

Dartmouth College Oral History Project
The War Years at Dartmouth
Interview with Robert E. Field '43
By Mary Stelle Donin
March 10, 2008

DONIN: How is it that that you came to Dartmouth? Were you a legacy or—

FIELD: Very much so. Until I was 12 years old, I thought if you went to college, you went to Dartmouth. My father was class of '14.

DONIN: Oh, I see. Okay.

FIELD: And my brother was class of '39. When I was 12, I found out there was another college; it was Harvard, and you didn't go there. So I was predestined to go to Dartmouth. And actually I graduated from high school in 1938 and was admitted to Dartmouth at that time. But I stayed out a year to make some money. I was only 16 when I got out of high school.

DONIN: Young.

FIELD: So I had a year. You know I could use a year's age plus I also needed money. A lot of us were on—this was the end of the Depression, you know, the latter years of the Depression.

DONIN: Yes.

FIELD: So I stayed out a year and worked hard, manual labor in a copper wire company back in Tiffin, Ohio. And deferred my admission to the fall of '39. So I entered here as a freshman in '39 with about 750 other students.

DONIN: Uh huh.

FIELD: So that's the legacy part of it. I might say that I also have a son that went to Dartmouth, class of '76, and two granddaughters, classes of '93 and '01.

DONIN: Fantastic! That's great. So you're waiting for the next generation.

FIELD: Yes.

- DONIN: Okay. So when you got here in '39, things were still sort of chugging along as a regular school.
- FIELD: Oh, yes. There was no visible impact of the war in '39. Some of the students did enlist in reserve corps, in the Marines or Navy principally, and spent the summer getting training. But this is before—and that was a very few because it was before Pearl Harbor obviously.
- DONIN: Right, right.
- FIELD: So we weren't really in the war.
- DONIN: And what are your memories of those first couple of years before, you know, before Pearl Harbor? What dorm were you in when you started?
- FIELD: Crosby which is now Blunt. That was the next to the cheapest dorm on campus. The room rates depended on what dorm you were in.
- DONIN: Is that so!
- FIELD: Oh, yes. College Hall was the cheapest. Crosby was next. And then the other end of the stratum was the Gold Coast, with Ripley, Woodward and Smith.
- DONIN: Is that why it was called the Gold Coast?
- FIELD: Yes. That's why it was called the Gold Coast.
- DONIN: Oh, I had no idea.
- FIELD: Man, some of those rooms had fireplaces and so forth.
- DONIN: Yes. That's what I gather. Were you able to choose then what dorm you were going to live in?
- FIELD: Yes, you selected a dorm. You stayed in it all the time you were in college.
- DONIN: Yes. So since you were a legacy, had you already been up here before you actually arrived as a student?
- FIELD: Oh, I'd been back to some of my father's reunions.

DONIN: Uh-huh. So you probably were familiar already with President Hopkins then. I mean he was not—

FIELD: He was a remote figure. I don't recall ever meeting him on campus. I was not an athlete really. He was very strong on the athletes, especially the football team. And a fine man. I'm not putting him down at all. It's just that our paths didn't happen to cross.

DONIN: Now did you meet him when you matriculated? Was there a ceremony?

FIELD: I don't recall there was. I don't think so.

DONIN: Unlike the legendary one with President Dickey, I gather.

FIELD: Yes.

DONIN: So life was—it was a fairly traditional Dartmouth experience.

FIELD: Yes, yes.

DONIN: Until December '41.

FIELD: Yes.

DONIN: Do you remember actually learning about it? When the bomb was dropped, how did you learn about it? Was it an announcement, or did somebody--

FIELD: Well, at that time we had the Nugget, the old original Nugget Theater show on Sunday afternoon, showed—

DONIN: Newsreels?

FIELD: Art films and so forth. Special things, you know. Special showings. And we were on Sunday, December 7th, around noon we're in there watching a Nazi propaganda film called *Drang nach Osten*, showing their power moving into Russia at that time, which they were doing. So we came out of that about one o'clock. And the news was there, that Pearl Harbor had been bombed.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

FIELD: So....

