

Judy McLaughlin
First Lady of Dartmouth Emerita

An Interview Conducted by

Mary S. Donin

August 20, 2003

DOH-42

Rauner Special Collections Library

Dartmouth College

Hanover, New Hampshire

INTERVIEW: Judy McLaughlin

INTERVIEW BY: Mary S. Donin

PLACE: McLaughlin Home in Newbury, New Hampshire

DATE: August 20, 2003

MARY S. DONIN: Today is Wednesday, August 20, 2003. I am here with Mrs. David McLaughlin, Judy McLaughlin, at her home in Newbury, New Hampshire. Today we are going to start out talking sort of in a chronological way...I wanted to hear... Actually I am going to start out first. Phil Cronenwett gave me a note and said, "When you finally get to talk to Judy McLaughlin, get her to tell you the story of the Walt Whitman poems that her grandmother had." Do you remember that story?

JUDY MCLAUGHLIN: I don't remember that story, but I have in my home in Annapolis half a bookshelf of Walt Whitman books because my grandmother, as you probably know, is quite a collector. In fact, I've got a box of books in the dining room here that I think I will take up to Ed Lathem [Edward "Ed" Lathem '51], a great buddy. I don't know what to do with all these things.

DONIN: Well, there is quite a Bella Landauer collection at the Dartmouth Library.

MCLAUGHIN: I gather. In fact, I have never really even gone in to see it.

DONIN: Oh, it is wonderful. Lots of bookplates and...

MCLAUGHLIN: Oh, and I have books and books of that, too. Well, it's wonderful, but, as you see here and upstairs...you know. Yes. And I love especially the old books. I think that is something I inherited from her. She collected so much. In fact tonight when I meet with my cousins, I am going to find out if they have just as many books because my grandmother at one time sorted things...things for the museum at our house in Westchester

when I was growing up. So she had a room... In fact, I have her stool that she used. She worked and did a lot of things. At our home, maybe a lot of that is...when my parents lived at the farm, maybe that is why so many books ended up there. I just don't really know because I was kind of just young and growing up. She had a tremendous influence just in her depth of knowledge.

DONIN: Her collections are everywhere. They are in New York. They are in Washington.

MCLAUGHLIN: They are all over.

DONIN: There are a number of libraries...

MCLAUGHLIN: In fact, I feel very ashamed. This people don't understand...that, even though I get to New York, I don't have a lot of time when I get there and I really do... I hear her room is still there, but you have to have permission to get in there. So, you know, one of these days when I have a few extra hours, I would really love to go up there. In fact, I can't remember the name of the lady who is now the President of the New York Historical Society, but she sent me a very nice letter and this will be interesting because I remember going to my grandmother's room at the New York Historical Society many, many times and just loving looking at her paperweight collection. She had collections of all kinds. I have albums full of things that I don't know what I am ever going to do with it all. So I need to... Ed Lathem and I are going to get together and then see. I hope he can be very helpful. Somebody should want them, you know.

DONIN: Oh, absolutely. The problem is deciding who because there are so many people who will want them.

MCLAUGHLIN: I don't know. A lot of it... I won't get into that now, but is on New Hampshire history. Dance cards. There are wonderful fun things. Paper...all different kinds of paper. So anyway...

DONIN: I think we have got one of her books I think about paper...

MCLAUGHLIN: I do, too.

DONIN: ...in the ____ collection.

MCLAUGHLIN: This is where I ought to go. I don't know if you can get in there and just see them.

DONIN: Sure. Sure.

MCLAUGHLIN: You can just see them?

DONIN: Let me know if you want to come in and see what we've got. Just let me know and we can go in anytime.

MCLAUGHLIN: That would be fun.

DONIN: Wonderful stuff. Let's go back to the Landauer connection to Dartmouth.

MCLAUGHLIN: Okay. Now my uncle, James...Jim Landauer... He went to Dartmouth at a very young age. I think he was sixteen when he went to Dartmouth. He was very smart and bright. Then there is my father, who went to Clark School, who wasn't quite as bright, but lots of fun, as he said. He was a very happy person, a very delightful person. He has told many, many stories about his days up in, you know, the Hanover area...going down and participating in a circus and just all sorts of really bad things. [Laughter] I mean funny bad things, you know, in the town. He went to the University of New Hampshire, so he stayed close to the area.

DONIN: So you had connections to New Hampshire long before you met your husband.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yes. In fact, my first really boyfriend, who was much, much older, who is a Dartmouth graduate. I met him at ski school. I went to Dartmouth ski school when I was probably fourteen.

DONIN: Amazing.

MCLAUGHLIN: So it is kind of funny. Then, of course, I want to Pine Manor and I never went to Hanover. I never went up to Dartmouth. You know, I went to a very small high school and I really danced for about fourteen, fifteen years and that's what I really wanted to do is to continue to dance. My father said, "Nice girls don't dance." Okay. So then the war came and my father went into the Marine Corps and then he came out in World War II and moved to Florida. So then I went to this very small high school

where we had a graduating class of forty. When I applied, I wanted to go to the Connecticut College for Women, in that day, because they had a very good dance program. They said, with my high school background, they thought it would be advisable to go to a junior college for a year...in other words, kind of grow up. So I went to Pine Manor and then, of course, I did grow up. You know, I came out from underneath a rock and had lot of blind dates and that is how I met my husband. I had a roommate from Grand Rapids, Michigan, who said, "Oh, I want you to meet David McLaughlin." So I met David McLaughlin in my sophomore year and he was pinned to a girl at Holyoke and I felt "what a waste of a good evening." [Laughter] There are so many fish in the ocean, why bother with somebody who has interests in other places. So then I went off to the University of North Carolina and had a ball because it was a place that you could transfer to, where you had people coming in. You had to be a junior to go there.

DONIN: Oh, of course.

MCLAUGHLIN: Unless you had a father on the faculty or you were going into nursing. It was a perfect place to transfer to. A gal had told me about it and I said I wanted a college very much like Dartmouth where it makes the town. She said, "Well my whole family went to the University of North Carolina." I can remember sitting in biology class. I thought "Hmmm. Chapel Hill. That has a nice ring to it." Of course, at that stage, I was accepted at every place I applied because most girls...a lot of girls dropped out. I knew I wanted to have my four years. So then I came back through...in my first year in Carolina...coming back through New York...Biltmore...New York City, Thanksgiving vacation, under the clock, who is there but a whole bunch of Grand Rapids people. So I passed through with a gal that I was bringing up with me and who is there but David McLaughlin [David "Dave" McLaughlin '54]. So I got a phone call, you know, "What are you doing Friday night?" Something like that. So that's how it all began again.

DONIN: Amazing.

MCLAUGHLIN: Isn't that funny?

DONIN: So he was no longer pinned to the...?

MCLAUGHLIN: He still saw this girl and I was in North Carolina. As it worked out, I said, "I am going to continue to have fun." Oh, he said, "Would you ever come up for a weekend?" I said, "I would love to go to Winter Carnival. See how you feel when the time rolls around." Of course, then he invited me.

DONIN: That's a trip though from North Carolina.

MCLAUGHLIN: Sure. Yeah. And we drove one time. This is funny. I would not go up to Hanover to Dartmouth unless Dave fixed my friend up...Betty Heston. So Betty dated almost all of Dave's friends. As it evolved, after Dave and I were married, then when we were passing through New York, Betty wanted to see me and John wanted to see Dave. So we just kind of met and then they walked the streets of New York looking at the Christmas lights and they got married several years later. So it is funny how our lives have been intertwined.

DONIN: For a long time.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah.

DONIN: Was she at UNC [University of North Carolina] with you as well?

MCLAUGHLIN: She was a roommate.

DONIN: Incredible. That's incredible.

MCLAUGHLIN: So you see, there is...

DONIN: A long friendship.

MCLAUGHLIN: A long friendship. Like the Paganucci's.

DONIN: Yeah.

MCLAUGHLIN: Marilyn and Paul.

DONIN: He was also a classmate.

MCLAUGHLIN: No. He is older. He is '51, I believe.

DONIN: Oh, okay.

MCLAUGHLIN: I think '51. Dave is '54. I should know exactly, but I think of Paul and Fred Whitemore...

DONIN: I am sure you are right.

MCLAUGHLIN: I don't know if I am right. This is where I say the same names...Berl Bernhard...a lot of names pop up because they were trustees. It's just a lot of... What do they say? Dartmouth is not a college. It's a disease. [Laughter] In our family, it is a family disease. [Laughter]

DONIN: That's great. Okay. So you go to Winter Carnival.

MCLAUGHLIN: Then I should have known. I mean at Winter Carnival, Dave was doing lot of things at Dartmouth. We ran and ran from one event to the next event to the next event.

DONIN: So was this his junior year or senior year?

MCLAUGHLIN: I met him in his junior year, I guess really. He was doing the Tuck School and Dartmouth in five years. So I graduated in '54 and we were supposed to get married that June. Then I graduated from North Carolina. I went to Europe, figuring that I would get back...spend three or four months, get back and plan a wedding. When I got back...in fact I came back early to surprise him because he was coaching football, freshman football, at Princeton. So I just came back early and surprised him. Then he said, "Did you get my letter?" I said, "No" because I came home earlier. He said, "We can't get married in June. I have got to report to the Air Force immediately upon graduation." They had given him the extra time. So then we planned the March wedding. That's what then put me back up in Aetna at Pinneo Hill at my uncle's house.

DONIN: I see. My goodness.

MCLAUGHLIN: There is a story there that is fun in that we had lived in my uncle's cabin on top of the mountain. Of course it was mud season. So Dave would have to park the car at the end of the road and take a wheelbarrow with his books. You could come up, but never go down. Then the other thing I wanted to add to that was that that was my first party. That was for the faculty at Tuck School and the senior class.

DONIN: And you were young newly-weds.

MCLAUGHLIN: Well, we had been married since March and June was graduation. Of course, we couldn't afford it, so we had to have everybody... Well, we got the steaks through Tuck School...you know, the dining room...and had everybody pay a dollar. I had the faculty helping butter rolls and do that. [Laughter] Anyway, that was my very first party.

DONIN: Oh, gosh.

MCLAUGHLIN: I should have known then to bail out! [Laughter]

DONIN: Little did you know.

MCLAUGHLIN: And life has been like that, truthfully.

DONIN: Ever since.

MCLAUGHLIN: Ever since. Ever since.

DONIN: Full of surprises.

MCLAUGHLIN: Full of surprises, but just people... Lots and lots of people...fun people and a very busy life. People who know me quite well...I said, "No, I didn't marry the milkman, but I really..." You know, this sometimes, as you can see, takes its toll after awhile. Then having four children and thirteen grandchildren...

DONIN: You never slow down.

MCLAUGHLIN: You never slow down. Yesterday, Dave was saying, "Okay. Now when do you want to return to Annapolis? Give me a date." I said, "I haven't even cleaned this place up yet."

DONIN: But you knew he was that kind of a guy when you met him.

MCLAUGHLIN: I know.

DONIN: He was that way when he was an undergrad.

MCLAUGHLIN: He was always that way.

DONIN: He was president of the Student Body and he was just all over the place.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, which is fun and exciting; but, as you get older, it is a little exhausting because he still is going. But then, you know, this is where he has always had wonderful staff people. Even now you know Mona [Mona Chamberlain] is still involved. Linda... He is surrounded by a lot of good people or he couldn't do everything he is doing and then keep all the balls in the air.

DONIN: Absolutely. He couldn't do it alone.

MCLAUGHLIN: But, as I said, I am getting kind of to the point of the telephone...now that everybody wears their telephone on their waist, it just drives me...there is just the constancy of...

DONIN: Access twenty-four hours a day.

