

Dartmouth College Oral History Project
The War Years at Dartmouth
Interview with Harry Sarkisian '46 TU '47
By Mary Stelle Donin
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DONIN: How is it you ended up back in 1942 deciding to apply to Dartmouth? Was there a family connection here? Or what was the—How did that happen?

SARKISIAN: No, as a matter of fact, I never expected to go to college. I was totally unprepared for college. My parents were middle class and, you know, they did not have money to send me to college, in spite of numerous requests from teachers who said that I should really go to college. I guess my IQ tests were very good and the teachers were anxious to have me take college courses. But that seemed to be out of the question. So I took a commercial course, and I was the fastest typist. [Laughter] I graduated from high school, Watertown High, which had a very good reputation.

DONIN: Is this Watertown, Massachusetts?

SARKISIAN: Yes, Watertown, Massachusetts in 1941. I actually had a very successful career pre-Dartmouth. I was number one on the civil service list for clerk typist. And I was called in to start work at the Boston Naval Shipyard on December 8th of 1941, the day after Pearl Harbor. I'll never forget it. And I was put into a training program, a management training program. In other words, they felt that I was much more than a clerk typist. I went into this training program. And after about six months at the shipyard, I remember the admiral who interviewed me, and he said, "Where on earth did you get that ungodly name?" [Laugh] I said, "It's a very Godly name. We were the first Christians on this earth." Anyway, he liked what he heard, and he had me go into this training program because the Navy was desperate for management, you know. And after about six months I was transferred to—not transferred; I guess it was like more or less a field trip to the Brooklyn Naval Shipyard to further indoctrination and training. And then I was finally assigned for the Naval Supply Depot in Scotia, New York, which was a huge naval installation that shipped all the materiel to the naval forces all over the world. After several sessions at the Brooklyn Naval Shipyard as further training, I was suddenly, at the age of 19, made manager of the traffic department, which was responsible for all

shipments. I knew all of the railroad car names and, you know, numbers because most of the shipments went by rail. So that was the start of my career. I was manager of the traffic department.

DONIN: It's a huge job.

SARKISIAN: It was a huge job. And I've never had more responsibility in my life, even though, you know, I subsequently received a great education at Dartmouth, and I'll get to that in a minute. And I was deferred from the draft board. The draft board, you know, summoned me, and I went to the commanding officer and told him, you know, I've got a summons here to report for the draft. He said, "We'll get you deferred." He said, "You're vital to the war effort. And we can't go without you."

DONIN: How ironic that they're trying to draft you into service, and you're already in service.

SARKISIAN: Well, I was a civilian, of course.

DONIN: No, I know. Yes.

SARKISIAN: That's right. So anyway, he succeeded in getting me a deferment on my being inducted into the Army; that's what it was. The Army, you know, in those days. And it took some doing to get into the Navy. So I had one deferment. I think each deferment was for six months. And then came—six months was up, and I was supposed to again be reporting to duty. And he again, you know, wrote a letter or whatever it took to get me another deferment. So we got another six months deferment. And I really enjoyed my career there. It was, you know, challenging. And I always liked to manage things. Managing this operation was a huge challenge. I relished in it. And mind you, I'm just a 19-year-old kid. Then came time for another deferment, and he again tried, wrote the letter. And they said, you know, they could not grant me another deferment. This was a whole year now that I had been deferred. [Laughs] They just refused to give me any further deferment. So the captain, Captain Ryan, I remember was his name, he said, "Well," he said, "I'm going to try to get you a commission." Well, I knew frankly that that would be fruitless because I had no college education. But he tried. He tried to get me a commission in the Navy. But to commission a 19-year-old high school graduate with no college degree, that was impossible. So, you know, it didn't work out. So then the next thing

he could do, he said, “Well, we’ve got to do something so that you won’t go into the Army. You’ve got to stay with the Navy.”

DONIN: I should think that the Navy did not want to let you go.

SARKISIAN: So he arranged for me to be drafted into the Navy instead of the Army. And I went to boot camp in Sampson, New York. I don’t know that he had anything to do with this, but they immediately, when I got to boot camp, they gave me a petty officer’s ranking, storekeeper third class, whereas I was drafted as an apprentice seaman. So that was a big plus to begin with. And it let me avoid a lot of the latrine cleaning and all the dirty work that goes with being in the service.

DONIN: So you were able to jump the line a little bit and be automatically promoted, right?

