

Dartmouth College Oral History Project
The War Years at Dartmouth
Interview with Frederick Smith, Jr. '49
By Mary Stelle Donin
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DONIN: Before we start talking about you, I'm curious about this sort of little icon that appears on all of the Class of '49 literature, which is sort of in the form of a pickaxe. What's the significance of that?

SMITH: That derived from the fact that we were the Class of '49, and the '49ers, known as the ones who went seeking gold in California. So our class adopted that as a symbol. And has, as you probably know—I don't know that they do it annually now; they used to annually award the Gold Pickaxe Award.

DONIN: Oh, I saw that in the last newsletter I read, the '49 newsletter.

SMITH: Yes. And I think the—Well, it's not entirely clear to me what the criteria are for earning that. I've never earned it. But it's the citation is usually that I am proud to have been a classmate of So-and-so.

DONIN: Right.

SMITH: Whoever the winner is.

DONIN: Well that makes sense. Ok, so I always like to start these interviews out by finding out how it is you ended up coming to Dartmouth. Were you a legacy in a line of people who came ahead of you or... How was it that you came to Dartmouth?

SMITH: Well, I was born and grew up in New Hampton, which is about fifty miles from Dartmouth. My father was a graduate of Bates College and a master's degree from Harvard. And he was headmaster of New Hampton School.

DONIN: Ah-ha!

SMITH: Where we lived. He was headmaster from 1926 to 1959. And we used to go to Dartmouth football games particularly, including the famous Fifth Down play in the... I forget, late thirties or early forties, against Cornell.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

SMITH: So there was a—I had some uncles that went to Dartmouth, and my brother and a cousin went—were both Class of 1946 at Dartmouth. I actually never thought of going anywhere else.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. So you'd seen the campus many times—

SMITH: Yes.

DONIN: —before you went there.

SMITH: Right.

DONIN: Yes.

SMITH: Right.

DONIN: So you matriculated then, the fall of 1945.

SMITH: No I matriculated in—I think it was June of 1945.

DONIN: Oh, they were coming in sooner.

SMITH: They were coming in early. And I think they had started that either a year or two before. In fact, one of my closest friends from childhood entered Dartmouth I think in January or something like that.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

SMITH: I entered in June, shortly before my 16th birthday.

DONIN: Wow, so young. That's right. I think the Class of '49 entered in sort of three stages: March, June, and September or something.

SMITH: Right. And that was, I guess, a precursor to the trimester program that was adopted later.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

SMITH: So we had—I forget how many; I think we called ourselves 49 '49ers or something like that, that entered in June. And then there was a larger group that entered at the usual time in the fall.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. Did you have friends that were going there with you that you knew?

SMITH: No. As I say, I had a close friend who had entered earlier. And we eventually roomed together, but not when I entered in June. And my brother and my cousin were there at that time.

DONIN: Were they physically there, or had they been shipped out for military service?

SMITH: No, they were physically there at the time. They then had to leave to serve, both in the Navy, later. But I don't remember exactly when that was.

DONIN: Now when you arrived then in June of '45, the campus was already being used as a training center for the V-12 and the V-7 and the V-5.

SMITH: That's my recollection, yes.

DONIN: I mean there was formations going on the Green.

SMITH: On the Green, right. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Military guys marching to breakfast and stuff.

SMITH: Right. And my roommate and I—my roommate Bob Alden—we were in New Hampshire Hall, so we weren't too far from the Green.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. So you saw plenty of that.

SMITH: So we caught quite a bit of that, yes.

DONIN: But were you—Did they segregate the classes? Was it just freshmen that were in New Hampshire, do you remember?

SMITH: To the best of my recollection, we were all freshmen in New Hampshire Hall. Yes.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

SMITH: And we were assigned as I recall. We didn't have a choice. But then we had a choice our second semester and subsequently.

DONIN: You mean where you—

SMITH: In the dorm or off campus.

DONIN: And a roommate.

SMITH: And a roommate, yes.

DONIN: Yes. So were you able to have sort of a traditional freshman year with, you know, wearing beanies and doing all that kind of stuff?

SMITH: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. And we had hazing and all that sort of thing. Sure.

DONIN: Oh, so they were able to keep up everything.

SMITH: And then, well, the fraternity hazing was in our sophomore year.

DONIN: Right, right. But at some point they had closed down the fraternities. But I guess by the time '45 rolled around and the war was coming to an end, they started reopening them.