DONIN: And then I gather President Hopkins addressed the whole school that night.

FIELD: I don't remember that either.

DONIN: In the dining hall.

FIELD: I'm sure he did.

DONIN: It was called the Commons then.

FIELD: Commons, freshmen, yes. Well, I wasn't a freshman then. It was a freshman dining hall, yes.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. So at that point you already knew what your major was.

FIELD: I was going to Tuck School; I knew that.

DONIN: So by then you were doing your last year of—oh, you were already at Tuck School then.

FIELD: No, no. 'Thirty-nine I entered the freshman class. 'Forty-'41, I was still... I was finishing my....

DONIN: That's right, yes. So then '42 you were going to Tuck. Yes, yes. So were you aware of a lot of your classmates going out to enlist right away?

FIELD: Not a lot, but several. They said they couldn't see how—One specially I remember Rem Crego said, "I don't see how we can stay here in college when our country's at war." And he went off and enlisted in the Air Corps and was killed in training.

DONIN: Oh, gee. Oh! That happens.

FIELD: And there were several others who left school to enlist. But not a lot, not a lot.

DONIN: Right.

FIELD: Most of us enlisted in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, which the Navy was very strong. I enlisted in that after Pearl Harbor. And so most of us planned to finish our bachelor's degree and then go onto active duty.

DONIN: But how quickly after Pearl Harbor did they make the decision to start accelerating and letting people go to school through that summer? I mean it was that first summer right then.

FIELD: Yes, it was right then. Yes.

DONIN: 'Forty-two.

FIELD: And that was before they had V-12 on campus.

DONIN: Right, right.

FIELD: V-12 came in later. They did towards the end of that year—must have been early '42—they had some three months' direct commissioned officers here just learning some naval lingo and so forth.

DONIN: Were they the guys they called the "90-day wonders"?

FIELD: Oh, we all were.

DONIN: Oh, you all were.

FIELD: There were two Navy programs plus the—there were three programs, V-5 was the Army Air Corps; V-7 was the Navy. No, V-5 was the Navy Air Corps; I'm sorry. V-7 was the Navy surface corps. But we enlisted in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, and we spent three months at midshipmen school and then one more month. It took us four months to get through midshipmen school and get commissioned as an ensign.

DONIN: And that's when you were shipped out to—was it Notre Dame?

FIELD: I went to Notre Dame in January of '43. We were in the second midshipmen class at Notre Dame.

DONIN: And it was a big group of you from Dartmouth, right?

FIELD: There were 90 of us out of a total enrollment of 1100 in the midshipmen school. So we kind of ruled the roost.

DONIN: Ninety of you at Notre Dame?

FIELD: Ninety of them; most of the class of '43 or '42.

DONIN: [Laughs] Amazing. Amazing. So when you were allowed to graduate in December, was there any kind of ceremony?

FIELD: No. Well, there was a dinner, but I didn't attend that. I had something else; I forget what it was. And we got our diplomas in the mail.

DONIN: Uh-huh. Yes, everybody was moving on.

FIELD: So our class never had a formal commencement ceremony.

DONIN: Did you ever get a commencement later?

FIELD: No, no, no.

DONIN: Uh-huh. I gather some of the classes did.

FIELD: Some of them did. McLaughlin engineered one. I think McLaughlin started those to pick up the slack.

DONIN: Oh, nice. Yes.

FIELD: But I don't recall that he did for '43.

DONIN: Uh-huh. So you went through the summer of '42.

FIELD: Yes.

DONIN: And then '43—and then, yes.

FIELD: December—we finished in December. And got on a bus and went home. And got our diploma in the mail.

DONIN: Wow!

FIELD: And in January I got in and sent off to Notre Dame.

