

Dartmouth College Oral History Project
The War Years at Dartmouth
Interview with Frank Hutchins '45
By Mary Stelle Donin
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DONIN: How was it that you ended up coming to Dartmouth in 1941?

HUTCHINS: My father and two uncles and my grandfather on my mother's side all were Dartmouth graduates, so all during my youth Dartmouth was a big subject in our family. So, that was number one, and then when I was at Exeter, I met a number of friends who were considering Dartmouth, so we all applied and Dartmouth was the only place I applied to, and that's what happened.

DONIN: Was there ever a possibility that you ever thought of going to another school?

HUTCHINS: Not really, Mary. I guess maybe at one point I thought of Cornell, but nothing serious. Nothing serious.

DONIN: Did you visit here as a young child or during your high school years?

HUTCHINS: I only came up once during my father's twentieth reunion.

[phone rings; pause]

HUTCHINS: The only time that I ever came to Hanover before going to college was I came up with my father for his twentieth reunion, which was 1940. He was the class of '20. I thought that that was really big time. I was one year away from graduating from Exeter, so I was just going into my senior year at Exeter. So, I really enjoyed the experience, but it was really the only college I ever considered seriously or ever even visited.

DONIN: Were you attracted by the sort of outdoorsy atmosphere here, or just the fact that it was the family tradition to come here?

HUTCHINS: I think the family tradition; the idea that it was New Hampshire. New Hampshire sounded romantic to me as a child growing up in upstate New York. And my father used to talk about, you know, doing skijoring up here behind a horse and all those kinds of things. I don't know; the whole picture seemed to appeal to me.

DONIN: Did you have siblings that came here before you?

HUTCHINS: No. I have a sister who's younger than I and she went to a small college in Pennsylvania: Wilson College.

DONIN: Oh, yeah.

HUTCHINS: But, I had a cousin who went here—Richard Arnold—and he was about the class of '50. But, if you started with my grandfather—his name was Arthur Arnold and I believe he was in the class of '92. Now, I'm not sure. It's either '90 or '92, but I think 1892. Then he and my grandmother had two children: my mother and her brother. Her brother, who is Vernet Arnold, came to Dartmouth and was the same class as my father. And he, Vernet Arnold, introduced my father to my mother, who went to Smith and was the class of '20 at Smith. So, there's that connection. And then my father had two brothers, each of whom came to Dartmouth. One was the class of '17—his name was Mosher—and the second was younger than my dad. His name was Frank and he was the class of '22 and my father was in the middle and he was the class of '20. I think—then the only other connections we have with Dartmouth are the fact that my oldest daughter, Kathy, married a Dartmouth student—Curt Welling—and my third-oldest daughter, Patty, married a Dartmouth student, David Murphy.

DONIN: Amazing. You are truly a green blood family.

HUTCHINS: Yeah. There it is. [Laughter]

DONIN: That's terrific. And now you've got a grandson at Tuck.

HUTCHINS: Grandson at Tuck, right. Exactly.

DONIN: So each generation is making their mark here at Dartmouth.

HUTCHINS: That's right. Well, I'm sorry. I left out probably the most important—I shouldn't say most important—but really the star, and that is Mark Valkenburgh's sister. Mark Valkenburgh is the one who is graduating from Tuck school this year. He went to Middlebury, graduating from Tuck. His sister, Virginia [Sarah?] Valkenburgh, was the class of '99 at Dartmouth.

DONIN: Oh. That's your granddaughter.

HUTCHINS: Yeah. She was the first girl in our family that came to Dartmouth. And then she went on to Harvard Medical School, and got her M.D., and she is now in Providence Hospital doing her internal whatever.

DONIN: Residency.

HUTCHINS: Residency. Right.

DONIN: Terrific.

HUTCHINS: And she was Phi Beta when she was here. So, that was pretty good.

