, Mary?

DONIN: No, I think it's four. Three or four buildings.

DRURY: Wow. Okay.

DONIN: It's called the McLaughlin Cluster, but then there's a building called Rauner, as in the library. He also named a building. There's a building named Bildner for Allen Bildner, class of forty—

DRURY: Al Bildner, my god. He was '49 or '47.

DONIN: Forty-seven I think it was.

- DRURY: Forty-seven, yeah. I was secretary of his committee that wrote the undergraduate—we had to write an undergraduate constitution and he was the head of the committee. He was very effective.
- DONIN: I just interviewed him on Saturday.
- DRURY: Did you really?
- DONIN: He was here for his granddaughter's graduation.
- DRURY: Great.
- DONIN: Both his sons went here and then his son's daughter went here.
- DRURY: Oh, how great.
- DONIN: I think I got that right.
- DRURY: I haven't seen him since we were undergrads.
- DONIN: He's thriving and doing well and loves Dartmouth. It was a delight to spend an afternoon with him.
- DRURY: Oh, how great. That must have been fun for you, Mary.
- DONIN: It was fun, but these are all fun. All these interviews are fun.
- DRURY: Great. Okay.
- DONIN: So, let's see. Before I tire you out and before poor Mrs. Drury wonders what's become of you.
- DRURY: She won't. You go on. I'd like to contribute as much as I can.
- DONIN: Well, one thing we haven't talked about is the sort of extraordinary opportunity that your class had to experience two presidents during your years.
- DRURY: You bet.
- DONIN: When you matriculated here, it was the end of Ernest Martin Hopkins's time, almost.
- DRURY: Almost. He had about a further year.

DONIN: A year, yeah. And then you were here for the transition to John Dickey.

DRURY: Right.

DONIN: So, do you have thoughts about both of them, either of them? Impressions?

DRURY: Well, don't forget, having grown up in Hanover, I knew a lot about Ernest Martin Hopkins, but on the July day in '44 when I registered here at Dartmouth—and I guess it was in the ad building. That's where we signed up and we all met there. Each one of us—each one of us—had about one to two private meetings with President Hopkins in his office.

DONIN: Wow.

DRURY: He interviewed every single one of us. Of course, I knew a lot about him being a local kid, but I had never spoken with him. I had never exchanged a word. He knew who I was, and boy, that just tickled me pink. It was just marvelous. And that's the only time I ever spoke with him. And then he was out of sight most of the time after that when we were here. That doesn't mean that he wasn't here, but we didn't hear much about him. The main part of the college was the military and the military ran that. And he was certainly here, but he was quietly behind the scenes, and he was a pretty old man by then. So, he didn't get out a lot, and I never saw him again, but I'm certain he was around campus and he was here when the '49ers came in a year later, I think. I'm not absolutely sure about that.

DONIN: I think he was here. I think President Dickey didn't really get started until later in the fall.

DRURY: Well, that's right, because in the fall of '45, President Dickey addressed the entire student body. He stood up on the stage of this building and this building was filled with students, and Rollins Hall next door held the rest of them. I can still remember his first speech to the student body, and I only remember one thing that he said. It always has stuck with me. He said something about: Remember you have certain obligations and certain loyalties while you are here. And he said, For one thing, you have to recognize your obligation, your loyalty to the town of Hanover within whose confines you will be living and are living as a student of Dartmouth College. Secondly, you owe an obligation to this college that has invited you to be here, and having accepted that privilege, you have the obligation to be a man of Dartmouth. And thirdly he said, you have an obligation to yourself, a loyalty to yourself and something to the effect that: Don't let yourself down.

That was pretty effective, and if I may inject a little personal observation about that, years later I remember reading a marvelous poem called “If,” and I can’t remember the name of the author any longer. The last four lines I felt were maybe the lines that prompted Dickey in his loyalty to oneself. The lines went something like: And this, above all, to thine own self be true, and it shall pass as the night to day. Thou canst not then be false to any man. And what’s more, you’ll be a man, my son. And I think that’s maybe where Dickey got that thought. I never had a chance to ask him. That’s personal stuff, so erase that from what you—

DONIN: No, no. It’s wonderful. It’s a wonderful demonstration of John Dickey, the man.