MCLAUGHLIN: Exactly. Exactly. Whether you are in a boat or in a car or wherever. That why I say I am an antique, because I will not get involved with that. I can only do one thing at a time.

DONIN: I should think, when you are here, you feel like this should be the place where you can be left alone and be private.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, but this is where our children... We had a very pretty home in Minneapolis on the water and this is, as you ask questions later, we had a very good life there. Minnesota is a wonderful spot. At one stage, we had three of our four children living back there. Now we have two of our children and their families living back there. It is just a good quality of life. Now I'm getting confused with my train of thought.

DONIN: That's all right. But everybody says that about the mid-west in general, that it is a different quality of life.

MCLAUGHLIN: But this is where it was always busy. See I had the business world there and that's quite different than the academic world...very different. I know that you are going to, you know, maybe ask me questions about that later, so I won't go on on that thought. There is a big difference between a business life...at least the life we had...and Dave was head of a company and I had a very pretty home and children and dogs and animals and all that...and my own life.

DONIN: Were you able to separate your personal life from the business life more than you were once you became an academic wife?

MCLAUGHLIN: Absolutely. Because we even lived right on the campus. Our neighbors were fraternities, you know, and that part was fun. That part was really kind of fun because I am, again... I started thinking about this. My life was quite different than Jean Kemeny, you know, who liked to write and do that. She wanted to teach. I am not in that. I was really more a mother and homemaker.

DONIN: You were more the model that Mrs. Dickey was.

MCLAUGHLIN: Exactly. Exactly. That's even... They were like... I tried to compare... Dartmouth College is like almost a mother and father to my husband. He came from not a happy family background. In fact, when he got to Dartmouth, he was just dropped on the corner. He got a ride with somebody from Michigan. He had never even been to the college. Quite different. When I think of this fall and our son... You know, I am picking up Kelly. I am taking her up for her Freshman Week. Her parents are flying in to get her settled later...quite different than just being dropped on the corner.

DONIN: Well, he has said during interviews that he saw in John Dickey [John Sloan Dickey '29] almost a father figure.

MCLAUGHLIN: Absolutely. Absolutely. In fact, I think there is a question here. It was really John Dickey who persuaded Dave to do the presidency. He said, "She needs you now." And Dave said, "Do you realize that I am right in my...you know, four children to raise and all that?" John said, "She needs you now." They were good friends and it was terrible...wonderful, but terrible to see him, you know, in his sickness. He was such a big, strong, happy, strapping person reduced to bed-ridden. He was still funny and still had his sense of humor. Super people.

DONIN: Wonderful.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. I think if John Dickey hadn't really persuaded Dave, I don't think...I don't know that he would have done it. It wasn't a good time to leave Toro and he knew, you know, that he was not an academic. But anyway, I think he is glad that he did it.

DONIN: Well, you know, he did...

MCLAUGHLIN: He did a lot of good things.

DONIN: His legacy there is tremendous.

MCLAUGHLIN: And The Hop was built.

DONIN: Yes, indeed. Indeed. But it must have been difficult to watch him go through all the painful experiences that were going on, some of which were certainly not aimed at him personally, but must have been hurtful anyway.

MCLAUGHLIN: Hurtful, anyway. I think there's a couple of faculty people...just a couple...that I don't think kindly of at all.

DONIN: Right. Right. They didn't behave themselves.

MCLAUGHLIN: They were narrow. They are people who have never left Hanover. They don't know. They haven't even been in the outside world at all. I mean in my humble opinion, you know. People who have just remained in one spot, doing the same thing, and not very worldly.

DONIN: Right. And they seemed to...

MCLAUGHLIN: But there are so many good ones. There are so many fun people. I mean I smile when I think of...the same people we see when we come up for, you know, the graduations. There are a whole slew who are wonderful.

DONIN: But the sad part of the coverage of his presidency, is that it is so often talked about the faculty that were opposed to him.

MCLAUGHLIN: That's right.

DONIN: I am sure they were far outnumbered.

MCLAUGHLIN: But there were also some nasty things like the shanty bashing and there was like a Dartmouth Night. I mean some really ugly, ugly, ugly things. You know, it does. You kind of get to the point that... I mean at one stage I could hardly read The Valley News.

DONIN: I am sure.

MCLAUGHLIN: It was so... Well, I mean you can almost see it now. You see the same things kind of beginning. It's news and so it has to be exploded or it has to be... You know half the time it's not even quite the way they picture it.

DONIN: Oh, it's not accurate a lot of the time.

MCLAUGHLIN: That was very... But there are so many good memories... nice people that we still see, you know, and treasure the friendship of Ed Lathem and I still hear from Suki Dickey and all the family. Oh, there's a lot. There are just a lot of good people.

DONIN: That's great. Well, it's good that the good has outweighed the bad.

MCLAUGHLIN: Oh, yes. As I said, we did a wedding up there, too. Having a daughter married up there and the fraternities across the road. You know, being up on top of there. I mean there were soon very, very happy fun.

DONIN: Mr. McLaughlin said he used to bake for the fraternities when you were living in the President's House.

MCLAUGHLIN: Oh, yeah, if they were having... In fact, I have his name on a recipe thing. I don't have it with me but... You know, whether it was Halloween or something, you know. There were a lot of very...there still are...a lot of nice, nice students. As I said, there were a few that weren't so nice at that point. The Dartmouth D, you know. That I think was to me was... You know, you would have them over. You would do something nice for them. I did things like I would do for my own children really and "yes" they were going to try to clean up their act and "yes" they were going to try to do this and that. They never changed. They never changed. [Laughter] You would think, "If this were my child, you could say something" but they are not going to change.

DONIN: You had a son going to school there.

MCLAUGHLIN: The same year. Oh, this is... Jay McLaughlin. The thing that saved him...I really think...I think his name was Chris

McLaughlin. There was another McLaughlin who was more like...who was very involved in the Student Government and doing all that. That's not...our son was very involved with the fraternity and had a good time. No, I don't think we got in his way at all. I don't think so. He has never said it, you know. He had his friends and I think only once he came over with a whole gang of them to watch football and they went down, carrying our great big television set from the kitchen down to the basement. I think that was the only time that, you know... It was like...because he said, "This is not my home. It's my college."

DONIN: So it wasn't a burden for him to have his dad be president.

MCLAUGHLIN: I don't think so. He's never said anything about that and we are a very open family. No. In fact I think one of the questions on the sheet, too, is "What did my children think about it?" I think Jay was the only one who could have been affected and he was admitted to Dartmouth and deferred a year and went to Andover because he was young. Not huge and we thought it was to his advantage to take an extra year really. So he never did say anything. It was...when I tell you that 1981 with children graduating from Andover, Bill graduating at Tuck School, Susan graduating, Bill getting married, moving the big house... I moved you know in two sections. I moved a lot of stuff out to the President's House and then did another truck to storage and then Dave's inauguration. I mean that, plus the age that I was at...

DONIN: And the logistics.

MCLAUGHLIN: Then we went off sailing. I think I packed three different suitcases for the children's graduations and the minute we got to Dartmouth really... I mean we kind of moved in before there was a rug on the floor that we had a _____, you know. And Ed Lathem and Betty. Dave's cronies...and it was fun and the fire alarm. I can't even remember the story that clearly, but the fire alarm went off and we had the fire department come in.

DONIN: This was in the President's House?

MCLAUGHLIN: This was in the President's House. I mean this was...and all I could think of was "Everything has just been painted. We can't have smoke."

DONIN: Did you have time to do any renovations when you made the transition?

MCLAUGHLIN: Absolutely. That I can't get into too much, but, yes, there had to be renovations and we remodeled the kitchen. I think it has since been remodeled, but there were a lot of things that had to be cleaned up.

DONIN: Great. So there was that time... Were you in this house here as well?

MCLAUGHLIN: No. We had a big house at Long Lake and Dave basically moved on to the college and I packed the Long Lake house and sent furniture. Betty Smith, who is a decorator... That's another whole story. The college... I was coming in for a weekend. How did I want the house changed? Blah, blah, blah. They sent over a decorator that they had used for the Hanover Inn and I think the Dickey's had used these two ladies from Woodstock. Anyway, for me it was disastrous. You know, I don't want my house to look like the Hanover Inn. [Laughter] No. You know and so in between doing all these things, all these different things at the college, I had talked to people in town that I knew. I asked, "Who could help me?" They said, "Betty Smith." So I called her and said, "I'm leaving like at ten-thirty or eleven in the morning. Can you be here at eight-thirty or whatever time?" Lo and behold, she shows up and I said, "We have just a matter of minutes." I said, "I want you to sit in the living room and then you tell me your dream and I will tell you my dream." That's how we did it. So then she came out and looked at my house in Minnesota and picked the things that she would like to use, changed the fabric on, you know, what I would agreed to and that's how we did it.

DONIN: Great.

MCLAUGHLIN: Then I got on the phone with her or I took another trip out. I don't even remember a lot of that, but I did the home more like a home. Now it is very elegant, but also the till was not very full so therefore, if I saw fabric that I really liked, she would say, "No. We can't do that." I would say, "Okay. We will just do pillows of it." There is always ways to get a look without doing things so expensively. So, as I said, I think it had a very people _____, just like Hanover.

DONIN: And your intention was to be able to have students come in as well as deans and...

MCLAUGHLIN: I opened up the basement for sororities.

DONIN: Oh, great.

MCLAUGHLIN: Of course, they didn't have houses and the Secret Society. We let them use the basement. So I would have to juggle when I was traveling. Somebody would have to let them in, but it was fun. There were little things like that that you would do. To me that is not kind of big deal. The house belonged to the college, therefore... We used the basement a lot to entertain the trustees or for, you know, football games, brunches and stuff like that. Now it is quite different. Susan Wright has a staff.

DONIN: You didn't have a staff.

MCLAUGHLIN: I had the leftover from Dickey's. I had Doug [Doug McBain], who had been there for years and years and years...a very nice person, but who had been allowed to kind of do his own thing whenever. [Tomorrow, tomorrow] Then Reg [Reg Allen], who was in his mid-eighties, who was sweet and wonderful, but you know he really just did the dishes... You know, very different. Then I got a cleaning lady and she came in and she was very good, but I had no secretary. If you say, what are some of the memories? Every time I see somebody changing name...table cards, I did that at every single party. When Dave had seated dinners... Now they have a staff who does all of this. They don't have to. I did the flower arrangements. It's quite different. I see huge, wonderful things done. Different.

DONIN: Right. Right. That was all you.

MCLAUGHLIN: Different, you know. But I didn't teach. She was going to teach. I'm not a teacher.

DONIN: So your role really was expanded then from what Mrs. Dickey was doing.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, but...

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Begin Tape 1, Side B

MCLAUGHLIN: ... I used the Hanover Inn sometimes. Not very often. They would come in. They came in with a huge amount of people and did things very well. I used Tucker Rossiter at Dartmouth Dining Association. To me, that was more students and better...and I would go through recipes with them. We would try things. I have a moving box full of recipes that are for 50 or 100. [Laughter] I thought that probably one of these days I had better clean it out and do it, but I just have never gotten to it. Yes. I fussed more with...just like you would do in your own home. Okay? This gets to another question I think you had here. This is where Dave's office, Mona [Mona Chamberlain], Jan and all of those...they would call and say, "All right. You are to give a brunch for the Brown game." It was like I had no control particularly over my calendar. I was controlled by Dave's office. Do you know what I am saying?

DONIN: Sure.