DONIN: It's in your blood, for sure. So, let's go back to 1941 when you arrived here. The fall of '41: the US hadn't gotten into the war yet, so...

HUTCHINS: No, but it did in December of '41.

DONIN: Do you remember Pearl Harbor?

HUTCHINS: Very definitely.

DONIN: Do you remember where you were and what you were doing?

HUTCHINS: I can't remember whether December 7th was a Saturday or a Sunday.

DONIN: Sunday.

HUTCHINS: Okay, Sunday. And I was out in front of Middle Mass Row when I heard about the Japanese bombing Pearl Harbor, and that's my memory of hearing about World War Two: standing with some other friends in front of Middle Mass. We were just freshmen at the time.

DONIN: Was there a sense right away that students were talking about going off to enlist and fighting the war?

HUTCHINS: Not right away. Not right away. I don't think the surge or the movement to leave school and enlist started until—I would say late spring of '42, maybe even the summer of '42.

DONIN: Which was when they started— Didn't they start having school year-round at that time?

HUTCHINS: That's when they started having the summer session at Dartmouth, which was a great thing, by the way. I went to it and I don't know if you

ever remember the movie *Summer of '42*, but anyway, it was a great summer.

DONIN: It's the most beautiful time to be here.

HUTCHINS: Yeah. I mean, we studied, but gee, we went to Storrs Pond and did all of those great things that you wouldn't normally do during the year.

DONIN: Exactly. And, of course, most of the members of your class probably were too young to enlist. You weren't yet eighteen, were you?

HUTCHINS: Oh, yes. Well, I went to Exeter and I went a fifth year, so to speak, at Exeter so when I came here I was nineteen. I was born in July and I was nineteen that July when I entered in '41. Most of my classmates were eighteen, but there were some nineteen. A few, seventeen, but very few. I would say the majority eighteen and then the next group would have been nineteen. So, they were plenty old enough to enlist. It seemed as though it was the class of '44 and '43 who had the greatest movement to enlist. Most of the students who either signed up with these different programs: V-7, V-5, and so forth—officer training programs. Those were... The flag was really waving hard and to get into the navy and the V-7 program was a big, big thing, and the same thing with V-5, which was Naval Air Corps, and so forth.

So, I didn't go into the service until March of 1943, so at that time I had finished my sophomore year because I had gone to school the summer of '42. That was the first semester of my sophomore year, then the fall of '42. Then Tuck School had an arrangement where, rather than having to wait three years to go to Tuck School from Dartmouth, the way it originally was, they said, "Well, because of the war and so forth we're going to get you through earlier. You can come here with only two years of liberal arts from Dartmouth." So, that's what I did and I went half a year—or not quite a half a year. Probably three-quarters of a year—to Tuck School between January and March of '43.

DONIN: Oh, yeah. As a part of that accelerated—

HUTCHINS: Exactly. And that summer program was called the accelerator program—oh, gee.

DONIN: It's all right.

HUTCHINS: Was called the accelerator program, too. And most students did do the summer of '42—not all, but most of my class.

DONIN: Right. And so what happened with your military experience?

HUTCHINS: My eyes were not good enough to get into the air force or into the naval V-7 program, so all of a sudden a man—an alumnus—who was about the class of '36 had been working with the OSS: the Office of Strategic Services, which is the predecessor of the CIA, came to Dartmouth to talk to anybody who would really be interested in going into the OSS. People who for one reason or another couldn't get into the V-7, V-5, whatever. And so I said, "Gee, that's just what I want," because they guaranteed that you'd be overseas in six months, and that's what all of us wanted to do. We wanted to get in the action and wanted to get overseas. So, I signed up, as did twenty others from Dartmouth, and we all went into the OSS at the same time. We were overseas within six months and we were all different places: one was in Karachi, India; another was in Quan Ming, China [phonetic]. I was sent to Iran, North Africa, and so forth. It was a very interesting program.

DONIN: How long were you in the OSS?