SARKISIAN: Yes, right. So, you know, I was very lucky. Everything seemed to fall into place. And I didn’t mind going into the service actually because I wanted to do my part in the war. And after boot camp, after that I was assigned—my first assignment—was a torpedo station in Newport, Rhode Island. And I reported there. And the captain supply officer called me into his office, and he said, “Harry,” he said, “you know they’re taking applications for the V-12 program. It’s a naval officer’s training program.” And he said, “Your tests and everything are outstanding.” [Laughs] He said, “I think you ought to apply.” I said, “Well, you know, I’m totally unprepared for college. I never took any college courses, not even algebra.” And he said, “Well, don’t worry about that.” He said, “Just apply because you’ve got outstanding marks and grades in all your tests you’ve taken.” And I applied. And of course there were a lot of people at the torpedo station who applied. And in the end only two were selected. And the other guy went to Yale—oh, no. Before that: He was a Harvard graduate, the supply officer. And I had put down on the application first choice Tufts, in Massachusetts, Boston, and I grew up in Watertown. So I figured, gee, that’d be good because I’d be pretty near home. And I had been away from home, you know. I left home at the age of 19 to go to Scotia. I had put down Tufts and I forget what my second choice was but it was another good name though. There were a lot of good colleges in New England. I didn’t know much about Dartmouth or anything. And he said, “You’ve got to change this,” he said. “You’ve got an opportunity to go to Harvard, you know.” I said, “Well, okay.” My mother always aspired for me to go to Harvard. So I changed it: first choice Harvard and

second choice Tufts, I guess I put. And lo and behold the Navy in its infinite wisdom sent me to Dartmouth. I didn't put down Dartmouth as a choice. But they sent me to Dartmouth, and it was the best thing that ever happened to me.

DONIN: Amazing.

SARKISIAN: I just fell in love with Dartmouth. I arrived here in March of 1943, and it was 30 below zero. [Laughter] There was at least 30 inches of snow. And, you know, it was a winter wonderland. And I was in a room, it was like a suite, with four guys.

DONIN: Were they all V-12ers?

SARKISIAN: Yes, all V-12ers. And these guys were fresh-air fiends. They would throw open the windows at night, and I'm freezing. So the second night I put on my wool, you know, the wool Navy hats they had, over my ears, and I wore this heavy wool sweater they give you. I put everything on I could to keep warm. [Laughter] Anyway, I survived that winter. And of course every morning at like five-thirty, you'd hear the reveille. You'd have to get out of bed and go outdoors for calisthenics. Once the roads were plowed and everything, you had to run around the campus. [Laughs]

DONIN: And this was all before breakfast, wasn't it?

SARKISIAN: Oh, yes, yes. All before breakfast.

DONIN: Now I was interviewing one of your classmates yesterday who was also in the V-12, and he said they actually turned the heat off in the dorms from ten o'clock at night until whatever, five o'clock in the morning.

SARKISIAN: I don't doubt that at all. I mean I just froze.

DONIN: To save on fuel.

SARKISIAN: I just froze most of the time at night because of these guys having the windows wide open. But I tried to compensate by dressing as warmly as I could. But they were a nice bunch of guys, you know, and I cherish the time I had with my roommates. And a lot of them have passed on unfortunately.

- DONIN: So how did you manage with the academics? Tell me about classes.
- SARKISIAN: Yes, that's very interesting, too. And I'm at Dartmouth here in the middle of an academic community, and I think all of the people that were here had college preparatory courses. And, you know, they were equipped to deal with this. But I took my first algebra exam. I don't know whether they called it algebra, but there was a lot of algebra in it, I remember, and I didn't know algebra.
- DONIN: You hadn't had it in high school.
- SARKISIAN: No. You know what I got for a score? A zero.
- DONIN: Oooh.
- SARKISIAN: A zero, a big fat zero. I was not surprised. But then I figured, well, what are you going to do about this? So I went to Baker Library and got some elementary books on algebra [laughs] and started learning about algebra and mathematics.
- DONIN: Did you have a teacher that was understanding about your situation?
- SARKISIAN: Well, I don't recall ever discussing it with him. I don't even recall the name of the teacher of that algebra class.
- DONIN: Well, we can look it up in the Archives.
- SARKISIAN: Yes. But anyway, by the second test I had, I think I got a score of 50, which was still not good.
- DONIN: Big improvement, though.
- SARKISIAN: But it was a big improvement. So I said, well, you know, it's better than it was, zero to 50. So just keep at it.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- SARKISIAN: And I think the teacher did, you know, give me some encouragement. So I studied on the side at the elementary level to learn more about algebra. And anyway, I managed to finally take other exams and the finals, and I got a B+ as my overall grade. But I was thrilled to do that.