SMITH: I don't recall. But when I was there, and as far as I recall, '49— although I had no connection with fraternities except my brother was a member of a fraternity. And I believe I had been at the Theta Delta Chi fraternity house to see him.

DONIN: Right, right.

SMITH: And in fact I can remember before that—yes, when he had moved, he had moved from South Mass to the fraternity house. And I remember before we attended, my friend and I stayed in his room in South Mass one night while we were still in New Hampton School, before we had entered Dartmouth.

DONIN: So did you choose the same fraternity as your brother?

SMITH: Yes, I did.

DONIN: Uh-huh. So that the hazing went on sophomore year.

SMITH: Sophomore year, yes.

- DONIN: Right, right. So you must have been among the youngest students there. Were there a lot of 16-year olds?
- SMITH: Well, as I say, I was 15 when I entered.
- DONIN: Oh, 15!
- SMITH: My two siblings and I—I don't know whether our parents wanted to get us out of the house—but we went to kindergarten in Bristol. And so when we entered grade school at age six, we entered in the third grade.
- DONIN: Good grief!
- SMITH: Instead of the first grade. So I was always, as my brother was until he spent the time in the military, always a couple of years younger than most of our others.
- DONIN: Right, right.
- SMITH: Our classmates. Yes. No, there was some exchange in the class newsletter a few years ago about who was the youngest. At least out of that I believe I was.
- DONIN: Was it socially difficult for you to be so young?
- SMITH: Yes. And it didn't help in athletics either.
- DONIN: Yes, because 15, you're still growing.
- SMITH: Well, I was small to begin with. And so it didn't help that way. And socially it was difficult because I remember one time at the fraternity when I was still 16, and I had a date, and she was 18 or 19. And one of my either fraternity brothers or prospective fraternity brothers let slip that I was just 16. And that's a big age difference at that time in life.
- DONIN: At that time in life, right.
- SMITH: So it was difficult.
- DONIN: And trying out for sports was hard.
- SMITH: Yes.

DONIN: Because you just weren't as big and strong.

SMITH: Right, right.

DONIN: Did you have a particular sport you were interested in?

SMITH: Well, hockey was the only one I really tried out for. But in those days—and I did play some freshman hockey—but really the freshman hockey didn't amount to a great deal then. Dartmouth always had good regular hockey teams. But we couldn't travel. I mean this was still wartime. So the freshman hockey schedule didn't amount to much.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

SMITH: That was really the only one, although I played tennis and golf all my life. Well, I played all sports at New Hampton. I mean I played baseball, soccer, and hockey. But of course in college almost everybody was a three-sport captain it seemed. So the competition was—

DONIN: Daunting, wasn't it?

SMITH: —pretty daunting, yes.

DONIN: And of course in those days I think they allowed the military guys to also participate in the sports.

SMITH: Oh, yes! That's how one of our [laughter] ...particularly I remember the football team. Walt Kasprzak who probably never would have attended Dartmouth otherwise and was there as either V-12 or V-6, I forget. And, oh, yes. All those fellows played.

DONIN: Beefed up the teams quite a bit.

SMITH: Oh, they sure did. They sure did.

DONIN: Some of those guys were old. I mean they were in their twenties.

SMITH: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. Right. [Laughter]

DONIN: But it helped the teams.

- SMITH: It sure did.
- DONIN: For sure. So how does a 15-year-old figure out what to major in?
- SMITH: I was always interested in government and public service. And I can remember while I was in prep school, following the war. I had a map pinned to my bedroom wall. And I would have markers and so forth, showing where the troops were and all that. And I was always tuning into the briefings from the State Department. So early on I had an interest in that. And I suppose that's what guided me to major in—Well, they used to call it political science. But I think it was while I was there and when I chose my major that they changed it to government as opposed to political science.
- DONIN: Was there someone in the government department that mentored you? Or that made an impact on you?
- SMITH: Not especially. No. I'm not even sure I can remember.
- DONIN: Do you have memories of the actual—I mean were they actually doing a matriculation ceremony for you since you were coming in in stages?
- SMITH: Yes, we had a matriculation ceremony. In fact we were the— No, now I can't remember. We had a ceremony in Webster Hall.
- DONIN: It must have been Mr. Hopkins' last....
- SMITH: We were the last class to matriculate under Ernest Martin Hopkins.
- DONIN: Wow.
- SMITH: Yes, yes. And John Sloan Dickey came in very shortly after that.
- DONIN: Yes, he did, in that fall. So did Mr. Hopkins, you know, shake your hand and have a word with each of you.
- SMITH: I don't remember. But we did have a ceremony in Webster.
- DONIN: Uh-huh. And did you ever have any interaction with him?
- SMITH: Not that I recall.
- DONIN: Right.