MCLAUGHLIN: I am traveling, you know, which was always fun, during the alumni trips. Those were great fun. I am traveling then, you are doing brunches or lunches or visiting dignitaries that are coming in. "Mr. and Mrs. So-and-So are coming in. Can you do a dinner? Can you do a lunch?" Can you do this? There was much more coordination that way than ever now in the business world. In the business world, I knew I would give a great big picnic for all the Toro...you know, the international group. I knew that. Again, it was Dave's request, you know, and it was fun. A lot of work, but fun. Just when you said, "Coming here should be so relaxing." Last year I did the Upper Valley...the Dartmouth Club of the Upper Valley. They came here and they had such a good time they asked if I would do it again this year. That's why I came up in early May or late May. I found out from other years, by the time I would come in June, things were so picked over that I couldn't even... I would be bringing flowers from Annapolis to plant up here. So I said, "No. I've got to get up here." I am here usually from say June until October; but now you see different Dartmouth things come up so I am never quite sure. Then I go back to Annapolis and then the children want to come up here in February to ski. So I will come back up here and open up the house and get cooking, cleaning. [Laughter] So, as I said, I am kind of like "maid will travel".

DONIN: So did you realize how much your life was going to be dictated by the needs of the president's office?

MCLAUGHLIN: No. I don't think...I don't even remember that, to be perfectly honest with you. When I say this, this is where that 1981 with the children graduating, Dave's change of jobs, my age and what I was going through, I really... The doctor said, "Judy, if you don't go to bed..." He said, "You cannot drive. You cannot make the drive from Minnesota to Hanover. I want you to go to a motel and then go to sleep for at least two days." This saved my life really. Then I got on a flight and got to Hanover and immediately...

DONIN: Hit the ground running.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah.

DONIN: And did he? I mean the two of you.

MCLAUGHLIN: He was there early, but he... This is where men or women, when they change jobs, all they do is change their briefcases.

DONIN: I know. Yeah. You pick up all the rest of the details.

MCLAUGHLIN: Then you pick up all the rest of the details. You are doing the house. You know.

DONIN: And he also had a reputation for being just out and about, early riser, on the job at 6:30 in the morning.

MCLAUGHLIN: Oh, yeah. He is gone. He is gone from here. Always has been. Of course, in his time up there though, if you know that he had a heart problem in the first year...

DONIN: Yes. Right.

MCLAUGHLIN: That was, I think, just pure stress. At that time, he did smoke. Now that has ceased. He now is healthy. He exercises every day he is here. If he is traveling, he...you know.

DONIN: And it didn't slow him down for very long.

MCLAUGHLIN: No. Not at all.

DONIN: He was at Mass General for what? A week?

MCLAUGHLIN: I don't even think he was there that long because then he left and we were on the tennis court in Florida I mean just immediately after. He was in the hospital... In fact, Ed Lathem took me down there to see him when he went through that. I don't think...I don't even know if he was there a week. I would have to go back to our calendar and check. That's why I keep all my calendars. If somebody said, "How long was he there?" Well, I would have to go back to '82 I guess and look for my calendar.

DONIN: In those days apparently angioplasty, which was his procedure...

MCLAUGHLIN: In fact...this could get into a very lengthy conversation. This is where I asked him after it all, I said, "When did you know you were in trouble?" He said he had a six-thirty meeting or something like that with someone down at the Hanover Inn. He said, "Walking down there, I didn't feel very well." Then he was walking I think with Paul Paganucci [Paul Paganucci '53] and he was going up to the hospital for something after the meeting. I mean he went through his meeting and then walked back up to the hospital. Then they took him in. Then, of course, Mona [Mona Chamberlain] called me and all this. He was furious. They wouldn't let him have a telephone. If you cut Dave off from a telephone, it's like his breathing mechanism. [Laughter] "They are going to kill me." He said, "I know they are going to kill me." [Laughter] Well the doctor up there said, "He is absolutely the perfect specimen to go through angioplasty." He said, "We have not the experience to do it, but they do have that experience down in Boston." We were immediately on the alumni trip in Florida then right after that.

DONIN: Incredible. So let's talk about these alumni trips. Did you always go along with him?

MCLAUGHLIN: I went on the ones that went for...you know, if he were going to three and four and five locations, yes. Not the ones that...I would not go...well, I went on a lot of them. I didn't go on the ones that he was just going to...Chicago, big ones. In Florida, you do a lot, you know. Three or four different groups.

DONIN: What did you do while he was actually addressing?

MCLAUGHLIN: I went to them. There were dinners, luncheons. Oh, no. I went to them. I listened to him speak. I met the people. I met the parents. A lot of it is fun, especially if you are... I am not very good on the names, but I do listen to people...different people who say they had a son that played in the band, you know, or something else. "Oh, yes. He is doing very well". And they were so thrilled to know that, you know, I remembered them. I remembered a few facts about them so I could always... When we went back...In San Francisco, of course, we had a lot of friends.

DONIN: How did you keep track of all these people, though? Did you keep lists and reminders of whose these...?

MCLAUGHLIN: Well, a lot of them like the San Francisco group...Eleanor and Dave Smith, they were friends for years with the trustees. A lot of them were... The trustee days were fun. Quite different, I believe, than they are now because it was...I mean, when Dave was first nominated to be a trustee, it was a tremendous honor...a tremendous honor. We fell into a group like Peggy and Bill Morton, Gladys and Ralph Lazarus, that...really a lot of the trustees...who were good friends. So, you know, if we went to San Francisco, I stayed with Eleanor and Dave Smith. I stayed at their home. She treated me like a queen. She would bring me breakfast in bed. [Laughter] I would go out when Dave was at the _____ with David Smith, I would go with Eleanor to Carmel. She and I would shop together and just have fun. These were good friends. Peggy and Bill Morton were good friends. Even in our day, Charlie Zimmerman... These were not only trustees, these were people... You know, there was kind of a general admiration society; but you got to know the people very well. The trustee wives...I think there is a questions here someplace... You looked forward to seeing them. You looked forward to playing tennis with them. I looked forward to going shopping, finding out what was going on around Meredith. We did fun things when the men were in their meetings. That's the trustees and all the wives. See now, you get some of the wives that are trustees, husbands that are not Dartmouth. The whole thing is kind of not the same at all. Not the same.

DONIN: Now that was ten years that he was a trustee before he became president. How much time do you feel was required of you

during his trustee days as opposed to when he became president?

MCLAUGHLIN: Oh, not as much. You know, just being a trustee, was just kind of going into Hanover and meetings there. There were always things planned. I tried to do... That's so funny. I haven't thought about that for so long that I am really kind of rusty on that. There were always exhibits to see, lots to do. We all kind of functioned as a group. All of the wives bonded together. The men went to their meetings. At night we would have the dinners and the faculty was always... You know, it was good and I think Dave...they always planned for the trustees thoroughly, for the wives or the spouses.

DONIN: They kept them...

MCLAUGHLIN: In Dave's day, I mean Ellie... I said I wasn't going to answer the phone, so I am not answering the phone.

DONIN: You can if you like.

MCLAUGHLIN : No. I am not going to.

DONIN: They will find you.

MCLAUGHLIN: I talk with my mother. I have a ninety-five year old mother who is still on the farm and that is also...

DONIN: Really?

MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

DONIN: This is the farm at Red Hook?

MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

DONIN: Where is Red Hook? It's upstate a little bit.

MCLAUGHLIN: Well, I say it is upstate and yet, if you talk to somebody in upstate New York, they say, "What do you mean? We are two hours from New York City." It's right along the Hudson. Rhinebeck, Hyde Park.

DONIN: Oh, I know. Okay.

- MCLAUGHLIN: Culinary Institute. That's interesting.
- DONIN: Is that the answering machine?
- MCLAUGHLIN: That's the answering machine. That's in that room. I will show you afterwards. That's why I don't get into computers. I mean Dave's got everything. It's good that you selected this room because I think this is the only one that has a plug that's free. [Laughter]
- DONIN: So your mother is still living on the farm in Red Hook.
- MCLAUGHLIN: Yes. By herself.
- DONIN: And she is ninety-five?
- MCLAUGHLIN: She is ninety-five. July 3rd.
- DONIN: Phenomenal.
- MCLAUGHLIN: Phenomenal, but exhausting for everybody.
- DONIN: It must be worrying.
- MCLAUGHLIN: It is very worrying. In fact, there is a lady who does help her out and, as I told Matt, I said, "Don't call me on Wednesday. I am busy in the morning. I am busy in the evening." I said, "I will have to call mom", which I did last night. So, unless something terrible happened, you know...
- DONIN: How is her health?
- MCLAUGHLIN: My mother's health is probably better than yours and mine, but she always has a problem. Her social life is going to doctors.
- DONIN: Yeah. It's true when you get to be that age.
- MCLAUGHLIN: She says, "It's not fun. I can't do anything. I can't drive." I said, "Mom, you haven't driven for ten years." My father passed away when he was ninety-two and he drove her to all of her doctor appointments. He did the cooking. He did the driving. He did everything.

- DONIN: Unbelievable.
- MCLAUGHLIN: Oh, yes. It's different. Very different.
- DONIN: Longevity. You are going to be around forever.
- MCLAUGHLIN: I have a daughter. I said, "Just push me off a cliff." I do not want... No.
- DONIN: The problem is, when you get to that age, there is nobody left who is your contemporary.
- MCLAUGHLIN: No. My mother really...it's different.
- DONIN: And she is totally...all of her faculties are still there.
- MCLAUGHLIN: She is getting to the point... I said to Dave last night that she really doesn't even remember her conversation with Susan. She has been complaining about a lump on the back of her knee. Our daughter said, "Mom, I have...that is called a Baker's something or other. You put ice on it and keep you leg up as much as possible." Okay. She has now been to four doctors. She is going to her fifth one this Thursday. She has three hearing aides that she has never even worn. She gets... She says, "My eyes aren't as good as they used to be. My legs aren't as good as they used to be." I said, "Mom, mine aren't either." She's just focused. She should wake up every morning and just thank God for another lovely day, but there is always something wrong. It's sad.
- DONIN: It's very sad.
- MCLAUGHLIN: She really always loved to get all dressed up. Now it's a completely different kind of...much more spoiled. My father never really put his foot down. He tried to avoid any kind of fights or anything like that. She sleeps. She has always slept and slept and slept and slept. She has always had help and help and help. Quite different.
- MCLAUGHLIN: What does she think of your life?
- MCLAUGHLIN: Oh, she can't believe that I would make fifteen beds. She says, "Why don't you get help?" I said, "Because it is more work to get help than it is to do it yourself." And I said, "I can't have

people put things in the wrong place because it takes me longer to go and find them.” I did have help there a couple of years ago...a wonderful, wonderful gal who helped me resurrect the boat house. We just couldn’t sleep everybody. We had twenty-one people here. That’s why we had to clean that...this house is 1910, 1912.

DONIN: This house?

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah.

DONIN: Gee, you must have done a lot of work.

MCLAUGHLIN: No. We haven’t. That’s another huge long story. No, this house basically we bought complete. Mrs. Bowles died at ninety-seven, I think. Her husband died when he was about... This is a whole different thing and I have a book on this because I was interviewed kind of just on this house and this thing. I just thought of it now. We bought it from the Bowles. They had no children. So besides my own stuff, I’ve got all the Bowles stuff.

DONIN: Good grief!

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. [Laughter] I never knew anything... Let me tell you. I never knew anything...never even liked Arts and Crafts. So this is where, I must say, when I was up at the college... You see, we bought this house...we had to. We sold our Minnesota house, so you, at our age, you have to get your money back into real estate. Well, the only place I knew was Minary, so we wanted a place like Minary.

DONIN: Oh, I see.

