

Dartmouth College Oral History Project  
The War Years at Dartmouth  
Interview with Robert Ehinger '43  
By Mary Stelle Donin  
September 26, 2008

EHINGER: My father was in the class of 1915. So we always got the Dartmouth alumni magazine. And, you know, he didn't try to sell the college particularly one way or the other. But we just thought Dartmouth from the very beginning. And I think I applied to one other school. Those were the days when you didn't have to go to the SATs or any of that other foolishness.

DONIN: And apply to ten different colleges.

EHINGER: Apply to ten colleges the way our grandkids are doing.

DONIN: Right. Exactly.

EHINGER: So, you know, I applied to Dartmouth. And in fact, my dad—I graduated from Dover High School in Dover, Delaware. My dad had gone to Mount Hermon School for four years. He'd been an orphan, and I don't know how he handled it, he handled it. But he thought a postgraduate year at Mount Hermon might be good.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

EHINGER: So I thought why would I object? So I went, and then came to Dartmouth after that and got in.

DONIN: Now, at that point then you had a brother here, right, at the same time?

EHINGER: Well, later on.

DONIN: Sorry, later on.

EHINGER: Later on, yes.

DONIN: Yes.

EHINGER: Because each of my brothers took a postgraduate year at Mount Hermon after graduating from Dover High School.

DONIN: Oh, I see. And you were the first to go, of your generation.

EHINGER: I was the first to go.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

EHINGER: In fact my dad, because he and his brother and two sisters were orphaned, graduated from Dartmouth when he was 27 years old because they had to work and do all these things.

DONIN: Yes, yes. So he didn't take a full complement of classes. Is that why he didn't—

EHINGER: No, he didn't get here until later.

DONIN: Oh, he actually arrived later.

EHINGER: He had to work before he could come.

DONIN: So you were familiar with the campus when you actually got here. You'd been up here before?

EHINGER: No, I don't think so. No. In fact I remember when we drove up from Dover, with all the gear in the car, and came up the hill to Main Street—

DONIN: Yes.

EHINGER: And that was quite a sight. But I'd never seen the campus before that.

DONIN: You must have been excited.

EHINGER: It was great.

DONIN: And your dad must have been really excited.

EHINGER: He was.

DONIN: Yes.

EHINGER: And he had his 25<sup>th</sup> reunion in 1940.

DONIN: Oh...

EHINGER: So he came up while I was here.

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

EHINGER: I thought these guys were old when they went to their 25<sup>th</sup>.

DONIN: Yes, that's right. [Laughter]

EHINGER: And here we're in our 65<sup>th</sup>.

DONIN: So you arrived here in the fall of '39.

EHINGER: Yes.

DONIN: You got to have a few years of sort of traditional college life before the war interrupted everything.

EHINGER: Right. That's true.

DONIN: You wore your beanie?

EHINGER: You wore your beanie. And because you wore your beanie, any upperclassmen that wanted you to do some work would nail you. I don't remember being nailed many times. I also remember you had to furnish your own room.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

EHINGER: You know, we had to go to Fletcher's. Fletcher was a character in town that sold used everything. I remember buying my desk. I think it was \$8 for the desk.

DONIN: That was a lot of money in those days.

EHINGER: Oh, yes, it was. And I think we brought some kind of an easy chair up in the car somehow.

DONIN: Did they even provide the beds?

EHINGER: Yes, the beds were provided. You had a person in charge. They called him a maintenance man, whatever.

DONIN: Yes, janitor or....

EHINGER: He made your bed.

DONIN: Boy, those were the days!

EHINGER: So I had a roommate from Delaware, from Wilmington—

DONIN: Oh!

EHINGER: —who was a fellow I knew from Scout camp.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

EHINGER: And I found out he was going, so we made arrangements to room together.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

EHINGER: In North Fayerweather.

DONIN: Oh, that's nice. So you weren't totally alone here.

EHINGER: So I wasn't totally alone. And there were a couple of guys from Mount Hermon that came up, too. A fellow named Van Dyke for one. I don't remember the other. I think there were four of us, but I can't remember the others.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

EHINGER: So, yes, I had--

DONIN: A few acquaintances.