SMITH: We did with Robert Frost once. [Laughs]

DONIN: Oh, yes. That's amazing, isn't it, the idea that he was there?

SMITH: Yes, yes.

DONIN: Incredible.

SMITH: Yes, I think it was in a creative writing course I took with Herb West.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

SMITH: And we had three or four day seminars with him. It was fantastic.

DONIN: There are pictures of him sitting in Sanborn.

SMITH: Yes. No, we were up in the Tower—

DONIN: Up in the Tower Room?

SMITH: Up in the Tower Room, yes, with him. It was a small class, a small group. And it was quite interesting.

DONIN: Now, so you were there long enough for the Great Issues course to have started?

SMITH: Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

DONIN: Yes. Because he started that pretty quickly right after he took over the presidency.

SMITH: Yes. So I think—Well, I certainly, what, we took it in our senior year. Yes.

DONIN: Right. Uh-huh. Now did you go straight through?

SMITH: Yes.

DONIN: So you didn't have to—obviously the war was over. You were not having to go off and enlist to avoid being drafted.

SMITH: Well, I was subject to the draft once I became 18.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

SMITH: But we were deferred. And then I went on immediately to, well, the next fall after graduation. And I stayed on. [Laughs] I remember my father saying that I think it was either Bob Strong or Pudge Neidlinger—Bob Strong was the dean of freshmen, and Neidlinger was the dean of the college. It was one of them that said, “Fred, I don’t think that’s a good idea.” But anyway, I stayed on that extra semester, see, because I’d fulfilled all my requirements by January. But I stayed on and audited several classes. And of course partied. [Laughter] And had a good time. So I didn’t formally graduated until June, and I was in the June ceremony.

DONIN: There weren’t many of you that were in the June ceremony.

SMITH: Not a great deal, no.

DONIN: They said about 150 maybe.

SMITH: Something like that. Yes. Yes, it says it here: 150. They say less than—Whoops! Did they say less than? But anyway as it should be fewer, of course. Fewer than 150 went through four years of college uninterrupted. But I was in that what they called a small minority, you know. And then I went on to law school. So I did not do my military service until I finished law school.

DONIN: Uh-huh! Oh, so you did have the sort of traditional four-year spread of—but it was in fact not four years because you were going to school—you went to school in the summer, that first summer.

SMITH: That’s right. Mm-hmm.

DONIN: And that’s what allowed you to finish in January of ’49.

SMITH: In January. Yes, January or February. Uh-huh.

DONIN: So then you were a fraternity brother and were living—were you living in Theta Delt?

SMITH: Yes, I lived in Theta Delt. I lived in New Hampshire the first semester then in Woodward with my childhood friend who was the class of ’49. He never finished Dartmouth. And then lived off campus for the sophomore year.

DONIN: Renting rooms somewhere?

SMITH: On West Wheelock Street.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

SMITH: And then with the same—pretty much the same—group in Crosby the next semester. And then after that in the fraternity house.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. Did Theta Delt have sort of a profile or an image the way that the fraternities do now? You know one is....

SMITH: No. Not really. A number of the houses did.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

SMITH: Phi Gam—Phi Gamma Delta—which was more or less across the street—across West Wheelock Street—was known as the hockey fraternity.

DONIN: Ah-huh.

SMITH: And I think Psi U, which was nearby, I think, on the other side of the Episcopal Church, was known as the basketball fraternity.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

SMITH: But Theta Delt I think had a reputation as a party fraternity, but I don't think it was alone in that. And later I guess the Alpha Delta became the Animal House.

DONIN: So it did.

SMITH: I originally thought that was Theta Delt, but then I learned it was Alpha Delt.

DONIN: Right, right. Well, they probably all could have shared that—

SMITH: I think so. Yes.

DONIN: That reputation.

SMITH: Right.