- DONIN: You should have been thrilled.
- SARKISIAN: After that horrible start. You know before that happened, I was seriously thinking of just dropping out. Because I didn't think I could make it.
- DONIN: Is it accurate that you were taking a combination, the V-12ers took a combination of sort of military training along with liberal arts courses? Was it a bit of both?
- SARKISIAN: Oh, yes. There was a lot of military training: drills and, you know, we—
- DONIN: No, but I mean in the classroom were you doing any kind of—
- SARKISIAN: Oh, in the classroom, yes.
- DONIN: —classes?
- SARKISIAN: There were classes like in navigation, like in navigating a ship. And, you know, other courses that were strictly naval-oriented.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- SARKISIAN: Or military-oriented. But for the most part it was a regular liberal arts education. So after the first semester—I think at that time they had two semesters.
- DONIN: They were going year round at that time.
- SARKISIAN: Yes, year round. But anyway, after the first semester, I began to do much better.
- DONIN: You were a fast learner.
- SARKISIAN: You know I managed to make Phi Beta Kappa.
- DONIN: Wow!
- SARKISIAN: And I graduated cum laude. Much to my surprise. [Laughs] And there weren't many that got into Phi Beta Kappa.
- DONIN: So how many semesters were you here for your training?

SARKISIAN: Well, I was here from March of '43 and I actually graduated in June of '46. And then we were given a choice of what class to affiliate with, belong to. And I decided, since I was going back to Tuck to do my second year of Tuck to get my MBA or MCS as it was then, that I would go with the class of '46. Because it wouldn't make sense to be class of '46, Tuck '46. That didn't make sense. So I chose the class of '46 and became Tuck '47. And I had also taken a course in Russian; Professor Jones. He was a marvelous guy. First thing I did was, I went to see him, and I said, "Do you think I could learn the Russian language, do you think I would have the ability to do that, or the background to do that?" He asked me about Armenian, and I said, "Well, at my home—" My parents, by the way, were immigrants.

DONIN: Did they speak Armenian in the home?

SARKISIAN: Well, this was what I was going to tell Professor Jones. I said, "In my home, my father always spoke to us in English; so that I later had two sisters, younger sisters. But my father always spoke in English, and we, you know, learned English. My mother always spoke to us in Armenian. So we learned Armenian.

DONIN: So you're bilingual.

SARKISIAN: Yes. Right.

DONIN: Great.

SARKISIAN: He knew a little about the Armenian language and all the intricacies and the roots. And he said, you know, he said, "I think the fact that you had this background in Armenian will be a big help to you. There are a lot of similarities, too, in the grammar and in the construction." I said, okay. "Well, I'm going to give it a try." Because at that time, Armenia was one of the 16 republics in the USSR. And so I enrolled in the course in Russian. And, you know, I did very well. And in fact Professor Jones, whenever he was out, he would put me in charge of the class. [Laughter]

DONIN: Oh, my!

SARKISIAN: And then when I went to Tuck School, I took Russian as an extra course. And all of this was to my advantage because Harvard started a program in what they termed, International and Regional

Studies, with a concentration on the Soviet Union. Of course, the fact that I had studied Russian at Dartmouth made me, I think, a qualified candidate for this program. And Professor Jones, I remember, he tried to get me into the Middlebury school, the language school.

DONIN: Right.

SARKISIAN: That summer prior to going into Harvard. But that was full up; you know that was a very popular school. And so I couldn't get in, in spite of the fact that he had, you know, friends there. He tried, but it was just impossible. And so I went right into Harvard next.

DONIN: Right after Tuck, you went down to Cambridge?

SARKISIAN: Yes, right after Tuck. I got my degree. This was all on the GI Bill of Rights, too, because I couldn't have afforded this kind of an education.

DONIN: Yes.

SARKISIAN: And the program at Harvard was a two-year program. And I started there in the fall of 1947. Yes, '47. In other words, I graduated from Tuck in '47; that was June. And then in September, I started at Harvard.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

SARKISIAN: And frankly, I don't say too many good things about Harvard, but they did have some great professors.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. And your parents must have been delighted.

SARKISIAN: Oh, yes. Because I was virtually home.

DONIN: Yes.

SARKISIAN: In fact I lived at home because Harvard was about two miles from the house.

DONIN: Right.

