

Dartmouth College Oral History Project
The War Years at Dartmouth
Interview with George '47 & Ann Turner
By Mary Donin
January 9, 2008

DONIN: How is it that you came to Dartmouth? Tell us how you knew about it and—

GEORGE TURNER: Purely by accident. I graduated from high school with a lucky C- average. I skipped grades. That's the worst thing anybody can do. I was two years behind the graduating class really. I graduated in 1937 from a Massachusetts high school, Athol, Mass. I went into the Navy in December 1938. This was right at the end of the Depression years. A bad time. In my years in the Navy I was on three destroyers. The action started in 1941. Convoy duty in the North Atlantic. That was great duty. Ha Ha. Awful, terrible duty. And then some South Atlantic duty. 1941-1942 convoy duty on the East coast, all the way to Africa. On December 7, 1941, we were back, coming back, from South Africa, from the convoy. We'd taken oilers from Aruba down to South Africa. We came back to the States. On the way back, the captain called a few people and said, "We're all done. I'd like to offer you some..." And the guys were either first class or chief petty officers. And he said, "So I want to recommend you for a commission." Some accepted, some no. And when he came to me, he said, "I'll offer you a second lieutenant commission." I said, "That's going to make me a reservist. When the war's over, I'm just going to come back and be a chief petty officer again." I said, "If you're going to recommend, recommend me for warrant officer." And that, you know, the guy that stays in there 30 years. And it would be tremendous if I could get it. So he did. And I said, "While I'm waiting for that to go through, I sort of missed this thing about this prep school." The Navy called it the V-12 program at colleges all over. I explained it. Now before you can go to that, you've got to go to this prep school down in Asbury Park. While I'm waiting for my commission to come in, I'd love to be going to that prep school. I hadn't had any shore duty for seven years. So he said okay. So he recommended me for that. And I got that V-12. I went down there in May 1944. You had to apply—you had to say three colleges that you wanted to go to one year.

DONIN: When you were finished at the prep school, you had to choose three colleges?

GEORGE: During... While you're there.

DONIN: Yes, yes.

GEORGE: You tell them which three; you had three choices. So they can tell by the time you graduate which one you're best suited for. I picked the University of New Mexico. Three.... What difference, I'm not going anywhere. I can't get.... I took these three colleges that I'd hardly ever heard of. Okay. So about five days before, my thing hasn't come in. I've got to go to school for that warrant thing and then cut out of there. It hasn't come through yet. Five days to go, they give the assignments, and I get Dartmouth College. Never mind these colleges I... Dartmouth College! I almost fell off my chair. From Athol, Massachusetts, I knew in all my years there, there were two people who ever went to Dartmouth College. Never mind these colleges I.... I almost fell off my chair. From Athol, Massachusetts I knew in all my years there, two people who ever went to Dartmouth College. One was just a business student. The other guy was captain of the basketball team up there. The only guys from Athol that ever went to Dartmouth. You don't go to Dartmouth. It's like going to Harvard or Yale. Dartmouth.... And they're sending me there. I'm not going to Dartmouth. I can't go there for God's sake, to Dartmouth College. The first thing I had to do—I'm assigned, I can't help this. I've got 90 or so midshipmen down there. Put them on a train and take them up to New Hampshire and drop them off there. So I have to do it. And that's how I got on. Took the train. Called up from White River Junction five o'clock in the morning and said, Send some buses. You've got 90 people down here.

DONIN: So you were escorting these guys up there?

GEORGE: Yes, yes. I was the senior guy in V-12.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

GEORGE: I was a chief petty officer. You can't get any higher in the enlisted ranks. So I outranked everybody. Unfortunately, I don't outrank anybody now. [Laughs] When you had that V-12 program and all those troops out there. G. Turner is the senior... First of all, I don't belong here. But I get started in that first semester, and 22 hours for a guy that, you know, doesn't particularly want to go to school anyway.