EHINGER: A few acquaintances when I started.

DONIN: Right. And did you have plans on going out for a fraternity when you got here?

EHINGER: Didn't think too much of it. Of course you could not join a fraternity until your sophomore year.

DONIN: Right.

EHINGER: And in sophomore year I joined Delta Tau Delta.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

EHINGER: And eventually my senior year I was the president of the house.

DONIN: Were you!

EHINGER: Which is now Bones Gate.

DONIN: I see. Yes. A lot of them...

EHINGER: When my class of '52 brother was here, they switched from Delta Tau Delta to Bones Gate.

DONIN: To Bones Gate.

EHINGER: And I think it had to do with the national having some limitations on who the members could be, and the brothers didn't think that was a good idea, so they disaffiliated them.

DONIN: I think that was an initiative started by President [John] Dickey, who was there at that time.

EHINGER: It could have been. It could have been. I don't remember who started it. But it happened about in the early '50s.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. Yes. That's right.

EHINGER: Yes.

DONIN: That's right. So what was your freshman year like? I mean, did you like your teachers and your courses?

EHINGER: Yes, it was good. The only thing I didn't like, English, you had to write a 500-word theme every week.

DONIN: Oh, that's a lot.

EHINGER: And I thought, you know, I've got to come up with ideas. And I remember my roommate, he ended up going to Thayer School. He was not great with spelling so I'd correct his themes, and he'd sometimes get a better mark than I did. [Laughter]

DONIN: Isn't that ironic. After you'd done all the work. Oh gee.

EHINGER: But you know, I did all right. I don't know what I got. I was never a star student. C+, Bs, and that was my general range.

DONIN: Now it seems to me you were an athlete, too, weren't you?

EHINGER: Well, I tried to be. I was never a superb athlete. I ran cross country. I got the numerals—We had freshmen teams. But I ran with the varsity, but I was never quite good enough to... They always brought in a couple of new guys every year that were better than I was.

DONIN: Oh, dear.

EHINGER: Then I was out for basketball. I did get a letter in my senior year.

DONIN: Oh, wow!

EHINGER: And of course our team won the Ivy League championship and went to the NCAA every year I was there. And I said I'd rather be on the second string of a winner than on the first string if somebody like the kind of teams we have today, unfortunately.

DONIN: Right, right.

EHINGER: We haven't been able to have a good, strong basketball program here for years.

DONIN: A long time. But those were quite the years with—George Munroe was one of your teammates.

EHINGER: George Munroe, Jim Olson, Stan Skow, and then some fellows from the other.... Well, Stubbie Pearson was there when we first came. Of course, Gus Broberg.

DONIN: His class was '42, wasn't it, Stubbie Pearson?

EHINGER: He was '42, I think. And then Broberg was '41 maybe.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. Those were the glory days of basketball.

EHINGER: The glory days of basketball. And a lot of people have forgotten. They keep talking about Eddie Jeremiah but Ossie Cowles was our coach then and he had winners.

DONIN: He sure did. That must have been a very... For students who were on a winning team like that, that really changes your experience, doesn't it? Your college experience to have....

EHINGER: I think so. I think if you're on a loser all the time, obviously... Well, in the first place, nobody is going to come out and watch you. We always had a full house.

DONIN: Yes.

EHINGER: The Alumni Gym. Of course it wasn't very big then.

DONIN: Right.

EHINGER: But, no, it was fun.

DONIN: Were you able to travel much, too? Did the team travel?

EHINGER: Oh, yes.

DONIN: Yes?

EHINGER: Well, I remember my senior year, we traveled. Since Ozzie Cowles graduated from Carleton College in Minnesota, we went out to Minnesota to Minneapolis to train for a week, and then played the University of Minnesota.

DONIN: Oh, my goodness!

EHINGER: And from there we took a trip... I think we played University of Toledo and Wayne, which is in Detroit. And then Seton Hall, which is in South Orange, New Jersey. And we played each of those teams on our way back.

DONIN: What an experience.

EHINGER: Yes. And we went down to Penn when the Ivy League... Or Harvard or Brown. And I was on the freshman team when we went to play Army as a freshman and things like that. So, you know,

that was pretty nice as a freshman, to get to go to some of these places.