DRURY: He was something. His Great Issues course was marvelous, just marvelous. And I was lucky to be in the first year when it was held, as were quite a few of my classmates.

DONIN: Yeah, that’s right.

DRURY: We had some of the nation’s leaders here, and we were close enough to them to get something out of listening to them. We had two meetings: a lecture from each one of them, and then a chance to talk with them. Not personally, but in a group, and it was pretty great.

DONIN: He brought some very impressive people to campus for that.

DRURY: Oh, he did. Dean Acheson: then-secretary of state. And I don’t remember if Acheson—I don’t think he had yet drawn the line around the Pacific, outlining our areas of interest where, by some mistake, the line ran outside South Korea. And whether that gave the Russians, and the North Koreans, and the Chinese any incentive to attack South Korea in 1950, I don’t think anybody knows.

DONIN: It seems to me that he was able to attract a lot of these people because of his own experience at the State Department.

DRURY: Oh, absolutely. Absolutely. If he had not himself spent so much time in Washington, there would have been no chance of getting those people here. He knew them. Not all of them, but a lot of them he knew personally.

DONIN: And the Great Issues course was your senior year, right? Was it?

- DRURY: I'm trying to remember what year it was and I'm not sure now whether it was my senior year or junior. You know, whether you were a junior, senior, sophomore, etc. was kind of mixed up in those years. You didn't think about what you were. Was that a normal year? Was that a year when we were back on the two-semester-a-year basis or not when we had Great Issues? I think it was.
- DONIN: Well, it may have been '47 to '48.
- DRURY: It may have, but I don't think it was—it wasn't '46 to '47, I don't think, but it could have been.
- DONIN: That would have been awfully soon, though, because he only arrived in the fall of '45, and it seems it would be awfully quick for him to pull that together so quickly, although you never know.
- DRURY: And I'm just not sure, and I should be.
- DONIN: Well, it's in the records, to be sure.
- DRURY: You'll find it.
- DONIN: We'll find it. Exactly.
- DRURY: Sure. You bet.
- DONIN: Did you sense a shift in his priorities and a change in focus from President Hopkins? Were you able to, as a student, to appreciate—
- DRURY: No. I never noticed any—I never detected or noticed any shift in objectives, or philosophy, or the way the college was run. I never looked for any, though, and if there were any real changes, Mary, I don't know what they were.
- DONIN: Well, that was early days, yet, also. I mean, for a president to make a mark—
- DRURY: That's right. The real problems for the administration didn't come up until much, much later and we were long, long gone by then.
- DONIN: Long gone, yeah. Yeah, because you graduated—he was only here, really, about two and a half years before you graduated.
- DRURY: That's right.

DONIN: Right. So, let's see here. I'm just checking my notes to make sure I haven't left anything out.

DRURY: Please.

DONIN: Oh, let me just turn over this tape again. When we were talking on the phone arranging this interview—this was back in March—you were reminiscing about the Ford Sayre program.

DRURY: Oh, yes.

DONIN: And how, I guess, the Sayres and the town of Hanover sponsored a ski meet for all the high schools in the State of New Hampshire. Is that right? Or was it the State of Vermont?

DRURY: New Hampshire. I don't think there were any Vermont high schools or prep schools represented. Massachusetts—Eaglebrook School from Massachusetts was in it, and, in fact, they won the first award and several New Hampshire schools were included. I don't remember any Vermont schools as having been invited. And I don't know how the schools were chosen, or anything else, or who did it, and who the committee, who all the organizers were. I wish I could recall that. I can tell you exactly when it occurred. It occurred during the last few days of February and the first day or so of March. It was a weekend of 1941, and it was about ten months before—eleven months or so before Pearl Harbor. And it was written about extensively in the *Boston Herald*. They had the results of all the events, the racing events, and plenty of mention of Lowell Thomas, who was here with his son, Lowell, Jr. A lot of the people—some of the people stayed in the Inn and a lot with townspeople in their homes. The ski hut was in back of the Inn, and that was used for a couple of big, big meals and lectures, and Lowell Thomas Jr. showed his slides of Alaska and so forth. Jack Durrance, who was then a student at med school here—who had been on the 1939 American climb of K2 in Pakistan, the second-highest mountain in the world, which was quite a noted event at the time—was the race master who laid out the slalom and ran the races. And the parents—my dad and other people—built a ski jump. The racing was all held over on Cemetery Hill, across the river in Norwich, and they had a jump and boys and girls, and there were about six eventual members of the US Olympic ski team at that meet at that time. They later grew up to be members of the Olympic team.