- DONIN: What do you mean 22 hours?
- GEORGE: Study. Trimester. It was a trimester, not semester.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.
- GEORGE: I got put in these classes for these 22 hours. There was one military class, and you got that three hours. I got an A. I automatically did. Well, what am I going to do? I've got to go to classes. I started going to classes. There were two old-timers that had been brought back to teach during the war.
- DONIN: Because so many of the faculty had gone into....
- GEORGE: Oh, you're right.
- DONIN: Yes.
- GEORGE: And they were very nice guys. And one of them was probably the best professor I ever ran into. Nicest guy. Not the best professor, though. Just—he knew my problem. And he helped me along. He was one of the sciences that I never took in high school. I got.... I went into that first semester and enjoyed it. You know I plugged at this. I'm not going to be an A student by a long shot. I'm going to get an A in military. But I could make this. Halfway through—I've been going along like this.... In my off time, not too much of it, but I go out on the field.
- DONIN: The Green?
- GEORGE: The Green. Hitting fly balls out there and stuff. And enjoying life. And Saturday nights you could go down to Lebanon—it was just like Navy town. So halfway through, I get called in by the exec of the Navy outfit. They were in that building on the corner there, by the intersection.
- DONIN: Collis? The student dining hall?
- GEORGE: It was in front. The dining hall –
- DONIN: -- was in back.
- GEORGE: Yeah. They'd called down there, and the exec said, "You've got—your warrant stuff came in." Now at this time, by the time I—I was

enjoying myself and making it. So I said to the exec, "Look, I want to finish this semester. And then I'm going to come back here after this war. This will entitle me to a ticket to this place so that I can come back." And he said, "You know, chief, you've got 72 hours—otherwise it's done—to make up your mind."

DONIN: What does he mean?

GEORGE: I go now or I don't go.

DONIN: Oh.

GEORGE: I have to drop my class. I have to leave Dartmouth, go down to this school in Connecticut. And I've got 72 hours before I accept it.

DONIN: You had to let them know, right.

GEORGE: Worst 72 hours of my life. You know, I think, geez, I like this place. I'm making it here, I think, with a little help. So I finally said, "No, I'm going to stay." I figured, what the hell? If I go, they're going to send me back to war. I've had enough of that anyway. Just a couple more years. So I stayed. And that was why I stayed and loved every minute of Dartmouth College.

DONIN: Mmm. Where did you live when you were there?

GEORGE: I lived in two different dorms before I got married. You go down to Tuck School. The second building on your left, what was the name? It starts with an S—I can't remember. Massachusetts.

DONIN: Oh, Streeter?

GEORGE: Streeter. I lived there for half the time. Then we moved over to Massachusetts, on the corner, was what they called it. And I finished there.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. And is it true that they used military language to refer to everything in the dorm?

GEORGE: No. Oh, you might say, go to the head. Something like that.

DONIN: And they used the hours the way the military do?

- GEORGE: Let me tell you something: I was automatically the commanding officer of the troops there. I don't know what my title was.
- DONIN: Yes.
- GEORGE: I was numero uno. I led the parade, all that sort of thing. In my dormitory, when eleven o'clock comes around, you put your lights out. You damned well. And no conversation. You've got to go down in the cellar down there, and there's a study hall down there. Well, I said the hell with that to the guys in Streeter. Pull your shades down, keep the lights down, keep the noise down, okay? Well, I got nailed on that and other things. And they finally called me in and they said, "You know, you're not doing a very good job." [Laughs] I said, "I don't like the job." And they said, "Well, we're going to replace you." I said, Well, good." So that was the end of my ruling the roost there.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- GEORGE: So I went into—still in the program but not the head of the program.
- DONIN: Right.
- ANN TURNER: They did have military time when I was there. When Baker chimed, it chimed 24 hours, you know. One o'clock was 1300.
- DONIN: Yes.
- GEORGE: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. That's right. Oh, sure, there was that kind of time.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. And you had to get in formation and march to your meals? You probably had to get them in formation to march to their meals.
- GEORGE: To meals I think we did, didn't we?
- ANN: I don't remember.
- GEORGE: Yes, I think so to meals. Right.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- ANN: We did at Norwich. The kids at Norwich marched to meals.

GEORGE: But you know I had a dog, a doctor's dog, took a fancy to me, called Lady.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

GEORGE: And everywhere I went, Lady went.

DONIN: Aw....

GEORGE: And it got so she came out sleeping under my.... Oh, yes.

DONIN: Aw....