- DONIN: And then after that you started your actual service, after your training.
- FIELD: Yes, yes.
- DONIN: But the campus by the time you left even had some military training going on already, didn't they?
- FIELD: As I said, directly commissioned officers were here for indoctrination, brief indoctrination. I don't know, a couple of months, something like that. That was before V-12.
- DONIN: Yes.
- FIELD: V-12 was a much more ambitious project.
- DONIN: Yes. Because they were actually doing teaching as well.
- FIELD: That's right. They were really enrolled in the college as students.
- DONIN: Well, these officers, did they actually take over a dorm for them as well?
- FIELD: You know, I don't remember.
- DONIN: Yes, yes.
- FIELD: I don't remember. They must have.
- DONIN: They had to live somewhere.
- FIELD: There weren't that many. It wasn't a big group. Nothing like the V-12 contingent.
- DONIN: Right, right. So the atmosphere on campus then during those last couple of years after the US got into the war, what was it like? Wasn't it hard to concentrate and just be an undergrad?
- FIELD: A little bit. I was—My first two years I was Phi Beta, on the Phi Beta track, and my junior year I kind of slacked off. So I ended up *cum laude*. But you lost—I lost some interest. I and most of us wanted to get out and get on with the war.

DONIN: Well, I should think so. It would be very distracting, what's going on. So let's skip over your military experience. How had you left it with Dartmouth when you enlisted, when you went off to Notre Dame? That you were just going to come back when your service was finished?

FIELD: I didn't have to. I had my degree.

DONIN: And it was up to me whether I wanted to get a second year at Tuck which would give me the master's. A lot of people didn't.

FIELD: Uh-huh.

DONIN: So you were undecided at that point?

FIELD: Yes.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. What made you decide to come back and get the master's?

FIELD: Well, because I felt it was a worthwhile shingle to have. I was always interested in accounting.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

FIELD: And I figured a CPA always had an ability to pick up a pencil and go to work. You didn't have to be out of work. My father got hit hard in the Depression. He lost his business in 1930. And he had a hard time getting his act together again. So I figured... As I say, if you were qualified as a CPA, you had something to fall back on.

DONIN: Always have work. Yes, yes. So you hadn't spoken to Dartmouth then about coming back.

FIELD: No. No.

DONIN: Did you have to sort of apply to Tuck?

FIELD: Oh, yes, yes.

DONIN: Uh-huh. And you got in.

FIELD: Yes. At that time Tuck was strictly for Dartmouth undergraduates.

DONIN: Was it! It didn't take people from outside?

FIELD: That's correct.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

FIELD: They didn't start to do that until quite late in the game. Actually, I was on the board of overseers when they were really getting underway with that. Expanded the school. Yes, if you'd go down to Tuck and see the pictures of the graduating classes at Tuck, they're very, very small.

DONIN: Yes. So how many were you when you went back?

FIELD: When I came back? Probably—those were the years, '46, '47 and '45 also; '45 '46, '47, were larger than they had been before the war because people stacked up. In '76 and '77 ['46 and '47] we had Dartmouth undergraduates all the way from 1938 and through the war years and so forth. So it was larger than usual. But I say, God, maybe 80 students graduating if that; maybe 50 or 60.

DONIN: That's a nice size, though, actually.

FIELD: Not like now. You've got 340 down there now in the two years.

DONIN: But you must have had a closer relationship with the faculty, did you?

FIELD: Oh, closer than what?

DONIN: Than today when you have 300 or more.

FIELD: Oh, they still have a close relationship. [Laughs] I think you'd find it quite close. But, yes, it was a close relationship.

DONIN: You saw them outside of the classroom, your professors?

FIELD: If you wanted to.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

FIELD: I had the best—academically, it was the best year I had because most of us were married. I was married and had a child. Living down on Wigwam Circle which was then down near—

DONIN: Down near the River cluster there, isn't it?

FIELD: Well, this side. The River cluster wasn't there then.

DONIN: Right.