DONIN: Did you find that your social group was more the athletes that you were working with or playing with? Or was it more your fraternity?

EHINGER: It was the dormitory.

DONIN: Was it! The dormitory.

EHINGER: North Fayer. In fact we had a— It's a small dorm. About 40, I think, 45 people. So you got to know everybody real fast. And they were some of my very, very best friends, who were not athletes. Well, one of them played freshman football and after that he didn't. But there were a couple of guys in the Barbary Coast, the orchestra.

DONIN: Oh, yes. Mm-hmm.

EHINGER: Another guy in the Green Collegians.

DONIN: What did you do for fun, you and your friends?

EHINGER: You played basketball, you ran track.

DONIN: I mean, when you wanted to socialize with your friends, what did you do? You went to the movies, I guess.

EHINGER: I didn't go to the movies much here. Some people did. I don't know, you'd just have a bull session, you might say. But we didn't do a lot of partying. But in the fraternity house, of course, you had more weekend socials.

DONIN: Right.

EHINGER: Where you'd get a quarter keg of beer.

DONIN: Yes.

EHINGER: I never drank beer because I was—

DONIN: An athlete.

EHINGER: You know you're not supposed to do that.



DONIN: Nope.

EHINGER: And I didn't. My folks never did. So I didn't. But I put some to bed that shouldn't have.

DONIN: [Laughter] I bet you did. So even back then the kegs were popular.

EHINGER: The kegs were popular. I know the problem of abuse but I don't think we had too much of that. I had a few guys in the dorm that I remember one of them got a little belligerent when he had too much. We had a few like that be he wasn't in our fraternity. The thing I remember about fraternity really is your initiation. They had what they call roadwork. I don't know if you've heard of that. In other words, instead of harassing you and some other stuff, they blindfolded you, took you in a car around midnight, and dropped you off somewhere in the country, all alone. And they took me up across the river up into East Thetford—I didn't know where we were—and dropped me off probably about one o'clock or something like that. I mean, it's quiet and nothing but some farms up there, and it's a dirt road. And you've got to find your way back. And it was in November.

DONIN: Cold!

EHINGER: Well, it wasn't cold, but it was cool. You wanted to have a jacket. But I sort of figured out, well, we were up, so we're going down, and everything looked like it was going down toward the river. So I think about daylight I got down to the main road along the river, and thumbed a car.

DONIN: Oh, very smart.

EHINGER: And got back probably at six o'clock in the morning or some such thing. But it was quite an experience because you just hear the sounds of some animals and farms and like that.

DONIN: Definitely a rural experience, isn't it?

EHINGER: A real rural experience. [Laughs]

DONIN: So they took all the new rushes—whatever they called them—off into different—

EHINGER: Different places. I don't know where they all went, tell you the truth. But they all had to go somewhere.

DONIN: So what were your impressions of President Hopkins when you matriculated?

EHINGER: Well, he was a figurehead up there. And I don't think we thought too much one way or the other. I mean he'd been there a long time, and he was a good speaker when he told us what was going on. We'd go to convocation, you know. We didn't see much of him.

DONIN: No.

EHINGER: Whereas when John Dickey got on, he was walking around the campus a lot more. And that's a little different.

DONIN: Yes, yes.

EHINGER: When Dickey came on, we were still there.

DONIN: Right, right.

EHINGER: At the tail end.

DONIN: You never had to interact much with Dean Strong or Dean Neidlinger?

EHINGER: Dean Needle-Finger we called him.

DONIN: [Laughs] Needle-Finger.

EHINGER: Yes, we called him Needle-Finger. Well, the best thing about him, he had two daughters.

DONIN: Yes, he did. Twins, weren't they?

EHINGER: Twins. They were twins.

DONIN: Yes.

EHINGER: Everybody got to know who they were. We didn't date them necessarily. And one of them I know ended up in the legislature in New Hampshire.

DONIN: Yes, she did. She was married to Malcolm McLane, class of '46.

EHINGER: Oh, is that right?

DONIN: Yes.

EHINGER: Oh, yes. Okay.