GEORGE: Beautiful. In fact, when I first met her, the second time I went in that library, and she was down at that desk, I said to Lady, "Bark, bark!" She couldn't bark, Lady. She'd go "Ar oooh." So we went down the halls of Baker with this dog that went, "Ar oooh." [Laughs] And that librarian that you're looking at now, was furious. But she never said get that GD dog out of here. But she said... But she loved that dog as much as I did. And one morning I came out to go to class, and here's Lady out on the lawn with a mouthful of—she goes a porcupine. It's quarter of eight. I've got to get to—I had a class. What am I gonna do? I didn't even know who her vet was. So I have no recourse, I've got to ask her what to do with the dog. What shall I do with this dog? I took her over... Oh, she was awful. And she sat there typical of her, almost swore at it. "Just leave the dog here. I'll take care of the dog." She thought it was the dumbest... I said okay. So I went to the class. It was the.... Wonderful class. Religion class. Chamberlin. He was the school chaplain. What a guy. What a course. I took two courses from him. Well, when I came back, no reference librarian. She's gone. And I looked all around. No dog. So at eleven-thirty that morning, I was down there by the Indian Bowl somewhere. And Lady comes running across the field. She had called a cab, taken her down to Lebanon, had the things pulled out, paid for it. Brought her back, brought her back up. Well, February 14th, I wrote—I bought a loving card from me and that dog. "We love you for what you've done."

DONIN: Aw....

GEORGE: And that kind of set.... Well, he may not be that long at Dartmouth, but he's not that bad a guy. [Laughter] He's not a great student.

DONIN: So what year was this?

GEORGE: February '46.

DONIN: And you'd arrived at Dartmouth when, what year?

GEORGE: 'Forty-four, July '44.

DONIN: Right.

GEORGE: Yes.

DONIN: So you ended up staying and graduating with your actual class.

GEORGE: Well, I didn't stay for the ceremony.

DONIN: Uh-huh.

GEORGE: My class graduated in what? June 1944. I got a job at West Point because I had my final exam and was offered a job at West Point.

DONIN: So did they actually have a graduation ceremony in '47? I don't know. I guess they did.

GEORGE: I don't know. I suppose so.

DONIN: The war was over so they probably did.

GEORGE: Yeah. So I missed that. I went there with a football player, a very good halfback at Dartmouth. He went into the math department. A wonderful guy.

DONIN: So he went to attend West Point or to teach there?

GEORGE: No, to teach there. He taught math.

ANN: At the prep school.

GEORGE: This was the prep school.

DONIN: Yes.

GEORGE: Prep school for West Point was 15 miles away on Stewart Air Force Base.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

GEORGE: The whole school was there. And if you flunked out of that school, they sent you back to service. Even if you were a civilian.

ANN: Most of them were military so if they flunked out...

GEORGE: Yeah, the military had to go back.

ANN: ... You went back to the regular Army.

GEORGE: But if you were at that school, you had something on the ball because you had to be recommended for that. Well, that's how I got to Dartmouth. When they said Dartmouth, I can't let my mother and father... If they ever knew that I had been given a chance to go to Dartmouth. If my uncle left, went to one football game and that was the Dartmouth-Harvard football game in Hanover, every year, or Yale, and he would go down to Harvard or down to Yale. Everybody loved Dartmouth. One year we had the captain of the Dartmouth basketball team up there. So that made it closer to us. For those people to call them up and say I'm being sent to Dartmouth. I can't make it there. I had no intention of going anyway, even if I thought I could make it. I'd had my shore duty, Asbury Park, spent \$4500 in two months on new uniforms, on trips to NY, then I realized, it's better to stay in Asbury Park than go to New York City. So anyway, I had to go. I had to go to Dartmouth whether I liked it or not. I'm going to take him up there and wait. Maybe a week or two. When is that coming through? Well, it never did because I had to cancel it when it finally did. Tough decision. But I tell you, Dartmouth was a pretty good place.

DONIN: Mmm mmm.

GEORGE: You get there, and you're there for, say, six weeks. And you're making it with a little help from—everybody was helpful.

DONIN: Yes.

GEORGE: Everybody was helpful there. I think I was the worst shape of anybody in the whole outfit up there. And I wasn't going to college. My parents—this was Depression years. My father can't send me to any college. I had no intention.

DONIN: A dream come true.