FIELD: It was open field, and the engineering school was there. Wigwam Circle was a group of prefabricated Navy housing things. They had two for married students. They had another operation for married students at Sachem Village. The rich ones lived in Sachem Village, and us poor ones lived in Wigwam Circle. Again, it was the difference in rent.

DONIN: Yes, I've heard that Sachem was the fancy place.

FIELD: Oh, yes. I can well remember they had a traumatic experience out there. One family did, one of the wives. They had a fire and the sleeve of her fur coat was burned. [Laughter] Oh, we felt that was a terrible thing. Really terrible.

DONIN: I'm sure your heart was broken for her.

FIELD: We were sitting there living on little or nothing, you know. But it was fun. That was the best time I had at Dartmouth.

DONIN: Everybody says that.

FIELD: We all felt that way.

DONIN: Yes.

FIELD: We all had a common experience, you know. And as I say, we were married, and most of us had children. And it was a—yes.

DONIN: Now were you all former military? You must have been. Were you all former—

FIELD: Oh, yes, yes. Everybody had come back from service. Oh, that's not quite right. There must have been some that graduated in '46 and didn't see service and went on at Tuck to do their second year.

DONIN: So when you came back to Tuck, you were a better student because you were older, you were more focused?

FIELD: Probably all the same. All of that I'd say. Look, we'd been out—you don't want to talk about the military experience. But we had some experiences out there that aged us, matured us. Hell, I was conning a destroyer, in charge of conning a destroyer, when I was in my early twenties. And I'm talking about a flagship with 350 personnel on board. So, you know....

DONIN: Makes you grow up.

FIELD: Makes you grow up real fast.

DONIN: So you were a better student, yes.

FIELD: Oh, yes.

DONIN: That seems to be the trend.

FIELD: Oh, yes. Things were more relaxed. And of course we were married; we knew we had to get a job.

DONIN: To support the family.

FIELD: Yes.

DONIN: Was your social group sort of confined to these Tuck people?

FIELD: Yes, basically. Basically. And Wigwam Circle. We had quite a neighborhood down there. A lot of bridge games.

DONIN: Had you been a member of fraternity before?

FIELD: No.

DONIN: You didn't join a fraternity?

FIELD: No.

DONIN: Oh, that's interesting.

FIELD: No.

DONIN: Why is that?

- FIELD: Well, I wasn't asked my freshman year, which was quite traumatic as you can well imagine. Not my freshman year. Sophomore year. You didn't dare go into a fraternity house as a freshman. You'd be on the next bus home. Pudge Neidlinger would see to that.
- DONIN: Oh, yes.
- FIELD: You want a story about Pudge?
- DONIN: Yes.
- FIELD: He was something else again. He was the dean. That was the whole deanship. And one of the experiences you really don't want to have, you come back to your dorm, and find a little card under the door. And it would say, "Please see me in the morning, Dean Neidlinger." And you didn't know whether to pack your bags then or just wait. Because you knew he didn't want to talk about, how's it going, son? How's your folks and so forth? He didn't want to do that. [Laughs]
- DONIN: Deans didn't do that in those days, did they?
- FIELD: Dean Neidlinger certainly didn't. He wasn't mean or cruel. He was just firm. This is digressing. But Bob Kilmarx, a fellow trustee, married one of his daughters. I told Bob, I can't imagine going to Neidlinger and asking for his daughter's hand. He said, "I was scared." [Laughter]
- DONIN: You know I just finished interviewing the man who married the other twin daughter, Malcolm McLane. And he had wonderful stories.
- FIELD: Oh, I bet he did. He was a real figure on campus. Anyway, my junior year did I get a bid to Sig Ep. I pledged, but then I broke it. I felt I couldn't afford it. I just didn't have the money.
- DONIN: Oh, yes. That's an expense. Yes. So when you came back, though, to Tuck, you were on the GI Bill right?
- FIELD: Yes.
- DONIN: Oh, that must have been a relief.
- FIELD: Yes.

DONIN: And that made your decision easier, too, I guess.

FIELD: Oh, yes. It helped. I also had a fellowship, Eastman Kodak Fellowship.