SARKISIAN: In Watertown.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

SARKISIAN: I had some great professors there and exposure to other greats—like Schumpeter. I don't know whether you ever heard of him. But any economist will tell you about Schumpeter. He was a brilliant, brilliant man. And he lectured frequently on the capitalistic system and what he called creative destruction. Anytime we went into a recession—which was part of the normal cycle.... You know, people think, oh, no more recessions because we know what to do now to prevent recessions. And his theory was that the capitalistic system would have to go through these recessions as a means of creating new innovative methods. And he called that creative destruction. You know, like Professor Karpovich was a noted historian. They had big names there. And Professor Gerschenkron, who became my mentor in a master's thesis that I wrote on Russian foreign trade. And Vera Micheles Dean, who was editor of the *Foreign Policy* magazine and I wrote a paper on Iran back then. I really had some great conclusions in that, many of which came to pass in later years.

DONIN: Oh, good for you. So your training at Dartmouth set you up well to be doing graduate studies.

SARKISIAN: Yes, oh, absolutely. I never would have gotten to Harvard if I hadn't gone through Dartmouth.

DONIN: Now you say you graduated. So they actually, by June of '46, they were able to have an actual—a real graduation ceremony.

SARKISIAN: Oh, absolutely. Yes.

DONIN: But there were lots of people from different classes graduating at that time, weren't there?

SARKISIAN: Yes, yes. The classes were, you know, kind of all mixed up. And you actually chose your class. A lot of guys that I knew and was very close with chose '47.

DONIN: Yes. Right. Well, I think they were just trying to assign them to one or the other so that they could process them through.

SARKISIAN: Right.

- DONIN: Now you also had an interesting experience in that when you arrived here for your training in March of '43, the president of the college was Ernest Martin Hopkins.
- SARKISIAN: Ernest Martin Hopkins.
- DONIN: But by the time you graduated, you'd moved on to John Sloan Dickey.
- SARKISIAN: John Sloan Dickey, right.
- DONIN: So can you talk a little bit about both of them? Did you ever actually meet President Hopkins when you came as a V-12er?
- SARKISIAN: I did, and I met John Sloan Dickey. And I admired both of them tremendously.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. Very different styles. They had very different styles, didn't they?
- SARKISIAN: Yes, very different. Very different, yes. They were both inspiring people, people that inspired you. You almost, you know, developed a love for Dartmouth and all it stood for by just listening to these men when they spoke.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. What I'm curious about is, you came here as a V-12er. But at some point you must have asked to actually matriculate and be a regular student here, right?
- SARKISIAN: Well, when I graduated in June of '46, I got my baccalaureate degree, I got my naval commission as an ensign, and I was sent to Fargo Barracks in Boston for my discharge. The war had ended.
- DONIN: Yes, yes.
- SARKISIAN: The European part of it at least.
- DONIN: Right.
- SARKISIAN: I felt kind of guilty because I always wanted to serve in active duty, you know. There were times when early when I'd read about all the battles going on. And I would say, you know, you're sitting here in this beautiful, bucolic place, and these guys are fighting battles.

And there were times when I, you know, felt like giving up and going in to fight for my country.

DONIN: Yes, but you'd really served such an important role as a civilian doing the transportation piece.

SARKISIAN: Yes.

DONIN: I mean that's as valuable as those that went into battle.

SARKISIAN: Yes. But you know, by this time, when I was at Dartmouth, I felt that I wasn't doing my duty, naval, even as a storekeeper third class, which I was. It bothered me. I would go to the movies quite often. I wasn't a bookworm.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

SARKISIAN: You know other than what I had to do in the early stages to survive Dartmouth and to succeed. But I was not someone that studied all the time. I would be at practically every movie they had at Webster Hall.

DONIN: That's great.

SARKISIAN: That's where the movies were.

DONIN: Yes. Now who was your social group here? Was it other V-12ers? Or did you ever develop a friendship with non-V-12ers?

SARKISIAN: I think they were all V-12ers. There weren't many non-V-12ers.

DONIN: Right.

SARKISIAN: At that time.

DONIN: I think Dartmouth had the largest naval contingent.

SARKISIAN: Yes, very large. Yes.

DONIN: Dartmouth had the largest in the country, I think.

SARKISIAN: I think you're right.

DONIN: Yes.

SARKISIAN: It did.

DONIN: So you really spent your time with, obviously, with the other naval V-12ers.

SARKISIAN: Right.