HUTCHINS: I was in the OSS from—well, March of '43 until January of '45. And in January of '45, I had been overseas for eighteen months. Not eighteen months, fifteen months. They came to me and they said to a couple of other men, too: "Well, we really need you in China—" this was in what they called the China CBI route: China, Burma, India—"we really need you in China and we're going to ship you over there within the next month. And so each of the three of us said, "Well, do we have any choice? Can you ship us back via the States so at least we'd have a few days at home before we go to China?" "No. We really need you right over there right now." So, we said, "Well, what's the choice?" They said, "Well, you can go to infantry OCS in Fort Benning, Georgia." They thought that we would never take infantry OCS, and we all three did. We said, "Yeah, that sounds all right to us," and so that's what we did.

So, we came back in January, '45, and the VE Day was in May, I believe, of '45, and VJ Day was in August of '45. Well, we graduated from OCS with our second lieutenant bars in the third week of August and VJ Day had happened about the first week of August. So, we were just plain lucky.

DONIN: What timing.

- HUTCHINS: Yeah. And then Jeanne and I were married within a week or so after I had gotten out of OCS.
- DONIN: And you needed to come back here, though, to finish, right?
- HUTCHINS: Oh, yes. And then I was still in the army when we got married, because I hadn't been discharged yet, so I didn't get discharged until April of '46.
- DONIN: Oh, I see.
- HUTCHINS: But we were married all that time, of course, from August of '45 until April of '46. And then I did some odd jobs until late June, when I came back to Tuck School, and I actually did that one semester—I started right from scratch again at Tuck School and graduated in the class of '48 out of Tuck School.
- DONIN: So you actually got to have a graduation ceremony, then.
- HUTCHINS: Oh, yes.
- DONIN: Did you get a diploma?
- HUTCHINS: I actually graduated from Dartmouth in June of '47. Came back in July of '46, one year at Tuck School, which, in effect, gave us all that was needed to get an AB.
- [phone rings; pause]
- DONIN: Turn these back on again. Okay. So, you came back and then graduated in—
- HUTCHINS: Well, actually I got my Dartmouth diploma in June of '47. Jeanne and I had been living here for about a year then. And then I went my second year to Tuck School in the fall of '47 and the spring of '48. Got out of Tuck School in '48.
- DONIN: With an MBA or MCS.
- HUTCHINS: With an MCS.
- DONIN: Right.
- HUTCHINS: Did you ever hear about the MCS?

- DONIN: Yes. It's sort of— It's what used to be the MBA, right?
- HUTCHINS: Exactly.
- DONIN: Yeah. I mean, the MBA used to be the MCS, I guess is the right way to say it.
- HUTCHINS: Well, the thing was that about twenty-five, thirty years ago, all of us who had gotten MCSs at Tuck School got a letter, and they said, "Really, you guys got an MBA and we weren't authorized to give you an MBA at the time, but we are now and if you would like an MBA certificate and substitute it for your MCS, we'll be glad to send it to you if you will send us twenty-five dollars." [Laughter] So, everybody was very happy to send in the twenty-five dollars.
- DONIN: Yeah. So, let's back up a minute now that we've sort of got the chronology down. When you matriculated here in 1941, it was President Hopkins who was at the helm.
- HUTCHINS: Ernest Martin Hopkins.
- DONIN: Right. And when you returned after the war, you had a new president.
- HUTCHINS: John Dickey.
- DONIN: Yeah. What was that transition like for you?
- HUTCHINS: Well, I don't think it was much, Mary. I met President Hopkins once, shook his hand. I don't know whether it was on the first day I got here, or the—
- DONIN: Matriculation, probably.
- HUTCHINS: —the next year when I matriculated. But I never knew him and never was close to him. The name was always—a very terrific aura around the name, but I can't say that there was much change. But when I came back and John Dickey was president, there was something about John Dickey that really appealed to me, and he was the one who established the Great Issues course, or the idea of the Great Issues course, which I thought was really something. And I was old enough to appreciate it because, you know, I had been three years in the service and—What was I then? Forty-seven, I would have been twenty-five. And also, I guess, Dickey meant something to me because—I've got it

mixed up a little bit—but I got to know him as an alumnus as well as getting to know him a little bit as a student. I didn't get to know him well as a student, except to see him around, and he was quite an impressive figure: tall. But after graduation and coming back to school for whatever reunion or just to come back, I did get to know him a little bit and I was very impressed.