- DONIN: Did you—now was Theta Delt one of the fraternities— President Dickey set out to sort of change the quota system with respect to membership in the fraternities, I guess early on in his presidency. That was one of.... But it may have been after '49. It could have been in the early fifties.
- SMITH: I think it was after '49 because I don't remember there being any.
- DONIN: Right. I think it may have come after '49, in fact. But that seems to be one of his—one of the sort of legacies that people talk about was he set out to change some of the admissions rules at least.
- SMITH: Mm-hmm.
- DONIN: For the fraternities. And some of them had to either drop out of their national affiliation.
- SMITH: Yes. Well, that happened subsequent to my time there.
- DONIN: Yes, yes. Okay. Now first somebody who is as young as you and who found it awkward socially—
- SMITH: Right.
- DONIN: —what did you find to do? I mean you were able to go to sports, I guess, right, and watch the sports on campus. What else is there to do that was not sort of involved with fraternity life?
- SMITH: Well, certainly in the first year I wasn't involved in fraternity life. Yes, sports. And because my childhood friend, who had lived in New Hampton and then his family had moved to Hanover, I got to know a lot of the local people, younger people, mainly daughters and sons of faculty. John Boardman, who was—his father was, I think he was head of the medical school though I'm not sure. Danny Olson whose father was head of Tuck School. Noah Arce whose father was a father was a professor of Spanish. Monique Denoeu whose father was a French professor and also was instrumental in the development for the Army in the early forties of a new system or method of learning foreign languages.
- DONIN: Oh!
- SMITH: That is not, you know, not the old learning the grammar, which was the way it was still taught at Dartmouth. But when I was later at the

Foreign Service Institute with the State Department, they used the same method that Denoeu, Professor Denoeu introduced at Dartmouth. I mean, excuse me, in the armed services, of learning by phrases, and that, as I understand it, revolutionized the way that the military taught foreign languages. And that's the way that the Foreign Service Institute of the State Department teaches and has for many years. And now I think since the government can't copyright things, private companies have taken that over like Rosetta Stone and some other companies.

DONIN: Now, in the classroom, did you have military people in some of your classes? Because I know they were taking a combination of sort of basic liberal arts stuff along with the military stuff.

SMITH: Yes. As I recall, we did. I don't remember any in particular. But I think we did have some military. They didn't wear uniforms to class.

DONIN: Oh, they didn't.

SMITH: No, as I recall. I don't recall any of that. But I'm quite sure we did have some military in our classes. We of course had in the first year anyway, and maybe more than that, we had required courses. I don't know how it is now.

DONIN: Right.

SMITH: But we had to take language and math and science and social science and so forth.

DONIN: Did you have a part-time job?

SMITH: No. I didn't. I was the youngest in our family of three children. And my brother had a job, and he worked at the Hanover Inn. And I occasionally would substitute for him. But by that time I guess the family finances were such that I didn't have to. So I did not have a regular job. I mean at the college.

DONIN: Right, at the college. How long was your brother there before he had to leave, when you were there?

SMITH: He was there.... I think he left in.... He was class of '46. So I think he—

DONIN: But he didn't graduate with the '46.

SMITH: No, he didn't graduate until '48, I think.

DONIN: So he wasn't there long.

SMITH: No, no. He would not have been there. He was there later. He came back.

DONIN: Oh, I see.

SMITH: No, that's right. Because he would not have been there when I first got there.

DONIN: Yes.

SMITH: In '45. No, they were not there. That's right. But they finished, I think both of them finished in '48—'47 or '48.

DONIN: 'Forty-seven or '48?

SMITH: Mm-hmm.

DONIN: So you were on campus for V-J Day. Do you remember that?

SMITH: Oh, yes. Yes. And I remember it. Well, I remember particularly when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. And that was in the summer—

DONIN: Right. You'd just arrived.

SMITH: Just arrived, right. Mm-hmm.

DONIN: Right. And then I gather there was a big celebration at the announcement.

SMITH: Yes, yes.

DONIN: Literally dancing in the streets, I guess.

SMITH: Oh, yes.

DONIN: Now did you ever get off campus to go, you know, look for adventure at other colleges, girls' schools?

SMITH: [Laughter] Oh, yes. We used to go down to Smith. We used to go down to some junior colleges.

DONIN: Colby Sawyer maybe?

SMITH: No, we never.... Oddly never went to Colby. Well, it was Colby then.

DONIN: That's right.

SMITH: It wasn't Colby Sawyer.

DONIN: Right.

SMITH: But we used to go down to Pine Manor. These were all around Boston.

DONIN: Yes. Endicott, there's another one.

SMITH: Endicott. But, yes, we went. Then we lost a classmate or two also in that sort of travel.

DONIN: Literally lost?

SMITH: Yes. Ran into a tree or something.

DONIN: Oh!

SMITH: There was a particularly bad turn down somewhere in Vermont on the way down, I think it was to Smith. And one of our classmates was killed.

DONIN: Oh, gee.