DONIN: Yes.

EHINGER: So I never had to see Dean Neidlinger for anything or Dean Strong. I forget.... I was getting some financial aid. But anyhow, I only had to see him...I wasn't getting a full ride of any kind. It was tuition. It only cost, you know—

DONIN: It was \$400.

EHINGER: Four hundred and fifty dollars was the tuition. And I think it was 270 for the meals. And it was 150 for my room.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

EHINGER: And then there was books and of course transportation.

DONIN: Extra expenses, yes.

EHINGER: My dad drove me up and would go home. For vacations like Christmas and stuff, I'd always take the train.

DONIN: Now did you have a part-time job while you were here?

EHINGER: Yes. Not at first, but I ended up working at the hospital.

DONIN: Oh!

EHINGER: In the steam table—

DONIN: Serving food.

EHINGER: —serving food to the student nurses and the doctors.

DONIN: Oh, that must have been fun.

EHINGER: I ended up getting a date with one of the student nurses.

DONIN: Yes! That's nice.

EHINGER: So that was good. You'd work on the steam table, and then you'd get to eat the stuff.

DONIN: You'd get your meals, too.

EHINGER: I only did it at noontime because I was practicing later, and I didn't want to come late. But that was a worthwhile thing to do.

DONIN: That's a good thing to do, yes.

EHINGER: And eat at Thayer for the rest—

DONIN: For the rest of your meals.

EHINGER: Yes, yes.

DONIN: Yes. You must have been a busy guy, then. You were working, going to school, doing sports.

EHINGER: Well, you didn't have any extra time. And when I went to Tuck my senior year, not many Tuck people still played sports, but I practiced basketball and went on trips.

DONIN: And the teachers were understanding of that.

EHINGER: But you'd better get your homework in.

DONIN: Yes, to be sure. What were your memories of... This all changed of course on December 7, 1941.

EHINGER: Oh, yes.

DONIN: Do you remember where you were when you learned of it?

EHINGER: Yes, I remember I was in my dorm room studying.

DONIN: Yes, it was a Sunday. Yes.

EHINGER: Afternoon. And somebody came in and told me. And I guess we turned on the radio and heard all that.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

EHINGER: I had a unique situation: The year before, or early that year—I guess maybe that summer; can't remember—I had to go to the draft board in Lebanon to register because I was up in college. And I did. But then they gave me a physical test, and I flunked because I had a slow heart beat because I was running cross country.

DONIN: Oh, of course.

EHINGER: And the guy, when he told me, he said, "They won't take you." Those were his words. I said, "Why not? Is there anything wrong?" He said, "No. Your pulse rate is 44, and you jump up and down and it goes to 88. And you rest, it comes back down. Everything's normal. But they won't take you. It doesn't meet their criteria." So I was 4F.

DONIN: How ironic.

EHINGER: And the kids in my fraternity and dormitory said, "The healthiest guy in the dorm and he's 4F."

DONIN: Yes, it's crazy.

EHINGER: So I was 4F and finished college. But the minute I quit athletics, I could take my own pulse, and it was speeding up. So then I went down to— Well, I lived near Philadelphia. So I went down to.... I said, "Now I've got a degree, and I've been to Tuck for a year to get in the Navy Supply Corps." And the Navy Supply Corps said, "We don't take people who are 4F." So what you do, of course, you go back to the draft board and get another exam. And of course those were the days when they used to say, "If they look in one ear and don't see daylight out the other, you were 1A." [Laughter] So right away I was 1A. And then there was a question, could I get a commission before I get drafted? And I did. I beat them by a couple of weeks.

DONIN: Oh!

EHINGER: So I was an ensign in the Supply Corps, and where did they send me? Wellesley.

DONIN: Wellesley College? A women's college?

EHINGER: Yes. Because the Navy Supply Corps was just starting, taking over two dorms and running a supply corps school. They used to do it all at Harvard.

DONIN: Yes.

EHINGER: But Harvard didn't have enough capacity.

DONIN: They'd run out of room.

EHINGER: And remember the head of the WAVES was the former president of Wellesley.

DONIN: I didn't know that.