DONIN: So did you feel like you missed out on part of the sort of traditional Dartmouth experience, whether it was, you know, joining a fraternity or participating in all the traditions like Homecoming and I think they called in Dartmouth Night?

SARKISIAN: Dartmouth Night, right. Right.

DONIN: Green Key.

SARKISIAN: Right.

DONIN: And, you know, road trips to visit the girls' colleges.

SARKISIAN: Right.

DONIN: Did you feel like you missed out on all of that?

SARKISIAN: Yes, I think you do miss out on a lot of that. And I do remember being invited to—I don't even remember the fraternity. But I went there. What do they call that when you're asked to—

DONIN: You're like a guest you mean?

SARKISIAN: Yes.

DONIN: Oh. I don't know what they call it.

SARKISIAN: They want you to join the fraternity, but they want to see that you're someone they want.

DONIN: Oh, you mean rushing. I think it's called rushing, yes.

SARKISIAN: Rushing, yes. Right. So, you know, I went. And I just didn't feel like I was the type of guy that would do well in a fraternity. You know, it seemed a little too, I don't know, snobbish or—and I wasn't a drinking man.

DONIN: Right.

SARKISIAN: In fact I didn't touch a drop of alcohol until I was 21. Now the drinking age at that time was 21.

DONIN: Oh, it wasn't 18?

SARKISIAN: No, no. It was 21.

DONIN: Oh.

SARKISIAN: So I never drank. In fact when I worked in Scotia, New York, there were three of my colleagues who, on weekends, you know, Saturday nights, would go out and drink and have fun. And we would go all over the area: Saratoga Springs. And I would always do the driving because I didn't drink.

DONIN: Right.

SARKISIAN: You know. I wasn't of age.

DONIN: So you didn't really fit the profile of a frat boy, I don't think.

SARKISIAN: No, I did not definitely. [Laughs]

DONIN: Now let's talk about sort of physical fitness. Wasn't there a rigorous—

SARKISIAN: Oh, yes.

DONIN: —physical training portion of your training here?

SARKISIAN: Oh, absolutely. Yes.

DONIN: All sorts of calisthenics and testing to—

SARKISIAN: Oh, yes.

DONIN: You had to learn how to climb up those walls.

SARKISIAN: All kinds of things, yes.

DONIN: Jump into swimming pools and that kind of thing?

SARKISIAN: Oh, the swimming pool, wow. You had to be—you had to stay.... One of the things about the swimming pool, you had to stay in the water that was, you know, well over your head for at least an hour.

DONIN: Oh!

SARKISIAN: And that's not as easy as it sounds.

DONIN: Right.

SARKISIAN: You know for one hour.

DONIN: Yes.

SARKISIAN: And then you had to go—you had to do so many laps. And you had to do underwater swimming the whole length of the pool.

DONIN: So this was at the Karl Michael pool over in the Alumni Gym? Was it in the Alumni Gym?

SARKISIAN: Yes. But what was it before that?

DONIN: Oh, Spaulding pool. Sorry.

SARKISIAN: Spaulding! Spaulding pool.

DONIN: Yes, Spaulding pool. Oh!

SARKISIAN: Right. That was the pool. I remember the man in charge of the pool. Was that Michael? No. He was a tall, imposing guy, physically fit.

DONIN: Oh, I think it maybe was Karl Michael. Was it Karl Michael?

SARKISIAN: It might have been yes. But we did a lot of the swimming because this is more naval-oriented. You're on a ship, you know, and suddenly the ship is going down—

DONIN: You've got to swim.

SARKISIAN: Yes. And we had to know how to save lives. We had to, you know, in effect to pass a lifesaving course. And someone's drowning, and how do you hold him and carry him? And they fight you when you're doing that.

DONIN: Right.

SARKISIAN: So we went all through that and it was rigorous stuff.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

SARKISIAN: But I managed to, you know, get through it all. But there was a lot of physical—

DONIN: Did you do any intramural sports of any kind?

SARKISIAN: I know we used to play football, but it wasn't the organized... There was no league or anything, you know.

DONIN: It was just a pickup game.

SARKISIAN: Yes, like pickup games. Football and baseball. Softball.

DONIN: And I gather that some V-12ers were recruited for some of the varsity teams because there were some terrific athletes.

SARKISIAN: Oh, yes. We had great teams.

DONIN: Mmm.

SARKISIAN: You know, after these later years, the teams that I've been watching and rooting for Dartmouth, particularly in football, they just haven't been very successful.

DONIN: Right.