MCLAUGHLIN: You know. Well, thank God we didn’t end up over there because the cows...you know the roads going east and west aren’t so great. So we were with Helen Bridges, who invited us to a party on Lake Sunapee. Dave had never been to Lake Sunapee. I never knew anything about Lake Sunapee. In his day, they didn’t ...cars... Everybody...if they went any place, they went to Smith or, you know, to a women’s college for dates and things. So he had never been down here. Anyway, Helen Bridges...I don’t know what her job description was, but anyway she was with the Medical School and she invited us to a party. We had maybe two trips over towards Minary looking for

something different...some home. We could find it. Gated communities... I said, "No way. We are not buying a house and then buying three lots. I said, "No way." So, on this boat at the party of Helen Bridges, this boat captain said, "There is one big track of land and it is the Bowles Estate." My ears perked up and we got in touch with Bob Reno and different Dartmouth people and the McLaughlys and we ended up... I came in and, when I came in, Mrs. Bowles had had two Irish ladies living here with her...a nurse and a cook. The trees were down across the road. I mean they lived here in this house for about three... I mean she had passed away I think three years before the whole thing was settled. We came along and I know other people had been in here and looked at it. In fact, Rem Kinney...because I had looked at another place up there that they bought. Anyway, we bought this and what we have done really...and this is much too long to go into. There used to be a huge walk-in refrigerator, because these people entertained a lot and a big ironing room. They even had the old pressing thing for dining room tables and things. I don't know. See that thing up there on the shelve that has little arrows?

DONIN: Yes. Yes.

MCLAUGHLIN: That's for the help.

DONIN: Of course.

MCLAUGHLIN: That's me. [Laughter] So we changed a lot of it...the funny little things, but really what we did was just bump out this side. This had been a kitchen in here, so you can see right there. We bumped out there and bumped out and turned the refrigerator and ironing room into the kitchen.

DONIN: Great. This room is perfect.

MCLAUGHLIN: So when the kids are all here, they have a TV there and they are in here with their popcorn and all that. It's very nice in that our children...you figure they didn't grow up in this house. We bought this when we were in Hanover and I could only get back here when... People say, "You must have spent a lot of time down here." No way, because we went to football games. Dave did some Sunday morning services. We came down here sometimes on a Sunday afternoon or a few times we came down on a Saturday night if we weren't busy up in Hanover. If

he went say on a trip that I didn't go, then I would come down here because I had had rooms filled with paperback books. You know, all these mystery stories. I had all the cleaning up of every room...everything of theirs.

DONIN: From the Bowles.

MCLAUGHLIN: You will see. I will show you later when you walk through. It's like living a little bit in a museum. As I said, you will see in the dining room there is the teepee.

DONIN: Amazing. Does this feel like home to you though?

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Other than I haven't read one book yet this summer. No.

DONIN: That is a measure of...

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. That's sad. So this is where...when I say traveling... Basically, in the Aspen days, I traveled with Dave. Near the end of it, I did do Berlin for one night. It was kind of jumping around in _____, but at one stage, when he started out with the Aspen thing, we would fly to Berlin for an important dinner. Important meaning how to keep that running. You know, very much like the college. It is very much the same.

DONIN: Right. Right. Let's get back to Hanover in the '50's. Now you said you drove up from UNC.

MCLAUGHLIN: In an ice storm. Betty and I.

DONIN: And there were no highways at that time.

MCLAUGHLIN: We did all those little back roads. I mean I can remember coming in and know Dave was waiting for me. The car was just a sheet of ice. We had ice hanging to the ground. You know just a long, long trip. But, you know, you kind of forget those things over the years. When I came up, it was fun. Winter Carnival was really fun with all those skiing events.

DONIN: And the ice sculptures.

MCLAUGHLIN: And the ice sculptures and walking around. It was really a treat. A lot of the people, a lot of the girls...different people, I had known them for years because we met as dates.

DONIN: Incredible.

MCLAUGHLIN: A lot of them, of course, you know, "Oh, I remember you." That's why so many people looked familiar.

DONIN: Right. Right.

MCLAUGHLIN: Even now, it is amazing in Dave's class, I mean any reason to get together. They all get together. Even this fishing trip is always with Dave's Dartmouth buddies.

DONIN: There is a picture of him crowning I think or helping crown...

MCLAUGHLIN: Mary Mathewson, I think.

DONIN: The Carnival queen...

MCLAUGHLIN: That was Mary Mathewson.

DONIN: That's great. That is great.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Because he was on Student Council. There were a lot of sports.

DONIN: Now in those days, it was traditional for women to get married right out of college.

MCLAUGHLIN: Exactly. I mean I knew I wanted four years. Then I always wanted to...well, Dave knew. After a little bit...now where were we? In Rockford, Illinois. That meant he was with Champion Papers. There was a kind of unique little house that had plants and gifts and a few items of clothes. I said, "When I don't have children around anymore, that's what I want to do. I want to do a little boutique and do this." He said, "That will be fine. That will be great." Well, do you know when that was? That was the year that he left Toro and went to Dartmouth, you know, to be the president. That was my first free year.

DONIN: Of course, because your son was graduating from Andover.

MCLAUGHLIN: He had graduated, you see, from Blake and had gone to Andover. That was my first year.

- DONIN: That was your year.
- MCLAUGHLIN: That was my only.... And then...
- DONIN: You still haven't had a chance to do that boutique.
- MCLAUGHLIN: No. No. I don't think at this point. No. No. But you know I had thought about doing it. I still like unique things, but they are harder to find. I still like different things. Trying to get me to go back to the '50's...
- DONIN: Do you remember meeting President Dickey [John Sloan Dickey '29] for instance?
- MCLAUGHLIN: Oh, sure.
- DONIN: When he was a student?
- MCLAUGHLIN: When Dave was a student?
- DONIN: Right.
- MCLAUGHLIN: Jeepers. That I would have to really...that sounds terrible. Yes! Yes. I am sure. We were over at the house. That's when I had been in the house before. I hadn't thought about it.
- DONIN: Really?
- MCLAUGHLIN: Oh, I can even... When you bring it up, I can even remember the room that was Dave's office. I don't know what it is now. But anyway, what Dave turned into his office was the Dickey's breakfast room. So I had been in the house, but that was so long ago. And you figure, when I moved out of the President's House, up to what? 17 Lyme Road...the Dickeys lived just down the hill, so I would see them all a lot, which was nice...which was very nice.
- DONIN: Okay. So we have talked about when he became a trustee and what your role was then. I mean, as a trustee...
- MCLAUGHLIN: It was really kind of just being with other spouses. Dave really set up "This is going on and we are having such and such faculty in. They will join us for dinner." So he was really doing

all that. If anybody wanted to go to Woodstock or whatever they wanted to do. I was kind of the tour leader.

DONIN: Now the year that he became a trustee was the year they voted for coeducation. Do you remember all that discussion and excitement of when that happened?

MCLAUGHLIN: Kind of. I mean I just know and I know how he voted. Yeah. At the time, it was a very big deal.

DONIN: A very big deal.

MCLAUGHLIN: A very big deal because... I think even... Well, I think it's good that they did do that, but there are still people who felt and still feel I think that, you know, "Why aren't there more choices?" You've got Smith who was re_____. You've got Vassar which, of course, went coed. I think for Dartmouth it was good. I think all of this is going to be very interesting in time because who knows how the giving will be.

DONIN: Right. Although...

MCLAUGHLIN: It's been doing very well.

DONIN: During his presidency, the giving was fantastic.

MCLAUGHLIN: Exactly. Exactly. But this is where, you see, I don't know. I just know from say graduation and what I see not... There's not at all the same trustee relationship at all any more because you've got... How do I say this? You know you have trustees that the spouse has no attachment to the college. Therefore, it is not a dual thing. A wife comes or a husband comes and you lose a whole thread really.

DONIN: Right. Right. Well, often the partner...the spouse...has loyalty to some other school.

MCLAUGHLIN: Exactly. Exactly. But then, you know, there are other compensations.

DONIN: So that changes the whole feeling of when the trustees are together.

MCLAUGHLIN: I don't know what they do now.

DONIN: Or what they do with the spouses. I mean you've got a mixture then of...

MCLAUGHLIN: Well I know even when we have been there, they are not even there. They are not even coming.

DONIN: I see.

MCLAUGHLIN: When you go in for breakfast on the morning of graduation...you know, they have it up at the Hanover Inn...

DONIN: There are no couples.

MCLAUGHLIN: No. They were usually packed. It would just be packed because you had husbands and wives, you know. It is very different. I mean I don't even...

DONIN: It's very different.

MCLAUGHLIN: Very different, but they have got some good trustees and that's very

important. We will see. That I don't know and I really don't... I am now reading more about what's going on in Hanover now and how some of these newer people who have moved to Hanover are trying to blockade areas and put obstacles in the way. And yet I see... I mean it is very interesting reading because at one stage there was a very definite town/gown and now Dartmouth, the college, has moved into the town. That was never before. There are certain things that... Everything changes.

DONIN: Well, there are a group of alums now that are in town that are...

End Tape 1, Side B
Begin Tape 2, Side A

DONIN: ...screaming about those people. It's okay for you to be _____. So how do you feel the stores are...

MCLAUGHLIN: There is where...what is it? P&C now...

DONIN: Gone.

MCLAUGHLIN: Gone. I was amaze. We went up there.. I think it is CVS that is supposed to move in there. CVS will move as it has in every...even in little old Red Hook and it puts all the other little...

DONIN: Eastman's Pharmacy will be out of business.

MCLAUGHLIN: That's sad.

DONIN: Very sad. Very sad.

MCLAUGHLIN: And then what do you get? You've got Gap. You know, the uniqueness has gone. It's gone.

DONIN: And there is a threat to that wonderful coffee shop, you know, the Dirt Cowboy Café'.

MCLAUGHLIN: Starbucks?

DONIN: Starbucks. They talk about it.

MCLAUGHLIN: That's what I heard, too. I've heard that, too. All right, so then Hanover becomes like every...

DONIN: Well...

MCLAUGHLIN: It still has the uniqueness of the college making the town. However, it's... I guess, you know, you call it progress.

DONIN: The Coop apparently, the bookstore, I mean they are all struggling...mightily.

MCLAUGHLIN: Mightily. Exactly. Then people say they go up to Norwich. The bookstore over there is just wonderful.

DONIN: It is wonderful, but it is too bad.

MCLAUGHLIN: But it's too bad. I think, as I said, somebody told me... I was up looking for sweatshirts for my daughter's two children and I said, "Where should I go for the good, heavy sweatshirts?" They said, "Go to the Dartmouth Book Store." I thought, "What are they doing selling sweatshirts and all that?" And men's shoes...something they've tried. They've tried.

- DONIN: They are trying to diversify a little.
- MCLAUGHLIN: I know, but it's, you know...
- DONIN: A struggle. A real struggle.
- MCLAUGHLIN: That's sad, I think.
- DONIN: Very sad.
- MCLAUGHLIN: These are old families that have been there.
- DONIN: And it really was the character of the town, I think. You know, I think it is good for the college to have a nice main street and obviously it is good for the town to have the college. When these shops are closing and they are becoming just, you know, Everywhere, America...
- MCLAUGHLIN: This is where...the same thing...Beston...I know the girl who runs it, who is a very talented lady. In fact, she did the flowers for Susan's wedding...the lady that runs the new furniture store in Hanover and who has a little part of it down here in New London.
- DONIN: C. Beston?
- MCLAUGHLIN: Yes. Yes. Yes. You know, I mean look at the recent people. Hanover has changed. Even this area, even little Lake Sunapee. There was an article in Sunday's paper how everybody is buying the small cottages or a couple of them knocking them down. Well, you can look out of our window. I will take you later. If you can see up there, look what's coming up. One house has gone up in the last week. I don't know if you can see it. I will show it to you. It has gone up in the time that our grandchildren have been here.
- DONIN: Good grief!
- MCLAUGHLIN: Those houses all, I mean, they have driveways that are like a mile long. It's like a golf course driving into them. Absolutely. I mean big, big dollars...really big dollars. But it's sad. You know, I don't mind if they nestle them in, but to have... It's like Aspen.