EHINGER: Yes. And so I was... Here I go from Dartmouth with no women. I go down there October 1<sup>st</sup>—

DONIN: So you went to a women's college.

EHINGER: I thought I'd died and gone to heaven. In the weekend you'd go into Boston on the train or the bus, and it was great.

DONIN: So when did you get out?

EHINGER: Well, I was in for three years. I got out in 1946. And then I came up here to Tuck School and said while I was still... My last assignment was at Davisville, Rhode Island, near Quonset Point.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

EHINGER: Came up here, and they said, "Well, they could give me to Du Pont and Hercules Powder and Chance Vought Aircraft and Western Electric." So I interviewed those people. And I liked the Western Electric job, which was part of the Bell System, which I didn't know really, the manufacturing side.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

EHINGER: And I wanted to be in something that dealt with people. And purchasing was available. And so I became a purchase analyst at Western Electric at 195 Broadway, New York.

DONIN: Now this was a placement service that the college offered to you after you got out of the Navy.

EHINGER: Yes, Tuck School. And they had in each of these places, they usually had a Dartmouth guy.

DONIN: Oh of course.

EHINGER: Who was—they'd say, Well, see So-and-so when you get there. So that's what I did.

DONIN: Yes. It's a nice smooth way in.

EHINGER: But it was a nice smooth way. And the interesting thing is when this fellow, I ended up... Many years later, he was an executive vice president of the company in charge of defense activities, all with the government, and I'd been in a down... He said, it's time for you to come over here and work for me. So I ended up years later being the comptroller of the defense activities business dealing with the government on stuff. [Laughs]

DONIN: All because of this Dartmouth connection?

EHINGER: Well, that's where it all started.

DONIN: Yes. So, you graduated here in the traditional way. You went all the way through.

EHINGER: Went all the way through. But in our class, most of them graduated in December.

DONIN: Yes, yes.

EHINGER: But those of us who were playing basketball, did not want to leave. So we didn't come until the summer. And of course I didn't have to. I was 4F.

DONIN; Oh!

EHINGER: So we all came and graduated in May.

DONIN: The traditional time.

EHINGER: Well, early.

DONIN: Not really. Early, right.

EHINGER: Late April, early May. And we didn't have any graduation at all. We just left, once it was over.

DONIN: How'd you get your diploma?

EHINGER: Well, I guess they mailed it to us.

DONIN: Mailed it to you. So there was no ceremony.

EHINGER: There was no ceremony.

DONIN: There couldn't have been very many of you left anyway, were there?

EHINGER: Not that many. I don't know how many. The basketball team and track team and some others. I don't know how many were there.

DONIN: Yes, the athletes. So you weren't required then to attend... Because after Pearl Harbor, they started running year round here. You know there was a summer course. But you didn't have to come back for the summer classes.

EHINGER: No, I didn't do that.

DONIN: Because you were 4F.

EHINGER: That's right.

DONIN: Oh, that's interesting.

EHINGER: Well, I don't know who had to come to it.

DONIN: Well, these guys, they all....

EHINGER: They came.

DONIN: They all went year round.

EHINGER: Well, that was so... That was the accelerated program so you could graduate in December. But those of us that were not going to graduate in December, didn't come.



DONIN: Didn't have to come.

EHINGER: Didn't come. If you're talking to George Munroe, he'll tell you the same thing. I doubt that he came. Unless he came to take a few courses, but he still stayed until... May, or whatever it was.

DONIN: Right, so he could play that final season.

EHINGER: And of course the Navy was coming in at the time we left.

DONIN: Those officers, they were beginning to train.

EHINGER: Right, they were.

DONIN: Yes.

EHINGER: Yes. Starting to show up.

DONIN: They took over the campus really.

EHINGER: Yes, they did. Yes.

DONIN: Lots of them. Marching formations on the Green.

EHINGER: Well, that's what we did at Wellesley.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

EHINGER: When we'd go to a session at an auditorium, you know, we would march, you know.

DONIN: Sure. In uniform.

EHINGER: In uniform. And we would sing sometimes. And the girls loved it, of course. [Laughs]

DONIN: Oh, yes.