DONIN: Oh, good for you.

FIELD: Paying something like eleven hundred bucks.

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

FIELD: It was.

DONIN: Uh-huh. This was for Tuck, for the second year of Tuck?

FIELD: For Tuck, yes.

DONIN: Now, so when you left, it was Hopkins who was the president. And when you returned, you had a new president.

FIELD: Yes.

DONIN: Any memories of John Dickey?

FIELD: No, not really. I do remember now—this is probably extraneous—but I received, before I got out of the service, I received and I still preserve, a note from dean of the faculty, who said—I guess Dickey had taken over then. When did Dickey take over?

DONIN: Fall of '45.

FIELD: Okay. Then it was after that because the letter from the dean said that President Dickey is seeking to revitalize the faculty with younger blood and so forth. And he said, “Your name and a hundred others have been recommended by professors as being possible candidates for instructorships and so forth.” I’ve still got that letter.

DONIN: Were you tempted?

FIELD: Oh, yes. Yes, I was tempted.

DONIN: Yes. Decided against it.

FIELD: Yes.

DONIN: Yes. So did you have any professors who really made their mark on you?

FIELD: Gazley was one that did. I had him for a freshman class. I forget what it was. But junior year, since I was going for Tuck, I didn't have any real electives. I had a pretty open schedule, and I got a lot of—I didn't have any required courses. So I had a lot of electives. And so I picked one that Gazley was teaching because of my experience with him as a freshman. And it was A History of the French Revolution. It was a seminar. We met two or three times a week, hour and a half each time. Had to write a paper every week. The other members of the class were all seniors, and there were ten or 11 of them, seniors, and they were majoring in history and so forth. And here I was just going to Tuck School. And I worked harder in that course than any of the others, and had good grades. And I always suspected that Gazley might have recommended me for teaching.

DONIN: Oh, interesting.

FIELD: I should have followed up on it. I regret that I didn't. Because I became so really active with Dartmouth, I was up so much. Gazley was still living, and I should have called on him. But I didn't. Sometimes you often regret the things you didn't do when it's too late.

DONIN: Yes, yes. Exactly. Everybody does. Now you—Did you know this Japanese student who was in your class?

FIELD: There were two of them.

DONIN: Oh, there were two of them.

FIELD: Yes. One's still living; George Shimizu is still living. Takanobu Mitsui was the one that people—Of course, that's the Mitsui empire in Japan. Yes. We knew them. We knew them both. George is still living. But I think George is—I'm not sure whether George is Nisei or Isei or whatever. But Takanobu was. His father was Dartmouth, you know, class of '15. And he got pulled out of college; his father pulled him out.

DONIN: Oh, did he!

- FIELD: Oh, yes.
- DONIN: So he didn't finish.
- FIELD: No, no, no, no, no.
- DONIN: Oh.
- FIELD: And I forget when they pulled him out, whether it was before Pearl Harbor or just after.
- DONIN: Well, it was just after I think because—It had to be just after because wrote a letter to the editor about a week after the bomb.
- FIELD: Did he? I don't remember that.
- DONIN: And you know who told me that was—I think he was one of your classmates—Bob Fieldsteel.
- FIELD: Yes, sure.
- DONIN: He said he wrote a letter to the editor because he was unhappy obviously about the reaction of local townspeople to the fact that he was here, and I guess sheltered by President Hopkins. Sheltered isn't the right word. But looked after.
- FIELD: Yes, protected. Which he should have been.
- DONIN: Yes, yes. Anyway. Oh, that's interesting. I didn't realize he'd never actually graduated. Must have been difficult, though, for him, being here. Scary. Okay. Let's see here. Where are we? I asked you about— Now, did you—Can you describe what your social life was like while the war was on? I mean were a lot of things being sort of cut back?
- FIELD: There wasn't much to begin with. [Laughter]
- DONIN: Right, right. I know. But, come on, there was—Was there glee club? Or did you continue, you know, after 1941, did they continue with things like Homecoming and Green Key weekend?