DONIN: Oh, my goodness. What an event. And I assume you participated.

DRURY: I didn't do well at all. [Laughter] I really—if I had done a little better—the team I was on got second, but I had tried to out-jump the hill, and we got first and second in the jumping and I got nineteenth, and so I just ruined our team.

DONIN: And was Colin Stewart there as well?

DRURY: Yeah. He won the jumping. And Johnny Wood got second. And the slalom: we didn't do too badly in the slalom, but the boys from North Conway, I think, got first, second, and third in the slalom. From the Hannes Schneider skiing group, the Arlberg group in North Conway. So, they cleaned up the slalom, but they couldn't jump at all. [Laughter]

DONIN: And you were young to be competing. In 1941, you were, what, a sophomore in high school?

DRURY: Yeah, we were all young kids. I don't know what the age limit was, as a matter of fact, if there was one. There probably was. But Ford and Peggy Sayre were involved in the planning, and I think they probably headed it up. Probably they got it going, but I'm not sure about that. I know my dad worked on it and a lot of townsmen spent time, and all these kids had to be put up and transported over to Cemetery Hill.

DONIN: Yeah, a huge undertaking.

DRURY: It was a huge town undertaking, and I've never heard anything about it since, but it was well written up in the *Boston Herald*. Do you have access to old newspapers and so forth?

DONIN: Sure.

DRURY: Good. Check the—

DONIN: Yes, I will. If I find the article, would you like copies of the article?

DRURY: Only if it's easy for you to get them. I'd love to have them.

DONIN: Right. Well, I suspect that if Dartmouth was at all involved in it—

DRURY: Well, Dartmouth people were.

DONIN: Right. Exactly.

DRURY: It wasn't a college event.

DONIN: Right. It was a high school event.

DRURY: Yeah, and yet it wasn't Hanover High as such; it was the townspeople, most of whom were Dartmouth people.

DONIN: Yep. Well, I'll see what I can come up with.

DRURY: That might be of interest. I wonder what else I could tell you? Little things. Did you know that in about—it must have been 1938, Glen Cunningham, who was probably at that time the world's champion distance runner, came here to Hanover to run on the board track down in the gym. Did you ever hear of the board track?

DONIN: No.

DRURY: There was inside the gym, and around the periphery of the outer wall was a wooden track that had banked corners on all four corners, and it went from one end of the gym to the other, and it took about five and a half—plus or minus—spins around the track to measure a mile. And it was thought by everybody that that was a very, very fast track, and that it might be possible to break the four-minute mile on that track. Nobody at that time had ever run the mile in less than four minutes. So, one day in about 1938, they brought a man named Glen Cunningham—who may have been the world's fastest runner with the greatest reputation at that time—they brought him to Hanover, and there was a lot of publicity about it, to try and break the four-minute mile. Well, he couldn't do it. He didn't do it. He came within, I don't know, four seconds of it.

But the Hanover kids—we had a sport of trying to sneak into the athletic events that Dartmouth had just for the fun of it. There were the football games, and the baseball games, and the basketball games, and the stories that we would tell among ourselves afterwards if we were successful always made for a lot of fun between us. So, I remember there must have been almost twenty of us kids who hid under the track. They tried to charge admission to watch Cunningham run. We hid under the track until—it was just before race-time before we came out and we were not caught, so every one of us succeeded in getting in. [Laughter] That was just a little sideline: life in the town of Hanover.

DONIN: Life in Hanover back in the forties.

DRURY: Yeah, that's right.

DONIN: Speaking of life in Hanover in the forties, you also told me about your memories of the bandstand that they had on Friday nights in the summer of '42, and you were wondering what had become of Doc Fielding, class of '43.

DRURY: Exactly. How good of you.

DONIN: Well, he's alive and well and he's coming up to entertain his class for their sixty-fifth reunion in September.

DRURY: Oh my god. He became a doctor.