- GEORGE: Yes.
- DONIN: And did you mix at all with the civilians, or did you spend most of your time—
- GEORGE: No, never. You know these people, they call it the class of '47. I read these names. One of them I remember, he was a catcher on the baseball team. I knew who these guys were. But they came back. Of course... No, I never had anything to do with the—I was strictly Navy all the way there.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- GEORGE: But I enjoy hearing what they're doing at the reunions and so forth.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- GEORGE: And in the state one when they want to help a president—a student who works in the president's office; and she gets or he gets paid. And so they all chipped in, and I chip in for those things wherever I can do that.
- DONIN: Do you have friends in the class of '47 that were also in the Navy?
- GEORGE: Ralph Warburton, who was captain of the hockey team.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- GEORGE: Yes. He was my roommate. And his son went to Dartmouth, graduated in 1975. My son went to Dartmouth and graduated in 1975.
- DONIN: Isn't that nice.
- GEORGE: That's Ralph Warburton. He has retired recently. He lived in Providence after he graduated.
- DONIN: So you did feel a sense of identity, though, with the class of '47, even though you weren't really....
- GEORGE: Oh, yes. Where else would it be, of course. I mean, yes. With the class, but not with the people. I just didn't know the people.

DONIN: So you weren't invited to join the fraternities or anything like that.

GEORGE: Oh, yes, yes. But I didn't want to be in that.

DONIN: You didn't want to be.

GEORGE: See that was late in my...I think maybe at least a year, I'd been there a year, and they brought the— There were no fraternities when I got there. When they opened, you were invited to.... I was invited to a couple, to be a pledge and so forth. I just turned them down. I wanted nothing to do with it.

DONIN: Did you have a part-time job?

GEORGE: Well, eventually I got out of the Navy. I finished as a civilian.

DONIN: Oh!

GEORGE: In 1946. Ann and I were married secretly, which was enough to get me out of the program anyway. It came to the point where if I keep going, I'm going back to active duty. And this war is over. So I just dropped out of that program and went on my GI Bill.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

GEORGE: Which was good because with my GI Bill, I taught at West Point. Then took my first master's on my GI Bill.

DONIN: That's great. Now when you got there, the president was still Mr. Hopkins or was it Mr. Dickey?

ANN: It was Hopkins.

DONIN: And then Dickey came in the fall of '45.

GEORGE: That's what it was. Well, I knew Dickey. So Hopkins. I remember seeing the first guy.

DONIN: But you do remember Dickey?

GEORGE: Oh, yes, very well. Yes.

DONIN: Because that picture you just gave me shows you sitting watching the... I guess there is no president there with you in this picture. Oh, maybe this isn't V-E Day.

GEORGE: That's V-E Day. See the crowd in the background? Each guy got up and gave a little talk.

DONIN: That's Dean Neidlinger there I think with you.

GEORGE: Yes, that's familiar.

ANN: Robert Frost was a familiar face on campus as well.

DONIN: Yes, tell your Robert Frost story. You mentioned that in your email.

GEORGE: Robert Frost.... English majors could use the Sanborn Library. Is it still there?

DONIN: Absolutely. It looks the same.

GEORGE: Well, Shakespearean motif in there, the sort of thing...okay. That was a beautiful place. Deep leather, oh, it was wonderful.

DONIN: I don't think they have leather anymore, but anyway.

GEORGE: Well, then there was a beautiful one in the corner. Now he had an office in Sanborn.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

GEORGE: And wherever it was, it seemed to me it was on the corridor right off that library. I know his door was always open. And I know he had a chair with a board across the arms. And you just didn't go.... If Robert Frost wanted to see anybody, he came out of there and went wherever. Every now and then, he would come into that library and say hello to the guys. He'd walk around and say hello. I introduced myself one time and got talking. And, you know, he was always accused of being anti-war and all that sort of thing. And he asked me where I had been. And I told him so-and-so. And we got talking there, and a couple of times after that, he came in there and actually came over and spoke to me. It was Mr. Turner and Mr. Frost. Hello, Mr. Turner. And we'd talk two or three times. He was very interested in the action that I had seen. So I got to know him for, I don't know, I can't remember how long I knew him before one

night, he said, "Would you speak to the Faculty Club?" He said, "Would you give a talk to the Faculty Club?" I said, "What do you want it on?" He said, "You just tell them what you did, start with the main things that happened." I said, "Yeah, sure." So I did. And he took me over to the—I can't even remember where it was—to the Faculty Club, and I spoke there. [Laughter] Then one time I remember I had a date with a girl for six-thirty or something like that, and I forgot all about it. She knew I... Only the English majors could use that Sanborn. She knew I studied up there. So she went up to see, and who does she run into but Frost. [Laughs] And this intellectual woman said, "Do you know George Turner?" "Yes, I know him?" "Have you seen him?" "No." Well, when she finally caught up with me, she said, "I've been looking all over for you, all over Sanborn." She said, "I asked this gray haired guy." I said, "Did you talk to him?" I said, "Yes, I asked him where you were." "Oh, God!" So the next day I tried to avoid him. But one day, "Hello, Mr. Turner. There was a very lovely young lady." "Thanks, Mr. Frost."