FIELD: Yes, they still had the Green Key. It rained every weekend, every house party weekend except one while I was here. Including Winter Carnival.

DONIN: Oh! It rained?

FIELD: Yes.

DONIN: Oh, that's terrible. But they did keep things going.

FIELD: Yes, yes.

DONIN: And the fraternities stayed open and all that?

FIELD: But again, in those days, you know, the fraternities were really private.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

FIELD: If you didn't belong to a fraternity, you didn't go in the fraternity.

DONIN: You couldn't get in.

FIELD: No, you did not. You didn't drop in there Saturday night for a jug of beer or something.

DONIN: Right, right.

FIELD: That all changed when it went coed basically.

DONIN: Well, so, for the non-fraternity people, what did you do for social life?

FIELD: Not a lot. You might get a—

DONIN: Go to the movies?

FIELD: Yes, go to the movies or get a couple bottles of beer. Well, we did skiing, too. In the wintertime you skied. Ski at night under a full moon—it was great—out on the golf course.

DONIN: Oh, yes. Right.

FIELD: And the athletic events were all on.

DONIN: Right.

FIELD: And in those days you attended all of them, too.

DONIN: Well, the teams were different, weren't they?

FIELD: Yes, they were different. But even so, there weren't other distractions.

DONIN: Right. No girls.

FIELD: No girls. And very few of us could afford cars. So we were here.

DONIN: Plus there was gas rationing, wasn't there?

FIELD: Oh, yes. Yes.

DONIN: But did people still do road trips down to the girls' colleges around here?

FIELD: Oh, yes, they did. Yes. But not very often.

DONIN: No.

FIELD: And they were restricted. Of course Colby Junior College was closer. I always tell my daughter, who went to Colby Junior College, that that was the place where if you couldn't make the trip down to Smith or Holyoke, you'd go down to Colby Junior.

DONIN: Oh, dear.

FIELD: She loves that. [Laughter]

DONIN: That's not nice.

FIELD: She knows I didn't mean it.

DONIN: [Laughs] So you did manage to sort of maintain some sort of semblance of—

FIELD: There wasn't any real deprivation of that. Basic campus life went on pretty much as it was. Behind it all, of course, was the fact that

you're going off to war. And some people occasionally would go off. And then you'd hear some of them didn't come back.

DONIN: Did you feel like you were—When you came back, were the veterans treated with more sort of...I mean I realize you were sort of segregated down there at Tuck, but did you feel like you were treated with more respect or treated differently because you'd gone off to war?

FIELD: No. Like you said, we were an enclave of our own. We were all veterans. Now I don't know what it was in the undergraduate college at that time where you had a mixture of veterans and non-veterans. There must have been some interplay there, whether good or bad.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. But you were sort of down there on your own. Did you feel that your sense of identity—and not just you but your class—Was your sense of identity impacted by the fact you had a funny class schedule. You were going full time year round, and everything was accelerated and compacted, and some of your classmates went off to war. You never got to have a real graduation ceremony. Did that have any kind of an impact on people's feeling of loyalty to their class?

FIELD: Yes. I think to an extent the class was splintered by the war. We entered with 700 and we graduated 300 and something.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

FIELD: So it was splintered by the war. People going off and so forth. So coming together.... But somehow after the war it came together again, but it took a few years to do it. And I have to attribute that to the class leadership at that time. George Munroe was one of the leaders, I know that. So it drew together, and the class has turned out pretty well.

DONIN: Did you lose a lot of—maybe these are the later classes that that would happen to. You know some students chose to identify with a different class because you know they were here for a year and then went off to the war and then graduated later.

FIELD: No, I didn't sense any of that.

DONIN: These earlier classes probably weren't impacted by that. So by the time the war was over and everybody was back and the '50s started, the class was sort of back together again.

FIELD: Yes.

DONIN: Thanks to the leadership.

FIELD: Yes.