EHINGER: Of course I never saw wives show up so fast as the ones that had husbands that were married.

DONIN: Yes, yes. Indeed.

EHINGER: Of course they couldn't live in the room. But they were around.

DONIN: They were nearby.

EHINGER: But there were a lot of us that were single.

DONIN: Yes, yes. You had a position on the Inter-Fraternity Council.

EHINGER: Well, if you're president of your fraternity, you're automatically a member of the Inter-Fraternity Council.

DONIN: I see. And so your senior year, that's right, you said.

EHINGER: That's what I was. Yes.

DONIN: Uh-huh. What did that entail, being president in those days?

EHINGER: Well, you had parties.

DONIN: You had to set policy?

EHINGER: Yes. Well, select who the members—who you wanted to rush. And oversee, you might say, the plans for initiation. And then conduct the meetings whenever you had them. And so on. It's not an onerous job. Of course you—

DONIN: Well, it's an honor—but it's an honor.

EHINGER: It's an honor to be picked. So, yes, I was pretty much.... We always tried to keep our academics up.

DONIN: Sure.

EHINGER: You wanted that. And then another thing—I don't know if these fellows mentioned—the Inter-Fraternity Sing. I don't know if they still have that.

DONIN: I don't know.

EHINGER: We had a guy in the class of '44. I think his name was Brad Long. He was good with an accordion; he was a good musician. You get all your brothers together to learn a certain song. I don't know what it was. And you sing it, and then you have a competition. And if you

reach a certain point in the competition, then you're in the finals. And you sing on the steps of Dartmouth Hall.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

EHINGER: And we did that. We didn't win. But we got that far. But the Inter-Fraternity Sing I thought was—

DONIN: A fun thing.

EHINGER: A fun thing. And you needed one musician in the house.

DONIN: Right, to sort of set the....

EHINGER: But then the rest of us, we sort of thought when we were indoors, we sang better than when we were outdoors for some reason. That was a big thing on campus in the spring.

DONIN: I know they were still doing it back in the '70s. I don't know how long it lasted.

EHINGER: It's a little easier to do than building an ice sculpture, in my opinion.

DONIN: For sure.

EHINGER: Because you don't know whether you're going to get any snow or anything. But you know you're going to be able to do this other thing.

DONIN: But back in those days each of the fraternities created wonderful sculptures. Not just the one on The Green. But in front of... Didn't they compete with one another?

EHINGER: There was that. But the dormitories did some of that, too, although North Fayer we never did anything. You needed a lot of hands and you needed a couple of people that—

DONIN: You needed some engineers.

EHINGER: Some engineering types. And it wasn't worth it in my opinion.

DONIN: But I've seen pictures of some of the sculptures they created, and they're phenomenal.

EHINGER: There was some good stuff.

DONIN: Yes, yes.

EHINGER: The stuff in the middle of campus was remarkable.

DONIN: Incredible.

EHINGER: Reinforced with steel in a lot of.... I mean it wasn't just....

DONIN: Yes. I mean some of them were serious structures.

EHINGER: I mean they had to be. That was a good thing. And of course it was outdoors then. We used to go—the Outdoor Evening they called it. And it was over where the golf course is, you know, in that hollow there.

DONIN: Where the ski jump was—or is?

EHINGER: Yes, near the ski jump. And we'd go out there and watch, and you'd freeze yourself a little bit. But you'd see some of these young little Hanover kids come down with their skis. And then there was some frozen ice at the bottom so they could do—People could do some figure skating.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

EHINGER: They were quite interesting things.

DONIN: And it seemed like it was a very big event in those days.

EHINGER: It was a big event. And it was a big event if you had a girlfriend to bring around.

DONIN: Even better.

EHINGER: I didn't do that.

DONIN: Did you ever—You probably didn't have time to do all these off-campus trips.

EHINGER: I had a gal come up I think for the spring thing. But I never... We used to have a guy who used to put the name of the girl that you were bringing. And her name and college and one fellow always

put up this girl's name and he said, Garland Date Bureau.  
[Laughter] So we knew who it was.

DONIN: I mean Winter Carnival was what, like one of the Big Three sort of social events of the year, wasn't it?