SMITH: Yes.

DONIN: Now, come 1946, the fall of '46, I gather, you know, the face of Dartmouth changed quite dramatically because you had lots of returning military types, both those who had matriculated as well as many who had applied to come back to Dartmouth as a result of their V-12 training.

SMITH: Right.

- DONIN: So that the school was sort of bursting at the seams in terms of beds for everybody and, you know, the population of the school was changed because you had returning servicemen who were substantially more mature than the traditional undergraduate.
- SMITH: Mm-hmm.
- DONIN: Did you have a sense of that going on?
- SMITH: Oh, certainly. Yes.
- DONIN: It must have been sort of intimidating for somebody like you, a civilian and young for your age.
- SMITH: Well, I'd say it was more interesting than intimidating because the experiences that these people had had. And some of them—A lot of them had been in combat. I remember when Merrill Frost came back. He was a fraternity brother, and he had not been there when I joined the fraternity, which would have been in '46, I guess. Merrill was the quarterback of the football team. And he was—I don't know whether he was a pilot or a crewman on a bomber which crashed somewhere in Europe. And his whole face was burned. He had a brother, too, who was a later class, closer to my class. I think Merrill was class of—Well, I don't know, class of '43 or something like that. But he came back, and he played football, too.
- DONIN: Amazing.
- SMITH: After that. But that was an extreme case. But there were some cases like that. There were a number of wounded veterans.
- DONIN: Married veterans.
- SMITH: And married veterans. That's, you know, when Wigwam—I'm not sure what it's called now if it's still there.
- DONIN: Sachem and Wigwam.
- SMITH: Yes. When those were set up, well, it would've been while I was there. But I don't remember when they were started. And in fact my childhood friend that I mentioned, he and his wife lived in Wigwam at one point. He got married and they lived there. So it was...I'd say it was more interesting than intimidating. But it was an interesting

blend of, unlike—well, I'm sure it went on at other colleges—but it was unlike what it was before. And we were still, of course it was an all-male college then.

DONIN: Indeed. Other than the wives of the married veterans who obviously weren't going to school. I guess some of them were involved in the life of the college, through jobs I think.

SMITH: Right. Well, I used to date...I dated more. I dated townies.

DONIN: Oh, yes. Because of your age.

SMITH: Because of my relationship through my friend.

DONIN: Right.

SMITH: They were closer to my age.

DONIN: They were at the high school level.

SMITH: Yes, they were in Hanover High. Right.

DONIN: Right. So they ended up in your classes, these vets that were....

SMITH: Right.

DONIN: Were they treated differently because they were veterans.

SMITH: I don't think so. I think they had a...well, I think they obviously—or maybe I'm just assuming that—but my recollection is that they had a much more mature view of things and a longer view of things than we did.

DONIN: It's interesting you say that because a lot of them themselves have said that.

SMITH: Really? Yes.

DONIN: That they were different students when they came back.

SMITH: Sure.

DONIN: They were more focused.

- SMITH: Exactly.
- DONIN: They were ready to get on with their lives. So they were anxious to finish up and, you know, get a job.
- SMITH: Yes. Well, I, in my own case, I think it's a given that older students, whether they're graduate students or whatever, are more focused, and I certainly found that because the State Department sent me to the Kennedy School in 1972.
- DONIN: Oh.
- SMITH: And I took courses in the college and law school and the Kennedy School, and I found I was much more focused than I was as an undergraduate at Dartmouth.
- DONIN: And I'm sure they love to have older students for the same reason.
- SMITH: Surely.
- DONIN: Changes the whole chemistry of the class.
- SMITH: And it changed the makeup of the college. It was really quite different. It's hard to explain exactly how it was. But the feel was different. I think there was a lot more seriousness. Well, we still fooled around a lot. But the older...and at the fraternities there were a lot of these older fellows who were in my brother's class or earlier. Some of them were just.... We had a number who were from the class of 1942 and '43.
- DONIN: Wow!
- SMITH: Who came back. Didn't finish until '46 or '47 or '48.
- DONIN: Did any of them end up in your class, '49?
- SMITH: Yes. Mm-hmm.
- DONIN: Really.
- SMITH: Yes. And again, some of these, they were faced with a choice of what class they were going to identify with, their original class or the class of the year that they actually graduated in. A number of them

chose the latter because they spent more time. A lot of them maybe had their freshman year at Dartmouth and that was it.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

SMITH: And then spent three years with another class.

DONIN: Sure.

SMITH: A later class.