DONIN: Did you actually get to take the Great Issues course?

HUTCHINS: I did not, because it was a freshman course—

DONIN: Yeah. Or, I think it was a senior course—

HUTCHINS: Oh, was it a senior course?

DONIN: Yeah, but since you sort of skipped over your senior year—

HUTCHINS: No, wait a minute, wait a minute. You're right, you're right. It was a senior course, but I didn't take it, no, and that was too bad that I didn't, but I was at Tuck School.

DONIN: Yeah, I think that a lot of the students that had, you know, essentially their senior year over at Tuck School, I don't think many of them took the Great Issues course.

HUTCHINS: I don't think so. No, I don't think it was even a question with us. We heard about it and got people subscribing to the *New York Times* and all... But I'm sorry that I never did have it.

DONIN: He brought some pretty impressive people to campus.

HUTCHINS: Oh, I guess so. And that part I missed. I really did, because of Tuck School.

DONIN: Well, I think people in your class missed a lot of the sort of traditional undergraduate experience, because, you know, the war interrupted that.

HUTCHINS: Sure.

DONIN: I mean, you had one—less than a semester here that was sort of a traditional undergrad experience before the war started, or before the US got into the war.

HUTCHINS: Yeah.

DONIN: And after that, there was a lot of stuff that was sort of different, it seems to me. When you came back, the campus then must have been a real sort of mishmash of returning veterans like yourself—

HUTCHINS: Oh, yeah. Well, number one: veterans—we didn't have any money.

DONIN: Right.

HUTCHINS: And we didn't have any money to buy new clothes, so everybody wore their old uniforms.

DONIN: Yeah, a lot of people say that.

HUTCHINS: Guys were wearing field jackets with holes in them. It was not a fashion plate at all. I would say most of the people here at the time when I came back—I shouldn't say it because I don't know—but I'll betcha half were veterans.

DONIN: Yeah, and a lot of them were married in addition to being veterans.

HUTCHINS: Sure.

DONIN: So, you mentioned as we were walking over here, when you got here with Jeanne, you immediately found a place in Wigwam. Is that right?

HUTCHINS: That's right. We got a place in Wigwam Circle, which was right behind Thayer School, really, and these were wartime barracks that were converted to one-room apartments—not two, not three—one room so that it was this one room with a sink and a hotplate at one end, two beds here, and then just the john here, and the shower was all one with masonite siding. It was really something. [Laughter]

DONIN: Pretty basic.

HUTCHINS: But the cost was right: twenty dollars a month.

DONIN: Amazing.

HUTCHINS: And at that time, I worked that summer of '46 when I first came back. I worked at Manchester's Gulf station, and I did that, well, for probably a better part of a year with my free time—whatever free time I had. And Jeanne—I remember today, I was working for eight-five cents an hour

and she was working for thirty-five dollars a week, which really was better than what I was doing. [Laughter]

DONIN: And she was working right here in Baker Library.

HUTCHINS: Right here in Baker Library at the circulation desk. And then she also—I remember this—that she got to work in the rare book section.

DONIN: Really?

HUTCHINS: Some way or other and that just sort of is in the back of my mind somewhere.

DONIN: That's great. That was in the Treasure Room—in those days I think that they were located in the Treasure Room down at the other end of the hall.

HUTCHINS: Yeah.