DONIN: Interesting. Okay, let's see here. I'm looking down this list. I think we've covered everything.

FIELD: Did you cover the Fifth Down incident?

DONIN: The what?

FIELD: The Fifth Down incident. Don't you ask what the most memorable things [are] from your college career up here?

DONIN: Yes. Well, tell me.

FIELD: The football game against Cornell?

DONIN: Oh! Well, tell....

FIELD: In the fall of 1940.

DONIN: The fall of 1940? No, I've not heard this story.

FIELD: As far as I know it's the only time a game score has been reversed because of an official error.

DONIN: Wow!

FIELD: You can find this on the Internet.

DONIN: I bet.

FIELD: The game. They've got films of it.

DONIN: This is Cornell?

FIELD: Cornell. Cornell was undefeated, ranked number one in the nation. Dartmouth had a spotty record about half and half, wins and losses. We weren't given any chance at all by anybody, including the sports writers. We held them to— The game came down to the last few minutes. Dartmouth was leading three to zip. They held them scoreless. We had a fancy special defensive thing going on. And Cornell finally had the ball and drove down the field. And they came down within our ten-yard line. Maybe around the five- or six-yard line. Three efforts, and they all failed. And then the ball should have turned over to Dartmouth. And the referee gave them a fifth down. He thought it was only still the fourth down. And the Dartmouth players jumped up and down. The screaming and so forth. And he waved them off. So one play left, Cornell made a touchdown pass. Six to three was the score; the game was over. And then over the weekend the referee, Red Friesell reviewed the tapes of the game, and he admitted he'd made a mistake. He gave them an extra down. So Cornell offered to rescind the score. And the story goes that they didn't really think Hoppy would accept this. But Hoppy did accept it. So they changed the score.

DONIN: So the other option would have been to play again?

FIELD: No, no. That was it.

DONIN: That was it?

FIELD: The score stood. Cornell would have been the winner.

DONIN: Amazing.

FIELD: This was their only loss. It was the greatest upset in the history of Dartmouth, I think.

DONIN: Amazing. That's a great story. Nobody's ever told me that story.

FIELD: Oh, it's written up. And again, you could see the film on tape. But we got it for one of our class reunions. We had those of our class who'd played on the team put down their recollections of it.

DONIN: Yes. Oh, that's great. It was for your 50th?

FIELD: No, it was after that. It was fairly recently we did this.

DONIN: Oh, fun. That's great. And there's a thing probably on the athletic department website.

FIELD: Oh, yes. They've got all sorts of stuff on it.

DONIN: So was Dartmouth not good then in football?

FIELD: Well, off and on. But, you know, again it's typical Ivy League. But we were very strong in basketball and hockey. Very strong.

DONIN: Well, George Munroe has stories to tell.

FIELD: Yes, he should. You've interviewed him?

DONIN: Yes. I interviewed him in New York.

FIELD: He was a sweet basketball player.

DONIN: Yes.

FIELD: He was really something.

DONIN: He's a sweet man.

FIELD: Very smooth. But he had a lot of help, too.

DONIN: Yes.

FIELD: The teams were good. Ozzie Cowles was a great coach.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

FIELD: People talk about Doggie Julian. Did George talk about that? This is still bugging George because they're talking about Doggie Julian being the greatest basketball coach and they don't say anything about Ozzie Cowles and Ozzie Cowles was a much better coach than Doggie Julian.

DONIN: Well, he arranged for him to get some sort of recognition later on.

FIELD: He did, yes.

DONIN: When he was a trustee, I think.