DONIN: It changes the whole feel of the place. Hanover must be so different from when you first visited here.

MCLAUGHLIN: You know, I thought about this. You see my mind jumps all around. Some of these questions...you made me think. When I first when to Hanover...do you realize I was probably... I went with my grandmother, who used to sit on the front porch and rock for about two months in the summertime and go up to the library. That's why she knows Ed Lathem and she knows all these different people. She used to know all these different people up there and I can remember looking out, crawling on my bed and looking out the window into the back yard of the Hanover Inn. I think, whether they played croquet or they were just... There was lawn back there.

DONIN: Sure. Right.

MCLAUGHLIN: You know and I thought, my god... I don't know how old I was, but I was still taking afternoon naps.

DONIN: That's incredible.

MCLAUGHLIN: Incredible.

DONIN: You really have a connection really from your childhood.

MCLAUGHLIN: Then, you see, even after Dave and I were married, there was a time back when they wanted Dave to come to Tuck School.

DONIN: Yes.

MCLAUGHLIN: And my grandmother was alive then. She said, "Don't you get involve in the faculty of that college." She said, "The English Department doesn't like the Math Department and the Math Department can't stand the History Department. Don't you get yourself involved." [Laughter] I think she would have turned over in her grave...

DONIN: If she knew.

MCLAUGHLIN: If she knew. Unbelievable. I think the other thing that I hadn't thought about, but you see, Uncle Jim having the three daughters and his tie to Hanover and then Dave becoming...me marrying somebody from Dartmouth, going to Dartmouth, and

then somebody who was as involved in the college as he was. Interesting, I think. I don't have...

DONIN: It's like it was predestined.

MCLAUGHLIN: It's funny. It's kind of funny, you know, the way that it goes.

DONIN: Incredible.

MCLAUGHLIN: Incredible. You don't think about those things until you are kind of...

DONIN: I guess we are going to move on a little bit here.

MCLAUGHLIN: Okay.

DONIN: When he was Chairman of the Board, he obviously had to work with John Kemeny. What was their relationship like when he was Chairman?

MCLAUGHLIN: I think he was very supportive of John. I think he really tried to help him a lot. I have fond memories of John Kemeny and, when I say this, I just think of him... Jean was very outgoing and all of that and John and I would sit by the fireplace and just visit very quietly. you know. Jean, you know, was greeting everybody and was Jean. He was very much more the quiet... I don't know really. I think he really appreciated...even when I say it, I think Dave has always been a team player and therefore you try to be helpful as much as possible. So I think that's the way it was. Jean was fun. She was a lot of fun. So I can remember being with them many times in their living room and then, when they kind of left, Jean brought over a file with all her remodeling expenses and her fabric things. She had kept that for me. In fact, I have that some place. I think I should return it to the college. God only knows...I think it got packed with everything else. [Laughter]

DONIN: Is it fair to say that she created a different role for the presidential wife?

MCLAUGHLIN: She wrote a book, which I truthfully have not read because it was different at Dartmouth. I thought, you know, in a way I just thought it was better not to read it because... I maybe read...and this is so long ago I couldn't even tell you anything

about it at this point. I think I read a few things and it was just...if you are a writer...like the newspaper. I don't know. I think she was faculty. Just again, it was a different background. It just depends on what your background is a little bit I think.

DONIN: Right.

MCLAUGHLIN: Being a faculty wife... Then they both... We all have different baggage. She loved her cat. She loved her raccoon. Children...she had two and, again, she had children living in the house...at least, you know, the son. He went to Dartmouth and Jenny went to Dartmouth.

DONIN: I think she transferred there from Yale.

MCLAUGHLIN: Exactly. Exactly. It's just...I think, again with the faculty, you know...when your husband is a faculty person, that's different than a businessman. If the next person is a doctor, they come in with other... You know...or a lawyer. They all have different...

DONIN: So who did you turn to to mentor you, really?

MCLAUGHLIN: It was really Chris Dickey. Betty Lathem was a good friend. I played tennis with her. In other words...Betty Heston. She came in. She has always been a friend. Still is. You know, what I said...I had, you know...I played tennis with a whole group of ladies. I worked up at the hospital when I could, which was kind of fun. I belonged to the Garden Club. So I had friends outside. If you said "faculty members" or who within the faculty, there were people...we would, you know, go to their house for dinner and do different things like that. Again, you are in a situation where I wouldn't... There was really no one other than...well, all the Dickeys. They would come over and go for a walk and you could talk with them and they could understand. They could understand, and so did Betty and Ed Lathem. This is where, if it was our anniversary or something, we would get together with the Dickeys and the Lathems and the Paganuccis. I mean it was kind of that kind of a thing. But you don't throw your troubles or your, you know...there was nobody that I would...that you could say that I didn't really feel like maybe doing a brunch...although those things were fun. If you like flowers and you like food and you like people, then it is all right.

I think most people just understood, like even my tennis friends. They understood when I couldn't be there.

DONIN: Sure. Sure.

MCLAUGHLIN: You know, if I was traveling or something else. But you get caught kind of.

DONIN: Your life was really dictated by the needs of the college.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

DONIN: Did you find it lonely?

MCLAUGHLIN: I think when I say this and I am finding it even more so now because Dave's very, very busy with the Red Cross, that I am alone now more than... At least before, we were on the same location. Now he can be here. He is doing his book up in Hanover. He goes to Washington for the Red Cross. He goes out to Aspen. He is still doing things for the Aspen Institute, so I am much more alone now than I was then and I don't have... I'm not here... How do I say it? I was here to get the house ready for the children and for the Upper Valley Dartmouth thing and kind of open it up and get it going. Now I will leave and I will go back to Annapolis. I have some neighbor friends down there; but when he was doing the Aspen thing, we were traveling a lot, so I don't have the core of friends like I did when I was in Hanover. So I have lost... Okay. I don't have a group that I play tennis with anymore. So, you know, and as couples, we see people in Washington more on business and _____. So I see still a lot of people, but they are not close friends.

DONIN: Right. So you were actually more grounded when you were in Hanover.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Yeah. And had more friends.

DONIN: Right.

MCLAUGHLIN: You know, at least people would call to invite you to dinner or call to play tennis or, you know, "Let's get together for this or that." Now, when I go to Annapolis, Dave's brother is down there and his wife and I have a son that lives over in Easton that running Dave's little business. So I am really alone more now

than I ever was before; but, when I say this, when you have a whole bunch of children who visit here, that's also a big void. Now they have all gone and now I will get to go back to Annapolis and pick that house up out of the dust. [Laughter] And the bugs.

DONIN: And the bugs. Right. Right. Did you feel unprepared to become first lady? I mean did you understand what your role was going to be?

MCLAUGHLIN: I don't know if anybody ever told me what my role was going to be. I think, very truthfully, I think it's very much like having...when Dave' was president of Toro. You know, this is...at that point, you know, in business you have conventions. You know, he is the big boss and blah, blah, blah. You travel to different... You figure we had our choice of playing golf any place in the world, really. We don't play golf. We've never had time to play golf.

DONIN: Right.

MCLAUGHLIN: So coming into the Dartmouth thing, I think it was...very truthfully, when I think...I mean it was hard to give up my pretty house, to be perfectly honest with you, and good friends and a nice, nice life. A very nice life. That was hard to give up and, yet, I think my attitude and what I have told people is, "How many women ever have really their dream house?" I was lucky enough to have a gorgeous house on water. So I felt very lucky to have had that. Some people never have it. So I thought "fine". Then, again, there were nice, nice people in the Dartmouth family...lots of nice people. It was fun over the years to see... You go to Chicago and you see pretty much the same group. You go to San Francisco and you see some more new ones, you know. But it was fun. They were kind of friends. In the Aspen world, it was much more dignitaries and a lot of famous people. So they are just people that you meet, but they are not good friends. You don't see them over and over and over again, although Aspen people I did see summer after summer. But still, that's...

DONIN: Did you feel that you had an agenda or anything that you wanted to accomplish?

MCLAUGHLIN: No. I can't. You just always try to leave it a better place than you found it, truthfully. This is where I felt that I had left the house in very, very good shape. Then, I think, since that time, Sheeba told me I think they had a big water or some sort of explosion there or something and a lot of things, you know, did get damaged. Anyway, I know at least I left it better than I found it.

DONIN: You can't hope for more than that.

MCLAUGHLIN: No.

DONIN: Do you remember...the night when you actually found out that he was going to...that he had been asked to be president, do you remember that?

MCLAUGHLIN: No. I really don't. It was one of these things that I think and I maybe should have asked Dave...I can't even remember who else was being considered. If you said, "Name three other people that were being considered", I would be very hard pressed. I don't know who they were looking at. I really don't. I haven't thought about it for so long and I know...I can remember very vividly when he was asked to be a trustee. You see I remember exactly where I was...right in our kitchen area in our Long Lake house. I remember that and then I could because I can then remember what a problem it was going to be to tell David Lilly. Okay, because he had expected to be a trustee. You see, that I can remember very clearly; but when you ask me about when David was elected to be the president, I don't even remember.

DONIN: Did he have a hard time making up his mind? I know you said he spoke to Mr. Dickey [John Sloan Dickey '29], but did he have a hard time?

MCLAUGHLIN: I don't know. I really don't know. I think it was a struggle leaving Toro at the time because, again, you like to leave when things are always good. You know, I just know that bothered him.

DONIN: But the pull was too strong.

MCLAUGHLIN: I think when he...I told you when John had said, "She really needs you now." So I think that Dave felt that the college really

had given him so many opportunities that he owed it to them. I really think that's how he felt, to be perfectly honest with you. Yes, he put in a lot of time there. But when you figure, ever since he went to the college, we returned every year, even when we were in the Air Force and living in Montana. Even when we had little babies, we always returned for all of the different things at Dartmouth. He felt that he really owed it, that he had a good life and he had done well and he really figured that he owed it to the college to do that. But then, as I think he would have told you, too, he felt that when he decided to step down, he said, "You know, you just kind of lose chips every year." When I think of everything he did do, I mean I think of even the town/gown, the hospital and all of the problems up there. I can remember him saying, "You watch me. I will move that hospital." He said, "That's the only area left that the college...and the town is not going to let the hospital expand anymore." It was an impossible situation. I think Dave said, "Okay. Fine."

DONIN: He gives a lot of credit to Paul Paganucci [Paul Paganucci '53].

MCLAUGHLIN: Absolutely. Absolutely. Paul Paganucci. The stories...I mean I see him and I just smile. You know, he was smart, very smart. He is the one, I think, who came up with the idea, really. They were a very good team...a very good team.

DONIN: Had they ever worked together before?

MCLAUGHLIN: No. In fact, I know that we always saw them. I think probably in their Dartmouth years, they would have had a connection. Paul...you would know more about that than I would. He started by buying all the freshmen's furniture. [Laughter] So their paths would have crossed at the college during their young years.

DONIN: Right. Right.

MCLAUGHLIN: But then, see, Dave did see Paul when he was with Grace. Then I can't remember the timing.

DONIN: Well, they certainly became a great team when he took him on during his presidency.

MCLAUGHLIN: Oh, yeah.

DONIN: They did a lot together.