DONIN: So, I assume your life was essentially taking these courses at Tuck and working this job, so you probably didn't get much of the sort of social interaction that the undergrads had.

HUTCHINS: No, only with the other people at Wigwam who were mostly classmates—some at Tuck, some at Thayer, some actually seniors here at the college, but that was where our interaction came from. Saturday night have a few beers with these people, and they were all—I say all—practically all veterans, so we had that all in common. Oh, gee whiz.

DONIN: That's all right. I've got this speaker—I mean, this microphone too close to you. So, you probably didn't mix much with the regular undergrads, then, because you didn't see them in class.

HUTCHINS: No, no.

DONIN: Did you ever join a fraternity when you were here originally?

HUTCHINS: Yes. Theta Delta Chi, and at the time when I came here, freshmen weren't allowed to join fraternities, but we were rushed in the fall of our sophomore year, and that's when I joined Theta Delta Chi. And when I came back after the war, I might have gone there a few times, but it wasn't that appealing to me at that time.

- DONIN: Hanging out with the guys drinking beer in the basement probably...
- HUTCHINS: Yeah. Not that I had gotten over that stage, but, as I say, most of our friends were at Wigwam Circle. I didn't finish one thing. In Wigwam Circle in the summer of '46 and, I guess, for the fall, we had that one-room apartment. Then we graduated to the—what would it have been—three-room apartment, which were the two-story barracks.
- DONIN: Oh. Was this still part of Wigwam?
- HUTCHINS: It was all part of Wigwam. The little one-story ones probably were not good. But, anyway, so we graduated to the two-story barracks and we were on the second floor of this one, and we had a living room, we had a bedroom, we had a bathroom, and a little kitchen, and that was, boy, really deluxe. And that was thirty dollars a month. [Laughter]
- DONIN: Amazing. Now, I remember reading—in fact I've got it here—this little two-page sheet you sent me when we were first corresponding. You also had a baby here.
- HUTCHINS: Exactly. That's Kathy, our oldest. In March of '48. March 28, '48. I graduated that June from Tuck. And she married a Dartmouth guy, Curt Welling, and he is the class of '70.
- DONIN: So Kathy was born at the Mary Hitchcock Hospital?
- HUTCHINS: Yep. And—did I say anything about the Papoose Certificate?
- DONIN: You sure did.
- HUTCHINS: Yeah.
- DONIN: I guess every baby born—
- HUTCHINS: And we've lost the Papoose Certificate. We don't have it. Anyway, that was quite a thing. Anybody who had a baby— Any Dartmouth student who had a baby got a Papoose Certificate.
- DONIN: It was signed by President Dickey, I gather.
- HUTCHINS: You're probably right. I can't remember that.
- DONIN: So, at that point I assume your wife stopped working at Baker Library, once the baby was born.

- HUTCHINS: Oh, yes. I've got to assume that. Yes, I'm sure she did, because the baby was born one month ahead of time. I do remember that.
- DONIN: Right. Now, how do you think the absence of, you know, those two years that you were gone—did that ever impact your sense of loyalty to the class of 1945? I mean, were you ever tempted to join the class of '47?
- HUTCHINS: Oh, no. It would have never occurred to me to be in any other class than '45. We were, I would say, quite loyal to each other, so to speak, and quite close. Unfortunately, a number of our class did not come back to school after the war, so we were not a big class. We're not a big class anyway; a lot of guys have died. Also, the thing that has always disappointed me, at least in our class, is that we have not historically done well in the alumni fund. I mean, we're in the middle someplace, but I would have liked to have seen us, you know, really doing better, and so would some of the others.
- DONIN: Just turn this over here. And what do you think causes that? Does it go back to your undergrad experience being chopped up?
- HUTCHINS: I think so. I think so. A number of men who came back after the war didn't even finish then, for one reason or another, whether it was money, or getting married and having to go to work, or whatever. But there were, I believe, something like seven hundred and fifty of us in our original class, and I would say that if, on average over the years, if we had three hundred to three-fifty active, that's pretty good. That's about it. But to say why, I think the war certainly had a lot to do with it. It interrupted the experience.
- DONIN: And, you know, the pressure to go out and earn money, was that alleviated at all by the fact that you guys were able to come back on the GI Bill?
- HUTCHINS: Well, the GI Bill was a tremendous thing. Oh yes, that lightened the load plenty. Oh, I think without that, just a fraction of my class would have been able to come back.
- DONIN: But, you also had students that did choose to go back to school, but some of them, I think, went back to the colleges where they did their V-12 training or their V-5 training, it seems to me. That some students—