DONIN: [Laughs]

GEORGE: So I got to know him. And people wanted a book autographed. And I didn't [inaudible]. He's going up to class....

ANN: [inaudible]

GEORGE: Came up. So he got to know him, too. He was a great guy, Oh!

DONIN: So you actually went through Dartmouth in three years, right? You got there in '45?

GEORGE: I started in July of '44.

DONIN: Oh, '44, sorry.

GEORGE: And ended in February of '47. Trimesters.

DONIN: Yes, about three years because you went year round, didn't you?

GEORGE: Oh, yes. Oh, yes! No vacations then.

DONIN: Yes, the classes were sort of compressed into a shorter time period so you were able to get out.

GEORGE: Oh, no question, no question.

- DONIN: Right. Now when the war was over in '45, after, you know, VJ-Day and everything, did you have a sense that the campus became very crowded with lots of people coming back?
- GEORGE: No. Well, in this sense: I saw people, civilians, walking around which was unusual. Yes. While the war was still on, you didn't see that much. But it still wasn't crowded with civilians. You would notice.
- ANN: You know as I remember after the war, the place was inundated with women. You know during the war women had no stores; nothing was done for women. And then all these men came back and got married.
- GEORGE: Oh, yes, now you're talking by the time they had time. Yes, by 1946, you had Wigwam Village for married couples.
- DONIN: Yes, and Sachem.
- GEORGE: We were married in '46 and took up housing.
- ANN: Yes, we lived in Wigwam Circle.
- GEORGE: Wigwam Circle.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- GEORGE: And she was working. I got a job in the drugstore next to Tansi's. I worked in there behind the counter.
- DONIN: Uh-huh. While you were still going to school?
- GEORGE: Yes.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.
- GEORGE: And she continued to go to the library. Now she had to finish out her term in 1947. So I went down to West Point February. And she stayed there. Then you came down there. How long? When did you come down there, April, May?
- ANN: It was in the spring of '47.

GEORGE: We met down there.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. So you were married for the last year while you were there.

GEORGE: We were married in 1946.

DONIN: Yes.

GEORGE: July 1946.

DONIN: Was it hard being married and going to school at the same time?

GEORGE: No, not that part. No, I don't think.

DONIN: And working.

ANN: At that time, at that age, you could do anything.

GEORGE: Yes, we no longer, you know....

ANN: We had a lot of company, you know. There were a lot of servicemen came back. It was a very happy time.

DONIN: There were lots of married couples on campus, I guess.

GEORGE: Oh, yes, yes.

ANN: They built a snow statue in front of Wigwam Circle, and it was a stork.

DONIN: Yes.

GEORGE: Oh, she got a picture of it.

DONIN: Yes.

GEORGE: And one day, you look over at it, and the stork has collapsed.

ANN: Overworked.

GEORGE: Oh, yes, they had the sign "overworked."

- DONIN: [Laughs] Lots of babies. I gather the living conditions in those, in Wigwam and in Sachem, though, people have said it was quite cold. Your heating was very....
- ANN: Well, it was funny. There were no stoves or ovens. We had a hotplate and a little tin box sat on top of the hotplate. I had never boiled an egg, you know. [Laughs] So I went down to the bookstore, and I bought a cookbook. And I put the little metal box on top of the hotplate, and I made popovers.
- DONIN: Great!
- GEORGE: Oh, we enjoyed it.
- ANN: The whole thing was one great big...everybody was young and... You just took everything in stride.
- DONIN: Right.
- GEORGE: I was the oldest one on that campus, however.
- ANN: No refrigerators. There was a real icebox.
- DONIN: Yes.
- ANN: And our dog hated the iceman.
- GEORGE: Oh, yes.
- ANN: Nobody ever delivered the ice.
- GEORGE: They left the ice out on the porch.
- DONIN: Right. Well, why don't we switch places here and let's put Ann in front of the microphone. So tell us, Ann, how did you end up in Hanover?
- ANN: When I graduated from college, I went to Columbia Library School, Miss Adams came to Columbia to look for applicants for a job at the library.
- DONIN: At Baker Library?