- MCLAUGHLIN: He was just such a fine, fine person. We still see Marilyn.
- DONIN: Did he talk about his concerns over being, you know, not an academic when he was considering taking the presidency?
- MCLAUGHLIN: No. I don't think he even thought about that. No, because he said was, "They don't need a faculty. They don't need that. They need somebody who can raise money and they need somebody who can get things organized." There are some things that are just built into an academic.
- DONIN: Did you sense he was surprised at the faculty's sort of negative response...that they gave him a hard time?
- MCLAUGHLIN: I don't know. I don't know because, you see, I didn't go to those meetings. I went to some near the end or as Dave would say, "Come on and listen." There were some of them who were...I could name about three I think. I don't know. He really didn't dwell on that. I mean I think it was... What I am saying is that was so kind of back in my memory that I don't even think about it that much.
- DONIN: It must have been painful though to watch those attacks on him.
- MCLAUGHLIN: Yes. It was in the newspaper or a couple of the faculty was not nice at all. I used to tell somebody that if they walked in front of my car, I would have to think twice. [Laughter]
- DONIN: I am sure.
- MCLAUGHLIN: Or if I met them in the Coop, I would surely not agree to say "hello" to them. I can't say too much because this is where... A cousin of mine said, "Oh, I am going on the Dartmouth trip and there is going to be a Dartmouth professor." I said, "Oh, who?" And she said the name and I said, "Oh, my god. Don't even mention...don't even say that you are related. Don't say anything." [Laughter] Terrible. I don't want to get too excited about it. There are things that I didn't think about until I looked at this. Then I started thinking in the three that I can think of...faculty members...who I thought were really very nice. I went to their house for dinner. I thought I was very nice offering oriental rugs for the faculty house to help. You know this is where they wanted their own dining place and doing that. I don't

know where that rug is. It could be anyplace as far as I know. Now Marcia Colligan hopefully would have gotten it back, but I mean there are things like that that you thought... I don't mean it as bribery, but I thought, hey, they are apt to roll it up in the attic at the president's house. Why not give it to the faculty lounge to make it look nice and do this and that. So you get a kick in the teeth.

DONIN: A nice gesture is turned against you.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. I mean these are funny people. But those are things that I think are kind of better to just forget about.

DONIN: Right. Right.

MCLAUGHLIN: There are so many other wonderful things to think about such as...did Dave tell you the story about the bats in the President's House?

DONIN: The bats?

MCLAUGHLIN: The bats.

DONIN: No. He may have, but I didn't hear it.

MCLAUGHLIN: Anyway, it's not important in the historical thing, but I think this is...

DONIN: Well, it was life in the President's House.

MCLAUGHLIN: It was life in the President's House. Stepping into our bathroom, there is a bat in the shower area. So, you know, Dave is scared to death of bats and I am not fond of them at all. The end of the story is that he calls the campus police. The campus police...one very small man, one extremely large man...they come in and they said, "We are police. We don't do bats." They came in with a big blanket. They couldn't have been nicer. They got the bat. Got it out. Then Dave, who would always exercise or play tennis early in the morning, goes down to Leverone. He had a key that he could get into Leverone to play tennis with whoever early, early in the morning and who is down there singing in Leverone but the heavy-set policeman. He had a beautiful voice. He goes in there to practice his singing.
[Laughter]

DONIN: That's wonderful.

MCLAUGHLIN: So I mean there is some fun. There are a lot of really fun stories. The other one that I did think of, which is just almost an ending to the whole thing is one day when Dave was out on probably a short trip either raising money or speaking to alumni. I had gotten up very early and went out to the garden that had been tended to for year. You wouldn't even know about it or you wouldn't have seen it because it was taken out after I left. They plowed the whole garden under. It had been Mrs. Dickey's love, plus it had been the President's garden for years. It was a whole big green plot. They said, "No. Too much work." Well, it was work. But anyway, I was out there crawling around and doing something and some people pulled up in a car and wanted to know where somebody was. Here I am looking just grubby and they were fascinated why I knew so much about the college. [Laughter] That was fun. For me, that was fun.

DONIN: Did you tell them who you were?

MCLAUGHLIN: No. No. [Laughter] No, because they... "Do you know where this is and where can I find that?" "How do you know so much?" I don't know. I might have, but I mean I think they were surprised.

DONIN: They probably thought you were the gardener.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. They were just walking by. [Laughter]

DONIN: So where is this garden that was there?

MCLAUGHLIN: Right across from the Catholic Church.

DONIN: Around the corner there?

MCLAUGHLIN: The President's House, the fraternity across the street, the second garden....

DONIN: Oh, that plot of land.

MCLAUGHLIN: That whole big plot of land was all the gardens.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

MCLAUGHLIN: That was all the gardens. It's now just a field. I don't know what they do with it. I don't know what they do with it. I think they just mow it. But it was a lot of work and that's where Doug, who I told you I inherited from the Dickeys... I mean he would putsy out in the garden, picking tomatoes and you know doing the asparagus and planting things. He loved it. Well, for the Dickeys, that's what he did. He did the gardening and then, through the Kemenys, he did...I don't know. He did whatever he wanted to do, which was really take care of the plants in the sunroom. He would water the plants and do that. When I came along, I demanded more and he then decided...after a couple of years, he decided it was probably time to retire, which is really was.

DONIN: Right. Right.

MCLAUGHLIN: Reg was just delightful, but even the drive down... She lived beyond Thetford. Vergennes or something like that. I mean that's a long drive and she had been with the Dickeys, too. You see they kept all these same people for years and years.

DONIN: They almost came with the house.

MCLAUGHLIN: Exactly. Exactly.

DONIN: So it was time to retire anyway.

MCLAUGHLIN: For Reg. Golly, you couldn't ask someone her age to... She was just nice. I would have her...I don't even know what I had her do, truthfully. I mean she could help me set the table and she would do what she could. She was a very nice person. She would do whatever.... you know, clean silver. That's what I would have her do...clean silver.

DONIN: She was very devoted.

MCLAUGHLIN: She was very devoted. Yeah. And she adored the Dickeys and we got along just fine. But it was at the stage where you couldn't ask her to mop the floor or pull a vacuum cleaner. No. So that's when I thought I would have to get somebody to help clean.

End Tape 2, Side A

Begin Tape 2, Side B

MCLAUGHLIN: ...so many friends who came. This was all the trustees. This is a lot of the town people. They would always trip over his name, but who was such a good friend. Mary and Lou Bressett. You see, David worked there. These are... He had worked as a student besides, you know. These people...it was just... I mean that's what I remember. I remember all the people again...nice people. You see, even when I think of faculty, too, I think...now I am jumping because I couldn't think of his name...Don Pease and his wife. There are a lot who are really, I think, sincere when they welcome you. Then there are several of them that Dave used to go off fishing with. There were more good than there were bad, but the bad were loud.

DONIN: They would give him a hard time and they were loud.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. [Laughter]

DONIN: That's right. Now did you have to get...we talked about town/gown relations a little bit... Did you have to play a role in this sort of town/gown relations doing anything that is town related?

MCLAUGHLIN: I belonged to the Garden Club and the Library and things like that.

DONIN: But you did that...

MCLAUGHLIN: And the hospital. But I did that...I mean I did that for me. The college didn't say "Join this or do that." When I said I really enjoyed, through the Garden Club, they needed volunteers to go up to the hospital. That gave me a great deal of pleasure. That I did because I wanted to do it. But this is where it's so different now. You see because this is like...Susan had worked at the college in June. Faculty who had worked at the college, so they have go much more of the academic kind of thing. I really think it's interesting... I find it very interesting how Jim has let Susan have such an integral part. That's very interesting to me.

DONIN: Well, it's a more sort of modern model.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yes, and she is good. She is good. She is excellent and they are good friends. Again, this is where, when we see them... I

mean I bumped into her on the street this year and I wasn't quite sure. I thought I am tired...am I seeing correctly. It was a Sunday and I was up there with two grandchildren and she had run to do some errand. It was during that graduation week and she looked tired. She looked really tired. I thought, "Oh, god. I know just how you feel." She said, "I wasn't sure it was you."

DONIN: Aren't there certain times of the year where it is really, really hectic?

MCLAUGHLIN: Graduation. It's trustees and graduation.

DONIN: And it's absolutely non-stop.

MCLAUGHLIN: It is non-stop. But, when I say that to you, then when I think of what I did in Aspen, that was non-stop breakfast, lunch and dinner everyday. That's why I would do that for two or three weeks and then I would come back here or I would go to Annapolis, you know. But that was more, I felt, more like kind of on parade. People would say, "Why don't you live out here? Why aren't you out here more?" and this and that. That was even, in some ways, more so than Dartmouth.

DONIN: Wow. More sort of public exposure all of the time.

MCLAUGHLIN: Exactly. As I said, it was...I'm not so great at breakfast, but lunch and dinner. I mean every day. Every day! Now it wasn't in my house, although the cocktails and all of that were...we had a trustee house there. But the constancy...I mean that, in many ways... Now Dave would be out there all summer long doing that. I mean that was a lot of people and social life. I mean that was also very tiring. That's why I think...when I say this...I don't mind being alone a little bit.

DONIN: I can imagine.

MCLAUGHLIN: It was just too much.

DONIN: You've had the life of a public person non-stop.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. But at least now, I can call my own shots a little bit, which I am going to do more and more. I will do some things, but I am not going to do what I don't want to do.

DONIN: Speaking of that, what was your relationship with the staff in the President's Office?

MCLAUGHLIN: Good.

DONIN: How closely did you have to work with them? Pretty closely?

MCLAUGHLIN: Pretty closely. Yeah. Mona [Mona Chamberlain] and Jan. They were all nice and they were very, very helpful. But, as I said, this is different from having I think like a personal secretary. I didn't have any of that.

DONIN: Right. No. No. So you had to do all the planning.

MCLAUGHLIN: So this is how I did it. I got a list of the people who were coming and then Dave would sometimes...most of the time...certain people he wanted to be seated next to certain people.

DONIN: So you were doing that.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Now they have got other people who do it. So, as I said, just before a party, so and so is not going to come or the faculty is know for...somebody is a vegetarian, you know, or somebody is left-handed.

DONIN: That was all you.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. But I mean Mona was very helpful at at least giving me clues.

DONIN: So that is very different.

MCLAUGHLIN: It's different. Yeah. This way I think they don't even have to be around. I mean Susan doesn't have to be in her house cleaning or doing anything. Somebody is doing all that so you can be out and about. It's a little different.

DONIN: Right. Did you ever have to do any public speaking yourself as the wife?

MCLAUGHLIN: Only once that I remember and they wanted me to introduce Dave.

DONIN: Oh...

MCLAUGHLIN: It was...it had to be a big trustee meeting. Where was it? I can't even tell you. I think I was in Alumni Hall. Yes. I was in Alumni Hall, I think.

DONIN: But that wasn't a regular part of your role.

MCLAUGHLIN: No. And it was really kind of fun because I made it kind of funny, you know, and fun. It was short. Sort and nice.

DONIN: Especially if you felt that you were among friends and it sounds like you were when you were with the trustees.

MCLAUGHLIN: Exactly. That's right. Trustees and....yes. Absolutely.

DONIN: That's nice. Did you feel a shift in your relationship with the board and with the trustees and their spouses once you became the first lady?

MCLAUGHLIN: No. Not at all.

DONIN: Because certainly his relationship became very different with the board.

MCLAUGHLIN: I guess. I didn't feel anything differently because the people you really like, it doesn't change. The only thing is that there was maybe one oddball or something like that. She was very harmless and was still nice. Nothing changed. For me, it didn't change.

DONIN: Right. Right. And...

MCLAUGHLIN: You know, I think some people...I would say it would be more, possibly classmates of Dave or some people, some people would say, "Oh, don't you just love living in this big house?" Well, I had a big house. I had a beautiful house before, so it wasn't anything that different. Do you know what I am saying? I had a big white Colonial house on water. So it wasn't anything... I never had lived on, you know, Fraternity Row. I never had neighbors like that. [Laughter] It was kind of nice to walk along and say "Hi" or "Come pick up your beer cans, Buddy." You know [Laughter] It wasn't that bad. I think that sometimes it is very discouraging to see, when you are trying to clean up an act, and see that, you know, they... That I think

was discouraging. A lot of them really worked hard. I can tell you some stories on the fraternities such as my son's. I said, "Oh. The whole thing just is so awful." He said, "Well, Mom, we hosed it down and it is clean." They had beautiful houses...to take a hose and hose it down.