HUTCHINS: Well, maybe, but I can't remember, Mary, too many in our class doing that. I mean, I understand exactly what you're talking about, but—

DONIN: That may have been later classes than '45. Well, how do you think the college did in—you know, when you returned after the war, there was this influx of veterans, plus you had traditional, you know, straight out of high school civilians starting their freshman year. So that you had a huge range of sort of life experience represented in the student body when you were back here. You know, young kids—seventeen, eighteen years old—that had not yet done their service, and all the way up to people like you who were in their twenties, married, who had served their country.

HUTCHINS: Well, it was almost like two different colleges, if you will. We really didn't associate—not on purpose—but really didn't associate much with the freshmen who were just coming in at age eighteen after high school. I'm just trying to think back on those years. Number one, Tuck School was a hard grind. I mean, it was tough. It was supposed to be tough, but tougher than college.

DONIN: Sure. It was graduate work you were doing.

HUTCHINS: So, we didn't have all that extra time and, you know, Jeanne and I were working and all that sort of stuff. And we had our friends at Wigwam and even some from Sachem, and that seemed to be the extent of it. I don't touch that anymore.

DONIN: It's all right. You can't hurt it.

HUTCHINS: I remember a couple of times going over to the fraternity house with Jeanne for some party after a football game or something, but that was about it.

DONIN: Did you participate in—you know, once the fraternities got going again after the war was over and all the sort of traditional Dartmouth activities resumed, like Winter Carnival, and Homecoming, and the football games, and all that. Did you participate in that sort of stuff?

HUTCHINS: Well, the thing that I participated in, which I really enjoyed, was the *Daily Dartmouth*. I started out and I was local advertising manager, then I was the general advertising manager, then I became business manager. And these were the days when whatever money we were able to make, we were able to keep, and that's not the case today. The college really runs the finances of *The Dartmouth*, so that if we worked

very hard, then we could end up at the end of the year—Well, the editor-in-chief, and the business manager, and two or three of the top people could end up with \$1200, \$1300 apiece. Well, that was big money.

DONIN: A lot of money.

HUTCHINS: And we worked hard to get it. So, that was where I spent my extra time, so to speak.

DONIN: Yep. And that was before the war or after the war?

HUTCHINS: After the war.

DONIN: Wow.

HUTCHINS: After the war.

DONIN: So you did have a full schedule between *The D*, and the Gulf station, and going to school, and being married, that sort of fills it up.

HUTCHINS: Yeah. And I think the—And the Gulf station, I remember, was mainly during the summer and in the fall and spring. I don't remember much in the winter. And I would have, because...

DONIN: Right. And nobody had cars—You guys couldn't afford cars.

HUTCHINS: Well, when we came back, I think a lot of us did. Jeanne and I had a 1941 Ford, which we had right after we got married. We bought it down in Fort Benning, second-hand of course, and used that quite a bit as we went from one post to another and then back and forth to home.

DONIN: I guess you needed it.

HUTCHINS: Yeah. So, we had that car here. But I'd say a good share of the veterans had cars. Not good-looking cars.

DONIN: But they got you from point a to point b.

HUTCHINS: Right.