- FIELD: I don't know when it was, but George was...Well, he was a... Anyway. And the hockey team was—If you look at the banners; hell, the hockey team was invincible in those days.
- DONIN: Yes. And they say that later on when the V-12 guys were here and they were able to play on the teams, that we had some really good sports teams because some of these guys were quite a bit older than your regular underclassmen. So sports in those days were quite different than....
- FIELD: So anyway, that was a memorable experience.
- DONIN: Is that your most memorable?
- FIELD: Yes, I think so. I think that was probably it. The other memory was Pearl Harbor.
- DONIN: Yes, clearly. So when you were an undergrad, for your first— Oh, no, you started in '39. I was going to say you didn't overlap with your brother at all then. He graduated and you came along. Oh, yes.
- FIELD: It was one more reason why I stayed out a year because I had a sister also in college, class of '41 at Bates. And my father was having a tough time scraping up, you know....
- DONIN: Yes. That's rough.
- FIELD: To put things in perspective, my entire budget was \$1200 a year.
- DONIN: Yes.
- FIELD: Room and board, tuition, spending money, three-cent stamp to write home when I could find three cents to say "Dad, I need some more money."
- DONIN: Yes. Did you have a part-time job when you were here?
- FIELD: Oh, yes. Yes.
- DONIN: Where did you work?
- FIELD: DDA.

- DONIN: That seems to be the most popular one.
- FIELD: I had the cushiest job in the DDA. Oh, I did other things. I tutored students, too. I tutored one, turned out—knowing what I know now, I guess he was dyslexic. He could hear and understand. He couldn't read. So I would read his lessons to him. That was one guy. But other than that, in the DDA my freshman year, I was in freshman Commons with a lot of other waiters. And then I got shifted over sophomore year over into Thayer. And I got down to the Richard Hovey Grill. Now, that's all paneled up you know now. But it was a short-order place when I was here.
- DONIN: Oh. Uh-huh.
- FIELD: For lunch.
- DONIN: So you could go in and get a hamburger or whatever?
- FIELD: The students could, yes, short-order stuff. And there were two—three—three of us waiters all arm or hand service.
- DONIN: What does that mean?
- FIELD: Well, no trays.
- DONIN: Oh!
- FIELD: We'd stack these plates up in our hands.
- DONIN: Oh, my goodness!
- FIELD: And we had a very accommodating cook—chef. Red Donohue. And in the short-order business, you know, you often had mistakes. So you'd end up at the end of the meal hour with some hamburgers or cheeseburgers left over. And there was no sense in throwing those out.
- DONIN: Oh, no. Too wasteful. [Laughter]
- FIELD: So we made a sacrifice and helped get rid of them.
- DONIN: That's a good benefit.

FIELD: I was on at noon. In the evening I served in the Thayer dining hall. When you go into Thayer now, to the right you've got the Tindle Lounge. That was an antechamber—anteroom, waiting room—for a deluxe dining room. Sit-down table, carpeted dining room. This other place was cafeteria. It was over here. And so at dinnertime I waited on tables for, among others, the SAE fraternity. The fraternities had their own dining table. And my senior year I got elevated to headwaiter. So I had two floormen working for me, one of them being Olson, who was a teammate of George Munroe's.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

FIELD: Who were the others? I don't know. But I was the headwaiter, and I was out in this anteroom and I welcomed the people and so forth.

DONIN: These were students that were getting waited on?

FIELD: These were students, yes.

DONIN: Oh, my goodness!

FIELD: Mostly fraternities.

DONIN: So it was very formal, it sounds like.

FIELD: Oh, yes, it was. And ties and jackets.

DONIN: Uh-huh. But so this was just dinner that was this sit-down affair?

FIELD: Yes, yes.

DONIN: Uh-huh. That's expensive.

FIELD: Well, I guess.

DONIN: Was that part of their fee?

FIELD: I don't really know because, you know, I worked for my meals, and I wasn't concerned with the financial arrangements of the other people.

DONIN: My goodness. But you never saw the faculty in there.

FIELD: No, no.

DONIN: Just students. No meals with the faculty members sitting there.

FIELD: No, no. At least I didn't participate in them.

DONIN: Well, you had a schedule, working a lot and going to school.

FIELD: That's the way you did things.

DONIN: That's the way everybody did it. Yes.

FIELD: I wasn't unique.

DONIN: No.

[End of Interview]