DONIN: Yes he did. I think he was a pediatrician or an OB-GYN. I'm not sure.

DRURY: I'm not sure what. How interesting.

DONIN: And he and his wife became very involved in theater, and he's been doing a lot of acting and working in plays. And he lives in Brookline, Massachusetts now.

DRURY: How great. Well, he was in a lot of comedy-related events. Players put on productions where he was involved, and he was the emcee at many of those Friday night events here on the campus when the student body—a large number of the students were what they called ninety-day wonders in those days. They were officers-to-be in the Navy who were here just ninety days for the most part. And he would lead these Friday night events that summer, at least, and he was in med school at the time. But that's interesting. Thanks for finding out. That's marvelous.

DONIN: Well, his name has come up in other interviews for some reason, and when you said the name I thought: I really need to find out about this guy, because if he's still around I'd like to interview him.

DRURY: Well, good.

DONIN: So, for the sixty-fifth in September I'll have a bunch of '43s to interview and he's going to be one of them, which will be great.

DRURY: Oh, fine. That'll be fun for you if he reminisces back and talks about some of the shows that he did.

DONIN: Well, Sonny.

DRURY: Does that do it for you?

DONIN: I think it more than does it for me. It's just fantastic. This is great. I'm going to turn off these tapes unless you have other thoughts you want to say.

DRURY: Well, John said he thought you might have some questions about some of my individual classmates. He said that you may have some questions about some of them. If you do, I'd be glad to try.

DONIN: Well, John did a pretty good job of bringing me up to date on some of them.

DRURY: Okay. If there are any that you have some questions about, shoot.

DONIN: Well, I'd love to read this paragraph of description written by your classmate, Jack Tracy, for the Green Book, for the facebook for your class of '48.

DRURY: Right.

DONIN: Because you probably know this—I only discovered it getting ready for these interviews—that the Green Book is traditionally produced before the class arrives here, but because your class, of course, was arriving in sort of bits and pieces and it was war-time, apparently there was no Green Book for you when you arrived.

DRURY: Oh, no. It was put together by Jack and somebody and—

DONIN: Right. Put together by a bunch of—well, there's an executive board made up of Dick Donahue, Bill Felton, Dick Green, Sam Katz, Peter Norton—

DRURY: Green and Katz are—Green may be here this weekend; Katz almost definitely will. Donahue I don't think so.

DONIN: Bob Russell, Jack Tracy, and Dick Weaver.

DRURY: Russell's gone, Tracy's gone.

DONIN: Dick Weaver?

DRURY: Dick Weaver's gone.

DONIN: Oh, this is funny. And he's reminiscing about some of the events that took place, I guess during—I think this was produced in 1945. Yes, it was

compiled by the undergraduate staff in 1945. And he alludes to a smoker in the trophy room in the gym.

DRURY: Yeah. That was—the day we got here, which was, I think, July 2—we met—I would guess in the morning. And that afternoon, sometime in the afternoon, Professor Al Foley of the history department—one great guy—met with the class down in the gym and it was a relaxed affair where he talked to us about Dartmouth. And it was a smoker. That would be my definition of a smoker, because we just sat around. I don't even know if we had chairs or if we sat on the floor, but Foley talked to us about Dartmouth, and I only attended part of it, but that did occur, and some of these fellows who were here this weekend, including John, were undoubtedly there.

DONIN: Right. Well, it's a wonderful sort of summary of the first year that you were all on campus.

DRURY: Right. There's a write-up of our first year there?

DONIN: Well, it's a paragraph that Jack Tracy wrote as an introduction to the Green Book.

DRURY: Oh, great. I don't know that I've read it.

DONIN: Well, I'll be happy to lend this to you and you can read it.

DRURY: Well, I've got—

DONIN: You've got the Green Book?

DRURY: Yes, I think I still do.

DONIN: You should have.

DRURY: I've got it at home.

DONIN: Or else I'll copy the page for you.

DRURY: Oh, don't. I have it, I think.

DONIN: You have it at home? It's great.

DRURY: I'll look it up.

DONIN: So, I think I need to take you back to Mrs. Drury. It's five o'clock and she's going to think I've kidnapped you.

DRURY: Okay, Mary.

[End of Interview]