DONIN: So, let's talk about your academic life. Do you think you were a better student when you came back from the war? Do you think you were more—

- HUTCHINS: Much more serious. Yeah, I think—not only more serious, but more focused. I think really is what it was. And I got to know my professors. Now there was a case where I really, you know, spent some good time with professors at Tuck School, which I didn't do with the professors at the college.
- DONIN: Was that your choice or do you think it was the—
- HUTCHINS: It was just probably because I grew up and said I was really missing something if I didn't get to know them and learn more.
- DONIN: And there was a difference, probably, in their attitude towards you as well. I mean, you were a graduate student at Tuck.
- HUTCHINS: Well, I think so, but I remember—What's his name? Oh, jeez. Al. Well, doesn't make any difference. This particular marketing and advertising professor at Tuck: Al—it's just skipped me for a second.
- DONIN: Well, I can look it up.
- HUTCHINS: Well, he was the same class as my dad—class of '20—and that sort of was a good intro. And Al W.*—oh jeez, I can't think—and he was a very terrific writer, and had published several books, and really knew what he was doing, and he kept in touch with the retail world: the Macy's of this world, and the advertising world, the large agencies. And he was just totally interesting and it was that kind of person that really engaged me.
- DONIN: Now, when you first got here in '41, did you know what you wanted to major in?
- HUTCHINS: I guess I thought I wanted to major in economics as an undergraduate, but you know I didn't think about that much, I don't think.
- DONIN: Right. But you focused in on something by the time you got back.
- HUTCHINS: Oh, yes.
- DONIN: And it was advertising.

* Albert Wesley Frey

- HUTCHINS: Yeah. And, you know, Tuck today has grown so much, and, from a reputation standpoint, it's just fantastic.
- DONIN: Yeah.
- HUTCHINS: I mean, I keep getting from the recruiting guys: number one. That's where they want to come and where they want to get their recruits.
- DONIN: It's terrific. Now, let's see... What have I forgotten to ask you here? Let's look at my list. I think we've done pretty well. We talked about Pearl Harbor. We talked about life at Wigwam. Where did you get your meals? At Wigwam you were able to cook your own meals.
- HUTCHINS: Oh, no. We cooked our own. We couldn't afford to eat out. Not at all. Never did we eat out. It was a big thing to even get any kind of an expensive cut of meat or anything to cook or, you know, to grill. But, it was all right.
- DONIN: But it sounds like everybody was in the same boat.
- HUTCHINS: Sure, sure. No problem.
- DONIN: Right. Did you have a sense, though—when you got here as an undergrad before you were in the service—
- HUTCHINS: Excuse me, but I got this guy's name: Al Frey. And he had a daughter, Janet Frey, who married a Dartmouth guy who was very, very successful. He was an owner of the Harte-Hanks newspaper chain down in Texas, so it was a pretty big deal. But anyway, Al Frey and my dad were in the same class, so it was a pretty good introduction and I really got to see him quite a bit. And he would get me jobs, for example. He would... A manufacturer of a shaving cream, would like to get these boys started on his shaving cream—Let's say it was Mennen's or something like that—so they'd always go to Al and say, "Al, can you get this stuff distributed around to the boys?" And they said, "Whoever does it gets paid, I don't know, twenty-five dollars a week for getting it around." So, Al would always give me these jobs, which was very terrific.
- DONIN: So, your job was to pass out the shaving cream.
- HUTCHINS: Oh, yeah. Well, so one day it was shaving cream, the other day it might have been cigarettes. [Lebanon]

DONIN: Terrific. It sounds like everybody did whatever they could to earn a little bit of extra money here and there.

HUTCHINS: Yep.

DONIN: A lot of people, I gather, worked in the dining halls.

HUTCHINS: Oh, sure.

DONIN: Because you got free food that way.

HUTCHINS: Sure.

DONIN: Somebody was delivering ice, they told me, because you had ice boxes, I guess, in those days.