DONIN: What did that do ultimately to the feeling of sort of unity of the class?

SMITH: I don't know that it was particularly negative in any way. But it did make for an interesting mix anyway, if nothing else.

DONIN: Did you get in the habit... I mean was there always sort of a distinction made between those that had migrated to the class or those that had not actually matriculated at Dartmouth but then ended up in your class after V-12, versus the traditional, you know, 150 or whatever that matriculated and actually went through as civilians all the way?

SMITH: I don't remember anything like that. Since I lived in the fraternity for at least the last two years I was there, the identification—and I think this was true with others—was more with the fraternity than with the class actually. And so you had, including living in the house—although there were a number of these that were married and were living in Wigwam or wherever.

DONIN: And did they still socialize at the fraternity?

SMITH: Yes. Uh-huh. But to a very limited degree.

DONIN: What about their wives?

SMITH: Well, they brought their wives when we had parties or things like that.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

SMITH: But there were—I'd say certainly most of them were not married. And there were a number of them because I can remember Bill

Poole, George Barr, there were a number of them that were not married and were living at the dorm—I mean the fraternity house.

DONIN: So it was a real mixture.

SMITH: It was a real mixture. You'd have mixtures of five, six, seven different classes.

DONIN: So did you have any teachers that stuck in your mind? Not to put you on the spot. Not necessarily in government but anyone.

SMITH: Well, Herb West who was a bit of a character. And of course Al Foley who was a history professor. What did they used to call his course? What was it? Cowboys and Indians, I think.

DONIN: Right.

SMITH: Cotty Larman who was a government professor. I don't know whether it's because of the song, but Ferguson, Fergie's Physics.

DONIN: Oh, I didn't hear about that. Fergie's Physics.

SMITH: Well, that was the, you know, "Where are the pea green freshmen? Where, oh, where are the pea green freshmen? Where, oh, where, are the pea green freshmen? Gone at last to the sophomore class. They've gone out from Fergie's physics. They've gone out from Fergie's physics. They've gone out from Fergie's physics. Safe at last in the sophomore class. And where are the silly, silly sophomores?" You've heard this song, haven't you?

DONIN: No, I haven't. [Laughter]

SMITH: I'm not sure I remember it all. "Where, oh, where are the silly, silly sophomores? Where, oh, where are the silly, silly sophomores? Safe at last in the junior class. They've gone out from — Now I can't remember what the course was. Somebody's— It was the course on [Laughter]— It was a basic biology course. I can't remember the professor's name. And then it went on, "Where, oh, where are the drunken juniors?" And they've gone out from something, something.

DONIN: Yes.

SMITH: And I again may have Fergie's physics mixed up with—because that may have been a later course.

- DONIN: A different class. Okay.
- SMITH: “And the grand old seniors, they’ve come back from Leb and the Junction.” No, no. “Where, oh, where are the funny, funny faculty? Safe at last in their trundle beds. They’ve come back from Leb and the Junction. They’ve come back from Leb and the Junction.” Anyway, it goes on like that. But I remember—I can’t remember his name now, my Spanish professor. And I remember my freshman English professor, and I can’t remember—I was trying to think of it the other day, and I couldn’t remember his name.
- DONIN: Freshman English....
- SMITH: Yes. And, oh, he was a bit of a martinet. I’ll probably remember it before then. But anyway...
- DONIN: Of course that always happens. Right.
- SMITH: That, of course, was one of the required courses.
- DONIN: Yes. The freshman English, right.
- SMITH: Another one I should have mentioned was Mike Choukas—
- DONIN: Oh, yes.
- SMITH: —son of Professor Choukas.
- DONIN: Uh-huh. Sociology I think he taught.
- SMITH: Sociology, right. And then Mike, Mike was a class later.
- DONIN: Uh-huh.
- SMITH: He was the class of ’50. And he was from Vermont Academy. And we used to play against each other in hockey.
- DONIN: Oh, that’s funny. Yes.
- SMITH: And then he and I would play duplicate bridge at the Hanover Inn frequently together. John Washburn, Professor Washburn’s son? One of his sons. Wid Washburn was another. I dated Marsha

Lindahl; he was an economics professor. I dated her. She and I dated for some time. So....

DONIN: It must have been funny being in— Did you have class? Did you have these people as professors, whose kids were your friends?

SMITH: I don't think I had any of them, no.

DONIN: Would have been weird.

SMITH: Yes, it would have been a little strange, yes.

DONIN: Right.

[End of Interview]