ANN: Baker Library. And she picked me. [Laughs] Her name was Miss Adams.

DONIN: What year was this?

GEORGE: 'Forty-five.

ANN: 'Forty-five, yes.

DONIN: Oh, so you were a newcomer.

ANN: Yes.

DONIN: What was it like coming to rural— Where did you grow up?

ANN: Saratoga Springs.

DONIN: Oh, you told me that. That's right. Oh, so being in Hanover wasn't all that different for you then.

ANN: Well, compared to Hanover, Saratoga was a big city.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

ANN: There were no stores for women. When you went home at vacation, you bought clothes because there was nothing in Hanover for women.

DONIN: Was Campion's there at that time?

ANN: Yes, Campion's. But it was all men's clothes.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. And where does a single young woman like this live in a town like Hanover?

ANN: The library people found me a room. It was a boardinghouse right in back of the Catholic church. And there were three or four other people living there. The people that ran it, they were named Gerard. So Dartmouth found me the apartment—the room. It wasn't an apartment, it was a room.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. So when they came to Columbia looking to hire, they were looking for a reference librarian.

ANN: Yes.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. And what are your memories of what the student population was like then in terms of military versus civilian?

ANN: It was all military. I don't remember anybody in civilian clothes.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

ANN: We went to all the football games. But there were very few civilians around.

DONIN: Was it hard being a single woman up there in the midst of this sea of men?

ANN: I loved it. [Laughs]

DONIN: Yes.

ANN: I had very good women friends; we were a close-knit group. I had a wonderful time.

DONIN: Once you got married, you continued to— Well, let's back up. So let's hear your version of how you met your husband, George.

ANN: I don't remember the details that he remembers. And I can't believe I acted that way.

DONIN: Behaved that way, right. Were you dating a lot? I mean was it common for the staff to be dating the students?

ANN: Yes, because they were all older, you know.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

ANN: And some of the faculty dated the women at the library. I remember that. It was a very jovial group. We had good times.

DONIN: Where did you go to socialize?

ANN: We went to the movies. And Dartmouth had dances. What was that, Green Key?

DONIN: Sure.

ANN: Had dances. And we had movies.

DONIN: At the Nugget?

ANN: No, the Nugget has burned down.

DONIN: Oh, so they were shown in Webster Hall.

ANN: Webster Hall, yes.

DONIN: So there was no sort of taboo of the staff mixing with the students and the faculty?

ANN: No. At that time, ages were different. You know it seems as though everybody was older; they weren't young teenage kids.

DONIN: Well, because they'd all gone off to war and done their time and then come back as men.

ANN: So you weren't dating teenage kids.

DONIN: Were some of them still in uniform?

ANN: Yes, yes. A lot of them were.

DONIN: Right. Even the faculty, I gather. A lot of them went off to serve as well.

ANN: Yes. Decimated the ranks there.

DONIN: Yes. So it was 1946, and you and George got married and you made the transition into married housing. Did you get married there in Hanover, or did you go to—

ANN: No, we weren't supposed to be married. So we got married in Keene. Just our families were there.

DONIN: And the reason you weren't supposed to get married is because he was still in the V-12?

ANN: Yes. You know it's the same idea now in West Point and Annapolis; they're not supposed to get married while they're in school.

DONIN: Did anybody discover that you guys got married?

ANN: No, not until we announced it.

DONIN: And by this time he was finished with V-12.

ANN: Yes.

DONIN: Right.

ANN: It didn't matter.

DONIN: Right. So do you have memories of particular faculty, staff at the library that you interacted with?

ANN: There were several men.... You know reference librarians always worked with professors that are writing theses. And I remember working with several of them on their projects and Ph.D. projects and so forth.

DONIN: Working with the faculty.

ANN: Yes.

DONIN: Right. Were there good opportunities for the married... For the married women that came back with their new husbands, who were out of the service, were there opportunities for women to get jobs while their husbands were in school?

ANN: Well, there were very few. At the time, as I remember it, very few things were done for women. And there were some places where they needed the women to do the jobs. But as a whole, most of the women didn't get good jobs until they left there.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. And that was....