DONIN: Beautiful houses, yeah.

MCLAUGHLIN: What do you expect a group of boys who don't have vacuum cleaners? How do you expect.. In Dave's day, they had people who would come in and clean. If you put twenty boys or whatever and no vacuum cleaners over what they had, you can't expect to have...

DONIN: Did he join the same fraternity that your husband did?

MCLAUGHLIN: Nor his brother. No. Everybody goes their separate way. Psi U and Phi Delta. Bill was Psi U and Jay was Phi Delta (?).

DONIN: Did your boys...

MCLAUGHLIN: And Dave was Beta.

DONIN: He was Beta. Did your boys resist your husband's efforts to change the role of the fraternities?

MCLAUGHLIN: Oh, they still get into some talks. Yes. They still get into some talks.

DONIN: I imagine.

MCLAUGHLIN: Oh, yeah. And my youngest son, there is some very...not towards Dave...more toward the college now.

DONIN: Well, it is an on-going struggle. I mean they haven't resolved it.

MCLAUGHLIN: No.

DONIN: It's an on-going struggle.

MCLAUGHLIN: And there are certain people that are very resentful.

DONIN: I am sure. It is an issue among the alums.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

DONIN: It's an issue amount the current students.

MCLAUGHLIN: I know. I know. I think Dave said it the other day. I almost fell off the chair. He said he really... I don't know how he said it. He just regrets that he maybe didn't close down the fraternities. With that, I almost fell off the chair. [Laughter] I said, "Oh. I never heard that before." So I mean things do pop up every once in a while. [Interruption] As I said, my experiences were really all very positive. When my next door neighbor threw beer cans over the wall, I would tell him to get over there and pick them up.

DONIN: Susan Wright talked a lot about the noise being a problem. Was that a problem for you?

MCLAUGHLIN: I don't recall the noise that much. Now maybe they have just become louder. Maybe it has become more rowdy. I can tell you that, after we left, you know after we left and a year or two later, walking that. I said, "Oh, my god. It is worse than it ever was before." It got worse and worse and worse. So I said...

DONIN: The houses are in such a state of disrepair. That's the sad part.

MCLAUGHLIN: It's sad, but the thing is too that I call tell you from the Beta House, lot of money...and I call tell you from the Phi Delta House and Psi U, big money has been put in there and I can even remember going over there when my son, Bill, was the...I don't even know what you call it, but he was in charge of the house. He was so proud of all the cleaning up and doing all these wonderful things. We went in there when there was a party and I said, "Bill, how can you stand having people standing on our couches? You spent..." He said, "Oh, Mom, you can't be like that." In other words, they got things going and looking nice and other people would come in and trash it and that didn't seem to bother them. I just don't understand that, you know. I don't understand in bringing up our children. You don't walk on furniture. That's pretty basic. [Laughter] You know, I just don't understand that and I don't understand kids that do that. Do you know what I am saying? They must...they are just kind of...maybe it's the freedom.

DONIN: That's part of the issue I think about fraternities is that it seems to bring out behavior in these students that normally they would not...

MCLAUGHLIN: Hopefully. I don't know. I really don't know what the answer is. I don't know. I haven't given it much thought lately either. But at one stage there was a pride. I don't know. I don't know. We are not on tape now, are we?

DONIN: Yes, we are on tape.

MCLAUGHLIN: I'm not going to go on. This was just within family that I was going to say...that...

DONIN: Say it in a way that is discrete.

MCLAUGHLIN: This is where I think, as families go, all the neatness and all of that isn't quite as important as sitting down and reading a book. I am judging from my own family. They spend really good quality time sitting and reading with their kids and they don't care if the dog hair is floating from room to room. You know, if the laundry is a week overdue...it doesn't really matter. They would go out and take hikes with the kids. It's not really very important. You see, I grew up where...I think ever since I was very young, if I was going to have a party, I cleaned up so things would look nicely. Therefore, it is probably one of my hang-ups in that I want things...I can't stand... As I look here, see everybody had been through the books. I mean I really...and I have my own clutter. That is going to take me some time just to...because when you have a house full of people, you can't keep up with everything. With the life that we really had, you have to stay on top of everything.

DONIN: Sure.

MCLAUGHLIN: I don't normally have a week to catch up; but, in these younger families, they do...you know, they will go on picnics and do hikes. They will sit and read. You know, whereas I probably had a dust cloth and a vacuum in my hand.

DONIN: I think that is a generational thing. It's a generational thing.

- MCLAUGHLIN: It's fascinating when some of these girls are going to have roommates. What I see in some of these...how they even keep their own room at home. I can tell you, mine....
- DONIN: It's a good thing they do those profiles of the roommates before they come in so that you can say, "Am I messy?", "Am I clean?", "Do I go to bed early?"
- MCLAUGHLIN: I would love to see that. This is where Kelly...I said, "I have never seen one of those." He said, "I've never seen one." It would be fun to see that, I think. [Laughter] It would be very interesting. No. We have more important topics.
- DONIN: Okay, let's see here. If you had to chose an audience that you were the hostess for or a group of people, who was your favorite group of people to host when you were in the President's House? Was it students? Was it alums? Was it trustees?
- MCLAUGHLIN: Again, it was fun when we had students over, but it was much more of a...and we included students lots of times with the trustees, so it's not a separate issue. I can't...when I say this, because maybe I really haven't thought about it...I haven't... There was never a time that I was unhappy entertaining any group. I think sometimes for me the harder ones were the very, very, very wealthy people. Yet, they were fun and they have ended up...I even still see the wives. You felt like you had to, you know, do something a little bit more special.
- DONIN: Sure. Well, there was a lot at stake when you were entertaining them.
- MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, and I think.... but I think we always mixed people because it was always like Ed and Betty [Edward & Betty Lathem] were always included with the Montgomerys, so they were good friends. They were really good friends. I still see Carl, you know. I think in many ways that's why Dave has always been able to raise money, whether it was for Dartmouth or it was for the Red Cross. The people...it's different, but not really. I mean Dartmouth was... I would say, "How can you always go with the hat in your hand, always begging money? How do you know how much to ask people for?" He said, "Well, they would be insulted if I didn't ask them for a large sum." He said, "I know what they can do." He said, "It would be an insult. You always ask people for..."

- DONIN: More than they probably expect.
- MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah.
- DONIN: Oh, that's interesting.
- MCLAUGHLIN: Interesting. I mean this is...he said, "They would be insulted." This is even now for the Crown Program in Aspen. He has raised lots of money. This is where...it is the rapport that you have with those people that can afford some of these things in life, whether it's for the college or the Aspen Institute or the Red Cross.
- DONIN: It's a real skill.
- MCLAUGHLIN: It is a skill, but this is like...and I don't want to be talking out of turn...this is where, when Bill our oldest was here for his 25th reunion and had a group in here at the house, one of his friends came up with a big sum of money for the Red Cross. It goes on all different ways.
- DONIN: If you had to chose the most difficult issue that your husband dealt with that you felt reverberations from, what would it be? Let me just throw a couple out at you.
- MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah and let me see how I react.
- DONIN: For instance, his decision to have the Army ROTC come back on campus, even though the faculty had voted against it.
- MCLAUGHLIN: I think he was right. You see, that would not bother me. Do you know what I am saying? The will of the faculty... It's hard because it's just that I think this is where...it's like people now who are against the war. It's a difference of opinion.
- DONIN: I guess what I am interested in though is was that your first experience of realizing the conflict that existed between the presidency and the faculty?
- MCLAUGHLIN: Probably. Probably. But I think, you know, there was... You can get into tenure, too. I mean this is where I had visited with some faculty and have, you know, since that day when we have been around. Really, a lot of them don't need it. Do you know

what I am saying? If you are good enough at something, you don't need that cushion. It's the ones who aren't that good in many ways. But, again, I am not married to a faculty person. I don't know how I would feel if I had a husband that was a math teacher and had been at the... You know I've never been in that position, so it is hard for me. I just think you have to have from your reading of everything that you can get your hands on, you have to have an opinion. Just because some of the faculty didn't want it... I think this is where...it's too foggy in my mind. But this is where certain classes...they would be unable to teach, so they would require other faculty to come in and teach some of the subjects. I think that was, you know, the choices that the Dartmouth students have. This is where there is some faculty who don't want to give up...they teach their thing and that's all they are going to teach. It's pretty narrow, I think.

DONIN: Right.

MCLAUGHLIN: But again, I come from...I just see a different side of it.

DONIN: Sure. Sure. Well, in that respect...

MCLAUGHLIN: If somebody gave me... This is where now I think going up to Norwich is not that big a deal. Isn't that what they do now?

DONIN: Yes.

MCLAUGHLIN: So...and I think it's a wonderful program. I think a lot of these kids could stand some military discipline.

DONIN: And the point that your husband made repeatedly was that it's important that the people who are going to run the military in this country do need some liberal arts background.

MCLAUGHLIN: Absolutely. Absolutely. See now we need the heads of the military in Washington and, my god, they have to. I agree. I just think ROTC, AFROTC (?), all of those things... Again, the faculty makes a big deal of it.

DONIN: But that's one of the decisions he said he used up a lot of his chips...

MCLAUGHLIN: His chips. That's right.

- DONIN: ...on that issue and that was early on.
- MCLAUGHLIN: Early on. They said that you lose chips with every big decision. This is when he decided. He said, "I've used them all. Time to go. I can't do any more."
- DONIN: Right. Right. He reached that decision after the shanty incident.
- MCLAUGHLIN: Yes. Well, I think...I don't know. The timing...but that was another very unpleasant, very unpleasant ... But I think...and the Dartmouth Night. I'm sure it hurt him a lot more than... It just made me probably mad.
- DONIN: Right. Right.
- MCLAUGHLIN: I don't mean to... It's just that a lot of that kind of is just out of my thoughts and memories. You really just focus on the nice things. He might focus on some of the things because they affected him more than they did me.
- DONIN: Sure. Sure. The Dartmouth Review ... bad influence.
- MCLAUGHLIN: Bad influence. Those are the people...The Dartmouth Review...I can remember having them all over for coffee and cake or something like that. Again, they were very nice and I think I mentioned this before. You thought that maybe they would change their tune and be a little different, but you also think of some of the faculty that were behind them.
- DONIN: They were very well supported financially.
- MCLAUGHLIN: Very well supported. Exactly. Then I think of the person who...I am not even going to mention their name, but you will know who I am thinking of who is now in Washington writing books and all that. He was...plus a few others. And they were smart people.
- DONIN: They are very smart.
- MCLAUGHLIN: They are very smart.
- DONIN: But they were a one-issue paper.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I know, but that carried a lot of weight. I think, too...I can in some ways remember being a freshman in college. You know, you are so bright and you just...you are so bright. I think I was so smart when I was a freshman or sophomore maybe and then year after year after year, I think you get fooled and more dumb, dumb, dumb. You know, you are so positive that you are right. Thank God we all have different ideas, but there are nice ways. But, you see, if you can sensationalize... You see it. All you have to do is turn the news on.

DONIN: That's true.

MCLAUGHLIN: So you can't change the world.

DONIN: There has been a lot written about his legacy and I would like to hear your assessment of what you think his legacy was to the college.

MCLAUGHLIN: I haven't really... I mean I think of...

DONIN: There's a lot.

MCLAUGHLIN: There's a lot really. There are a lot of things that I am very proud of.