SARKISIAN: And in '48 the captain of the team was Dale Armstrong. He was All-American. And Sullivan, the quarterback. And I remember all these guys. And, you know, they won the championship of the Ivy League, and they were ranked nationally, and they had two or three All-American.

DONIN: Those were the glory days.

SARKISIAN: Yes, those were really great days.

DONIN: And the same was true I think for basketball and hockey as well. There were some really terrific—

SARKISIAN: Yes. Oh, hockey! I still contribute to the hockey team every year.

DONIN: Yes, yes.

SARKISIAN: And we had great hockey teams. I mean Bruce Mather and Ralph Warburton, Bruce Conliff. And I think Dale Armstrong also played on the hockey team.

DONIN: My goodness!

SARKISIAN: Besides football. And he was a defenseman. They had great teams.

DONIN: Yes.

SARKISIAN: And Reilly, the Reilly brothers. Jim and Bill. And interestingly enough, there was a third brother, Joe, and they all played hockey.

DONIN: Wow.

SARKISIAN: They were from Medford, Massachusetts.

DONIN: Yes.

SARKISIAN: Later in my strange career, I wound up in Germany in charge of the German officers of Bache & Company. One of the guys there was Joe Sullivan.

DONIN: Oh!

SARKISIAN: No, no, Joe Reilly.

DONIN: Joe Reilly, right.

SARKISIAN: One of the Reilly brothers. And I said, "Joe, what are you doing here in Germany?" You know. And he played hockey for Dartmouth.

DONIN: Uh-huh!

SARKISIAN: And he was almost as good as his brothers. But Bill Reilly was the best of the three. And he later went on to coach at West Point. And he coached the team in the Olympics. And that's the Reilly brother I

remember the most, although he wasn't in our class, and Bill Reilly was. Bill Reilly was the class of '46.

DONIN: Uh-huh. So let me ask you about belonging to the class of '46. It's an interesting class because it's got such a varied and diverse mix of people in it. Some who matriculated here as civilians.

SARKISIAN: Right, right.

DONIN: And those like you who came in through the V-12 program and ended up staying and graduating from Dartmouth. Do you think that impacted the sense of sort of belonging and unity of the class of '46? Or—

SARKISIAN: You know it did. I mean in the early years, you felt that, you know, you weren't really accepted as a Dartmouth man. You just went through V-12, you know. Over the years that's melted away. You feel just as much a part of the class of '46 as any of the other members who were never in V-12.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

SARKISIAN: And we had quite a few. And of course a lot of the members of the class have passed on.

DONIN: So in the beginning you felt there was sort of a distinction made between those who had matriculated here as civilians and those who came into the class.

SARKISIAN: Definitely.

DONIN: But time has changed that.

SARKISIAN: Oh, yes.

DONIN: Yes.

SARKISIAN: Yes. Especially, you know, when you're able to exert your influence and your intelligence and your college education. And then you've gone on to Harvard. You've gone to Tuck and then Harvard. You know, they have to have some respect for that. And so, they'll kid me about Harvard, of course.

DONIN: Of course.

SARKISIAN: But that's all right. I contribute a lot more to Dartmouth than I do to Harvard.

DONIN: Uh-huh. And also I assume over the years you've proved your loyalty by your involvement with the class. And it's irrelevant how you got here. It's really how much you stay attached to the class.

SARKISIAN: Right. And you know, I don't think anybody loves or respects Dartmouth as much as I do. I fell in love with this place the minute I got here.

DONIN: Mmm.

SARKISIAN: And I've been in love with it ever since.

DONIN: Did your family ever come up and see you?

SARKISIAN: Oh, yes. They came up for graduation in '46, my father and mother and my two sisters.

DONIN: Uh-huh. And again for your Tuck graduation I bet.

SARKISIAN: You know, I don't think they came for that. I don't remember. But they did for in 1946. And we had a great time. We had a party with champagne and strawberries.

DONIN: Oh, my! Now in those days they held graduation up on the Bema, right? Was graduation on the Bema.

SARKISIAN: It may have been. Yes. I think it was because subsequent graduation ceremonies, like when we had our 50th reunion, it was on the lawn of Baker.

DONIN: Right, right.

SARKISIAN: In front of Baker. Because the college had gotten quite a bit bigger, although, you know, they always stressed that they wanted to keep the college small. They didn't want to become a big factory, you know, producing athletes and.... For the most part I think they succeeded. And even now, it's a lot bigger, a lot more cars around, a lot of traffic. But it's still a small college.

[End of Interview]