EHINGER: Yes, yes. You had the house party in the fall.

DONIN: In the fall, yes.

EHINGER: And then Green Key in the spring. And we had the big bands come, you know.

DONIN: Right.

EHINGER: I mean Benny Goodman or people like that. Yes, and it was amazing.

DONIN: Those were the days.

EHINGER: I mean it was amazing days. I don't know of any more particular things. I mean, you remember particular professors better than others.

DONIN: Did you have a favorite?

EHINGER: I don't know that I had a favorite. There were some that were more stimulating, you might say.

DONIN: Sure.

EHINGER: Like there was a fellow named Royal Case Nemiah.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

EHINGER: Who taught classical civilization. I don't know. I decided to take classical civ. He was a great teacher, and he would draw people out. And of course Foley in history was always good. And Herb West.

DONIN: Yes.

EHINGER: And so there were several.

DONIN: Was it Mr. Foley that taught the Cowboys and Indians course?

EHINGER: Yes, that's what they called it.

DONIN: Yes.

EHINGER: Cowboys and Indians.

DONIN: Right. That seems to be a favorite of a lot of people.

EHINGER: Well, it was. It was big classes. I mean it wasn't a dialog type of class.

DONIN: No, no, it was a lecture.

EHINGER: It was more of a lecture thing.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

EHINGER: Whereas the classical civ—classy civ as they called it—was more... If somebody had a religious bent when they were talking religion, I mean he would challenge it or defend your situation, you know. Things like that. That was good.

DONIN: Yes.

EHINGER: That was good.

DONIN: Yes. So you found the teaching here good.

EHINGER: I think they were. I had a sociology teacher that put me to sleep. In fact I had a Tuck School guy that was a very good professor—a good guy; everybody liked him. But I'll never forget the time, we're in the big hall there, the lecture hall.

DONIN: Right, right.

EHINGER: I fell asleep. And he saw it and called on me, and I waked up just in time to say, "Would you care to repeat the question?" [Laughs] And he said, "Mr. Ehinger, if you'd been awake, you'd have heard the question."

DONIN: Oh!

EHINGER: But he was a good guy. People liked him, and I did, too.

DONIN: Yes. When you were a senior then and a junior, your brother was here, right?

EHINGER: Yes. In fact he joined the fraternity, too, my brother.

DONIN: With you? The same fraternity?

EHINGER: Well, same fraternity. And then so did the class of '52 guy. But as I say, he was here when they changed it.

DONIN: To Bones Gate.

EHINGER: To Bones Gate.

DONIN: Right.

EHINGER: Yes.

DONIN: So did you get to play the role of sort of big brother and then take him around a little bit in the beginning?

EHINGER: Well, not really. He lived in Richardson Hall which.... And he had several class of '43 guys, a good friend of mine, were there. So, you know, he was taken care of.

DONIN: He was in good hands.

EHINGER: Oh, yes. He ended up going to Thayer School.

DONIN: You probably had no time to do any skiing or outdoors....

EHINGER: Well, if you were out for basketball, coach's rule was you could not ski.

DONIN: I can understand that.

EHINGER: He didn't want anybody's knee to go. So I did a little.... Occom Pond, I don't know, does it still freeze over?

DONIN: Yes, indeed.

EHINGER: I used to go over there, and I was a sort of a wobbly skater from time to time. So I did that, and that was sort of fun.

DONIN: It is fun. It's so scenic.

EHINGER: But I never skied. No, never. My roommate did, and he went somewhere. And you know when the sun is out, and you go from the shade to the....

DONIN: Oh, the shade to the.... Yes, yes. It's blinding.

EHINGER: He went from the shade to the...and broke his leg.

DONIN: Yes.

EHINGER: And he had a car up here his junior year I guess. So I was able to drive him home. And he was on the sailing team. You know he was on the sailing....

DONIN: Uh-huh.

EHINGER: We had a good sailing team. You know Bus Mossbacher who was in our class.

DONIN: Yes, he was.

EHINGER: And handled the America's Cup twice.

DONIN: Sure, sure.

EHINGER: And Dick Livingston, my roommate, was on that sailing team.

**[End of Interview]**