ANN: Well, the town was so small.

DONIN: It was a small town. So the places they mostly worked probably were the hospital.

ANN: Uh-huh. They worked in the hospital.

DONIN: Hitchcock...if they were qualified.

- ANN: A couple of civilians worked in the library.
- DONIN: Secretarial jobs probably. But of course there was not the enormous amount of administrative staff that there is now. So there was probably less opportunity for secretaries.
- ANN: Well, the town and the school was small. And they just didn't have many opportunities.
- DONIN: Were the women allowed, if you were a wife at home at Wigwam and didn't have babies yet, were they allowed to say, audit classes, sit in on classes or anything like that?
- ANN: I don't remember that.
- DONIN: So you probably didn't see the women in the library very often.
- ANN: No, I don't remember that. It boiled down to the fact that you get so absorbed in your own little life that you don't pay any attention to others.
- DONIN: And you were going off to work every day and having a....
- ANN: I did take part in some of the things now that I remember it. There were very few women on the campus. And the German professor found out that I had studied German. And I became a member of the German Club.
- DONIN: Oh, that's great.
- ANN: And they put on performances, you know, where you had to speak German. And I had a very memorable talk with a stuffed canary in German once. [Laughter]
- DONIN: And where did you perform these plays? Was it in Webster Hall or was it over in Wilson Hall?
- ANN: It was probably Wilson. It was on the left-hand side of the street. I can't remember the names now. But there was a lovely German professor, and he got me interested because there were so few women on the campus, that they needed all the women they could get.

DONIN: I'm sure. And there were a fair number of women working in the library, I assume.

ANN: Yes, yes.

DONIN: So life in Wigwam was fun because it was all young marrieds.

ANN: Oh, yes. It was a lot of fun.

DONIN: Yes. And I gather they also outfitted the Fayerweathers for married couples. We've got lots of photographs and, you know, stories from people of the rooms that were done over in Fayerweather. So I guess they were stretched to the limit in terms of accommodating married couples.

ANN: Oh, yes.

DONIN: I mean they had to slap up those Sachem buildings and Wigwam buildings pretty fast.

ANN: Yes, yes. When you look back at living like that, it is hilariously funny.

DONIN: Everybody has fond memories of those days.

ANN: Yes. When you're young, you can handle anything.

DONIN: Right. And it was happy times with the war being over.

ANN: The war was over. Boys were coming back.

DONIN: And there was a sense that... a lot of people felt a sense of wanting to get on with their lives. This interlude had interrupted them.

ANN: Everybody wanted to pick up the pieces and...

DONIN: Get on with it. So when George got his job at West Point, you had to give your notice at Dartmouth?

ANN: Yes.

DONIN: Right. Why did they make you stay behind, though, and not follow him?

ANN: They couldn't find a substitute for a while. They had nobody to take my place for a while.

DONIN: Wow.

ANN: Carolyn Neef left. She left and she married somebody. Somebody had to stay. And Virginia Close became the next reference librarian.

DONIN: So she took your place?

ANN: I think so. It was very close.

DONIN: So when was this [photo] taken? Is this after you were married?

ANN: That was before.

GEORGE: No, before.

DONIN: Before you were married.

GEORGE: But she finally agreed to be seen in public with me. And I even went to church with her. She said, "There's a minister down there had a whopping good sermon every Sunday."

ANN: He was anti-war.

GEORGE: And so she persuaded me.

ANN: One Sunday the niece invited me to Sunday dinner. And I wanted to be able to say in the middle of the conversation, "Interesting sermon at church today." [Laughs]

DONIN: Oh, yes.

ANN: I thought it was important for them to know that I went to church. And so I went to church. And in the middle of dinner—I waited for an opportunity to say—"What an interesting minister today." [Laughs] And I found out that this minister was thoroughly disliked because of his anti-war stance.

DONIN: Oh.

ANN: He was.... He even, when he had a funeral ceremony, he wouldn't mention the fact that the boy was killed in the war. But anyhow, a lot of antagonism against him. And so my announcement went over like a lead balloon.

DONIN: It killed the conversation, I bet.

ANN: I was never invited back.

DONIN: Right.

ANN: Her father was very anti that minister.

GEORGE: Do you remember my going to church with you to hear that guy?

ANN: I remember your tummy rumbling. [Laughter]

[End of Interview]