HUTCHINS: Yep. Another thing that I did was that there was a blotter, an annual blotter that was published and it was full of ads on top.

DONIN: Oh, yeah.

HUTCHINS: It's a dark green blotter, but it had, you know, Serry's and Dartmouth Co-op. Okay. So, that went from one guy to another, so the trick was to get to know the guy who's got it today so that you could do it next year.

DONIN: Oh, you mean the job of selling it.

HUTCHINS: Selling it. Yeah. It was a big thing, whoever had the blotter. So, the guy who had the blotter, he'd go back and he'd sign up these advertisers that were there before. Sometimes the guy would renew; sometimes he wouldn't. Therefore, you have to get a new advertiser and so forth. Well, and then he'd get it printed, and then he'd distribute it to the freshman class, individually to every room. That's what he had to do. It was a big job. So, I remember doing it my senior year at Tuck: selling the ads, getting it printed, and then coming back in the fall after I had gotten out of Tuck, making a special trip back here all by myself, getting these blotters and spending the weekend distributing it around to all the dorms, in every room. And oh, boy. Well, anyway that was one of the ways of earning money.

DONIN: Yeah. Real gumption. That took real gumption.

HUTCHINS: Yeah.

DONIN: But everybody seemed to be slightly entrepreneurial in those days to do whatever they could to make a little bit of extra money.

HUTCHINS: My dad did a terrific thing. My dad was a very good artist. I mean, not by vocation but by avocation. A really good artist. And came time for the senior diplomas and they all were hand-lettered, old English type, you know? And whoever got that job... My dad did that for two years running. He used to get a dollar a name.

DONIN: Those were big classes, so you had a lot of names.

HUTCHINS: Right.

DONIN: Good for him. So, what about the notion when you arrived here as an undergraduate, did you have a sense that there was sort of the haves and the have-nots among the undergrads, that there were kids that were wealthy and then the kids that didn't have any money?

HUTCHINS: We certainly recognized that. I mean, there was a—Sure. There were kids from Hotchkiss, and Taft, and Andover, and so forth, and Exeter, and then there were kids from Melrose High. Everybody recognized there was somewhat of a difference, but I don't think it made— It didn't make for any kind of animosity, probably. A lot of my friends were people that didn't have much money.

DONIN: And you all sort of socialized together.

HUTCHINS: Yeah. There were certain guys that just couldn't afford to be in a fraternity, for example, and you recognized that. It didn't mean that you didn't like them or anything, but you didn't happen to associate with them if they were not fraternity guys.

DONIN: But it seems like everybody had jobs, even before the war. Is that right?

HUTCHINS: Sure. Well, certainly a lot of people. Gee, I can remember Freshman Commons. What do they call it today?

DONIN: Thayer? Thayer Dining Hall?

HUTCHINS: No.

DONIN: Oh, Collis.

HUTCHINS: Yeah. Collis. I can remember in there, gee, I bet you forty or fifty freshmen waiting on tables. That's where we ate all our meals, because, you know, for every semester there would be a bill for your food and if you didn't eat there in Freshman Commons and you ate at Lou's or someplace like that, well, you're paying double. And not many people could afford to pay double. But, what I was going to say was, at least—if our class was 750, I'll betcha at least fifty guys were waiting on tables for their meals, and working hard, too. Three meals a day.

DONIN: Right. Well, in those days—

HUTCHINS: But it didn't hurt them.

DONIN: Didn't hurt them, no. Somehow it probably kept them out of trouble, too.

HUTCHINS: Sure.

DONIN: Less time to get into trouble. Now, before you joined up to be in the military, did you engage in all of the road trips to go visit the other girls' schools and that sort of thing?

HUTCHINS: I didn't have a car, but I had friends who had cars and I'd say probably that the time when I really did a lot of road trips was that one half a semester before I went in the service, and I wasn't paying much attention to what I was doing in class.

[End of interview]