DONIN: We have touched on the hospital.

MCLAUGHLIN: The hospital. I mean that is magnificent. Now here they are even adding on to that. It is the thing that kept this community, that community, your community going. I mean the timing...everything couldn't have been better. It was the only game in town, you know. Even getting all the equipment. I mean it is first class. It is another draw for the retiring community.

DONIN: The whole Upper Valley.

MCLAUGHLIN: The whole Upper Valley. So the hospital is very important. I think all the new dorms. But still, now I drive and there is even more and more and more going on. I ran into the new tennis center, but I mean.... Dave...even the Hood and the gym. I know he put his two cents in in a few things on that with Ed Lathem. It certainly turned...I mean that was a very difficult little spot to go in. I think a lot of it...I must say on my husband's

part...even in doing this kitchen down here or doing... His father was an architect and I think there is some of that that has rubbed off, you know, in the space and planning and things like that. But what's going on now is, I think, just amazing. I think he did an awful lot in the time he was there.

DONIN: We touched on the endowment. Of course, he really filled the coffers.

MCLAUGHLIN: But...I know I said this and they kind of look at me askance... Fill the coffers and, like everybody, when the coffers are full, people spend and spend and spend. So I said, "I don't think it's so bad that they are asked to tighten their belts a little bit." I really feel that way because I think the way things have been done are very extravagant for a college.

DONIN: Right. Right.

MCLAUGHLIN: And then where tuition is going. It is shocking. So I think you know, again, I think it is just like you do within a family. You know, I don't think it is healthy to...I think you had better save for a rainy day.

DONIN: Right. Right.

MCLAUGHLIN: I don't know. I think I am probably not...I don't know. It is just hard when you know somebody worked so hard and, as I said, not that...but I just know that I looked at every expenditure...not for the college, but within the house...and just...

End Tape 2, Side B
Begin Tape 3, Side A

DONIN: So you had a budget for this...

MCLAUGHLIN: I guess. You know, but I never... You know the Dartmouth Dining Association...that would go to Dave's office. I saw some of them. I don't even recall seeing a lot of the bills. But I still ran it like I would run my own home.

DONIN: Sure.

MCLAUGHLIN: Which I don't know...right or wrong. I don't know.

- DONIN: If you had a favorite part about being first lady, what would you say it was?
- MCLAUGHLIN: Jeepers. I don't really know. I really don't know. It's nice to be recognized I suppose, but in a way... When I would tell you that I would to over to Norwich to get my hair done so that I could at least have a little bit of peace instead of running into all my friends or I got a parking ticket because... I mean to walk through the main street in Hanover, I would say, "I'm going to get another parking ticket." [Laughter] You know everybody would understand, but you see, you would go and, if you are really thinking about something, when you stop and visit with somebody, it kind of breaks your...whether I was looking for big balloons or something to decorate the table or whatever. It kind of breaks your thought. No, but you know this is where you could almost get killed by kindness.
- DONIN: Yeah. Yeah. You couldn't walk down the street without being recognized.
- MCLAUGHLIN: No. And a lot of fun people or a student or whatever. That part... I think...I can't say what was really, you know, the most...nothing. Do you know what I am saying? It kind of all blends together.
- DONIN: And the same question that I asked about your husband. What do you feel your legacy was to the college?
- MCLAUGHLIN: I don't know. I really don't know.
- DONIN: I mean leaving the house in better shape, you said.
- MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. But then that casts a spell towards somebody else. Do you know what I am saying? All I am saying is that we are just all different. Even our hours are different, like Dave is up so early and I am busy. The Kemenys lived a completely different type of life.
- DONIN: They were night owls more than morning people.
- MCLAUGHLIN: Exactly. It's hard. There are things that are, you know, better left unsaid.

DONIN: Right. Okay. When you left, did you have advice for Mrs. Freedman?

MCLAUGHLIN: I basically took... We had them for lunch, dinner and I took her all through the house. She just was very kind of "Oh, this is wonderful." But she wanted to teach. You see, she is a teacher. She never really asked for any kind of help. She was going to do it... He had been president of a school, so I really didn't need to tell her. Now the person who...Anna Pytte. You see, they are our good friends. When she was going on, she's the one who asked me. She wanted to do very much... She really liked it. She liked it I think. She kind of missed...I want to see her in Hanover. She would ask me questions of what it was like because she was going on. But Sheeba had already been a presidential wife.

DONIN: A presidential wife. Right.

MCLAUGHLIN: So she had her own style. I think a lot of it is just in your personality, you know, because each one is quite different and really I think you know if you compared me to Mrs. Dickey, that's a tremendous honor for me. But she was much more the motherly type. She wasn't out to write books. She kept John going and took care of her children and liked to cook and liked to garden. We had fun times, good times. So it was much more...I guess I would be more like she was.

DONIN: Now when you moved up to Lyme Road, how was it to be there after...

MCLAUGHLIN: Fine.

DONIN: Was it a relief to be there or...?

MCLAUGHLIN: Truthfully, when I moved to Lyme Road...what did I do there? Oh, I moved so the Freedmans could get in as soon as possible and then I basically was just there with a lot of packing boxes. What I had done was divided again...I hadn't thought about this either... I brought a few things down here...not much. I went through the things that were in storage so I knew what I had there and then moved like clothes and books and all that kind of stuff into the Lyme house because then I was house-hunting in Washington. Then I would fly down every time Dave thought he had found a house for me and I would fly down to Washington

and look around. Then Berl Bernhard...you see how the names pop up? He and Karen...you see, I got back to Berl's first wife. I mean this was when he was a trustee. Anyway, with Karen, they invited us out to Annapolis. Berl said, "What are you doing looking in Washington? Everybody leaves Washington on the weekend. Come look in Annapolis." So then Dave said, "Gee. Find us a house on the water." So it kind of...so he basically...our house down there is really more like a turnkey house. You know it is a much easier house in some ways...in some ways. We didn't have much of a choice, but it has all worked out very nicely because, being in Annapolis put him very close to the airport, VWI. He would go to work in Washington for awhile, so it turned out to be perfect. I was very happy...am very happy to be in Annapolis. Again, it's a college town, a historical town.

DONIN: It's a beautiful place.

MCLAUGHLIN: Right. So I think I am very lucky. I don't have a pretty house. You know, the view and everything here, it's nice. It's nice. I feel like I am very lucky and, as I said before, I am lucky that our children find this the place that they enjoy coming to.

DONIN: They call this home.

MCLAUGHLIN: They call this...yes. You know, they call it summer...the lake house. Other than we now have Jay and his group coming up here to ski, so it is nice.

DONIN: Now a granddaughter is starting at...

MCLAUGHLIN: Now our granddaughter and now they will come fast and furiously because this is where, I mean, I've got two others who will be out looking at colleges. They are juniors in high school. So it will be interesting.

DONIN: This place is going to be popular. [Laughter]

MCLAUGHLIN: I don't know. I don't know. That is going to be a very interesting decision because this... Truthfully, when you are in college, you belong on the campus.

DONIN: I agree.

MCLAUGHLIN: As far as I am concerned, not until they are much, much older would I...or when we are here... No. Just as I said in fraternities, I don't want this to turn into an off-campus hangout, thank you very much. [Laughter]

DONIN: Absolutely. Absolutely. Well, have you got any notes that we haven't covered?

MCLAUGHLIN: I've jumped all around with you. I told you that you forced me to look up the ages of my children, which is something, in my move to Hanover, I lost. I lost all my memory of dates. I know if I made _____, but not the year, you know. It's really funny.

DONIN: Three of your four went to Dartmouth.

MCLAUGHLIN: That's right and one went to Skidmore and then Babson. That's our business lady, which is funny the way it goes.

DONIN: And the third generation starts now. Okay, I guess...

MCLAUGHLIN: Memories of friends are wonderful...the gift that we gave him when he was in the hospital. It's not important.

DONIN: Is that a good story?

MCLAUGHLIN: No. I don't know if it's a good story or not. No, it's not really. It's just how...I was thinking how he was just such a strong, energetic man...bedridden. We gave him a duck because he loved ducks. You know, those things that you can just pull up and down. That was sad. We brought joy into his life by bringing...by going up. Dave would go up every Sunday night, which I am sure he told you.

DONIN: He lived for quite a number of years after his stroke.

MCLAUGHLIN: Which Dave said he felt was almost his fault because, had he been left in the nursing home, I'm sure he would have died much sooner. When he got up to Dick's House and was in Seventh Heaven, you know. The nurses adored him. He still saw some students. Dave would go up every Sunday night and visit him.

DONIN: And Mrs. Dickey was probably there every day.

MCLAUGHLIN: Mrs. Dickey was there every day and, in the nursing home, when Dave would go to visit him there, they would say, "Hey Sweetie, let's roll you over." You know things like that. Dave said, "Oh, God." Did Dave tell you the story of how he... This was where Dick's House said, "No.", that they were not going to take him because he wasn't ambulatory. They weren't going to take him in, so Dave said, "Yes, you are going to take him in." See, Dick's House is really for students.

DONIN: It's a student infirmary

MCLAUGHLIN: Exactly. So they never had somebody that couldn't walk around. Well, they took him and it did add to...I think it added years to his life, which...who knows whether it is good or bad.

DONIN: And he was brought out for graduations some time and for events.

MCLAUGHLIN: Oh, absolutely. The thing is that, you know, his mind was still there.

DONIN: Yeah. That's what's so terrible about strokes.

MCLAUGHLIN: Exactly.

DONIN: They are locked in this body that doesn't work.

MCLAUGHLIN: Exactly. Some people say, "Oh, I would never want to be dragged out like that." I must say I really wouldn't. But he enjoyed...you figured he worked there 25 years of life. That's a long time.

DONIN: That certainly improved the quality of his life, what your husband did.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yes, but, as Dave said...

DONIN: It extended it.

MCLAUGHLIN: It extended it. I don't know. I saw my father die and he told the doctor. He said, "You know, I wouldn't do this to the worse animal. Why don't you just let me die?" The doctor said, "We are not doing anything to keep you alive. It's just your constitution that won't let you die." [Laughter] But my father

had been around animals enough, you know. He said, "I would shoot them rather than have somebody go through this."

DONIN: Right. He's right though. You put a horse out of his misery.

MCLAUGHLIN: You do. You do let people suffer and yet you couldn't do that to a human being.

DONIN: No.

MCLAUGHLIN: So then you try to make the best of it. As I said, I think Dave did make the best of it.

DONIN: He certainly did for Mr. Dickey.

MCLAUGHLIN: And the whole family.

DONIN: Well, that's right.

MCLAUGHLIN: We would have fun. I mean we would go up and celebrate John's birthday, you know, and he would have his balloons. He still liked his bourbon or whatever he drank. So he still had...and Chris was just tremendous. So there are a lot of good memories. Lots of good memories.

DONIN: So you are still in touch with the Dickey children.

MCLAUGHLIN: Suki, especially, and Tina. John, I never really knew that well. John, I really...I don't know why. He wasn't around that much. I think he was off into college or something, you know. Of course, Suki...they were always around their mother. Then Tina married a classmate of Dave's.

DONIN: Oh, I didn't realize that.

MCLAUGHLIN: So I mean, you know, it's...

DONIN: It's a real continuing...

MCLAUGHLIN: Exactly.

DONIN: Great.

MCLAUGHLIN: I think you've covered...

DONIN: Have we covered everything?

MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Look at my scribble here. I think we... "How was your role different from your predecessor?"

DONIN: Well, we talked about that. You wanted yourself more on Mrs. Dickey's model.

MCLAUGHLIN: Yes. I mean I didn't have any... And Jean [Jean Kemeny] was always very nice. Yeah. I think we answered everything.

DONIN: Great. I will turn off the tape.

End of Interview