7-29-1999

Interview with Harold A. Dunkelberger, July 29, 1999

Harold A. Dunkelberger
Gettysburg College

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Interview Participants

Interviewee: Harold A. Dunkelberger, Class of 1936 and Professor of Religion, Gettysburg College
Interviewer: Michael J. Birkner, Benjamin Franklin Professor of the Liberal Arts & Professor of History, Gettysburg College
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Description
The first of two interviews, Harold A. Dunkelberger, a student and professor at Gettysburg College, was interviewed on July 29, 1999 by Michael J. Birkner & David Hedrick. He graduated with the class of 1936, and discusses his experience as a student of English at Gettysburg and his time at the Gettysburg Seminary.

Length of Interview: 87 minutes

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Keywords
Robert D. Forenbaugh, Henry W. A. Hanson, Francis C. Mason, Elsie Singmaster, William C. Waltemyer, Abdel Ross Wentz, gettysburg college, phi sigma kappa, rotc, Gettysburg Seminary

Disciplines
Higher Education | History of Religion | Liberal Studies | Oral History
HAROLD DUNKELBERGER Oral Transcription

[Tape I, Side 1]

Hedrick: July 29, 1999. Dr. Michael Birkner and David Hedrick interviewing Dr. Harold Dunkelberger in his home.

Birkner: Harold, you were born in India. Would you tell us a little bit about the circumstances of being born in India?

Dunkelberger: Oh, yes. My parents were, of course, missionaries. My mother was the daughter of a missionary, so this was actually two generations that had been in India. My grandfather, Dr. John Aberly, who was not only president of Gettysburg Seminary between 1926 and 1940, had been in India for 33 years and had been, prior to that, valedictorian of the Gettysburg College class of 1889 and had gone to India before he even finished his Seminary course but was granted his degree because he went on out to the mission field. My mother was born in India and so was my one uncle. Mother had come back and gone to Irving College where she had met my father, Roy Martin Dunkelberger, while he was in college at Dickinson. And they had fallen in love, but it was indicated that his possibility of marrying Amy Aberly was dependent on his too going to India to join her. And so they were married, and back in 1910 -- I came along in 1915. Now, the situation of my getting born was that the Indian missionaries could not take the heat on the plains in India in the summertime from May through late June. Consequently, they went to hill stations, they called them, and they had gone up that year to Bangalore, which is up on the highlands of the Deccan. And there they had rented a little cottage, realizing that I might come along one of those days, a little cottage right at the Scotch Presbyterian Church, which was right next to the parade grounds at that time with the British as they were, in charge of things; that parade ground was quite a public place, and lots of Europeans were in that vicinity. So I happened to show up around the ninth of May, 1915.

Birkner: Were you the first child?

Dunkelberger: I'm number one. I have one sister, and one sister died in early years of her life. So there were three in the family, but two of us have survived.
Birkner: Let’s back up for a second, about your mother. You happened to mention that your mother attended Irving College. Tell us what Irving College was and where it was.

Dunkelberger: Irving College was in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. And was a rather up-and-coming girl’s school there. It was a liberal arts school but also sort of a finishing school as well. Another prominent Gettysburgian who graduated from Irving was Mrs. Henry Scharf. She was an Irving graduate of not -- a little later than my mother’s time -- but Irving ceased to exist around about the 1950s and is now taken over as apartments and also as a rehab center in Mechanicsburg.

Birkner: Very interesting. And your mother met her future husband while he was still a student at Dickinson College?

Dunkelberger: Well, he was a student at Dickinson and she was a student at Irving.

Birkner: And tell us a minute or two about the business of him getting into the missionary business. If I’m understanding you correctly, she could not continue that relationship in a serious way, unless he was going to get interested in missionary work?

Dunkelberger: Not so much that, as that as soon as she finished college, she was going back to join her parents, who were in India. And his likelihood of being able to be with her, was largely conditioned by his going to India. But he was also really committed to the idea of missionary service.

Birkner: Was he a Lutheran?

Dunkelberger: Yes, he was a Lutheran throughout.

Birkner: He should have gone to Gettysburg College, right?

Dunkelberger: He did come to Gettysburg Seminary. He was a Gettysburg Seminary grad, but Dickinson was much closer to Perry County, where he grew up. He also was one of the founders of the Dickinson chapter of Alpha Chi Rho fraternity.

Birkner: Very interesting. So your parents were set up in India, at the time of your birth. Tell us a little bit about what they actually did over there.

Dunkelberger: Well, in the earlier days of mission work, it was chiefly either evangelistic or educational or medical. There were three types of missionaries. That has changed considerably,
and there are not that many missionaries anymore, but in those days, it was pretty largely the evangelistic side that was the main emphasis. It involved guiding, directing, and to some degree, coaching the Indian members of the church so that they could carry on their work. In other words, the missionaries were in part, coordinators of the native church. And that was pretty much his responsibility as I was in my early days in India. His responsibility was in the area of what was called the Palnad District of the Andhra Pradesh. And that Palnad District was a very, well, sort of backward and not very prosperous area. Now, one of India’s largest dams, the Nagarjunasagar Dam in south India is now one of the largest of the facilities and has produced electric power for all that area, and that area which was once such a backward area has become one of the really promising areas of that part of India.

Birkner: Did Protestantism get much of a foothold in that part of India?

Dunkelberger: There were a good many different mission groups that were working, the Lutherans and the Episcopalians and the Baptists. Now, I shouldn’t say Episcopalian, it was the Church of England; the Anglicans, the Lutherans, the Baptists were the three largest church bodies in the area, as far as missionary work was concerned.

Birkner: As a small boy, were you aware that your parents were involved in missionary work, or was it just that they were your parents and you happened to be living in India?

Dunkelberger: Well, I accompanied them to many of their evangelistic services, and some of their other activities. Incidentally, my dad was also quite a hunter. And he hunted some big game in India. I have in my possession at the moment one of the tigers that he shot -- tiger skin -- and I would be glad to show it to you in the basement, if you wish. Tiger skin, and then he also shot some bear. He also shot lots of deer, and as a matter of fact, because our availability of meat was so limited in the area, if we hadn’t had venison to eat, we would have been pretty much on the vegetarian side. He’d go out and shoot a deer and bring it in and we lived in that fashion.

Another problem in the mission field at that time was that the vegetables we’re acquainted with were very hard to come by, and they had to send baskets from Madras, which was 250 miles south of where they were located. They had to get those vegetable baskets, and many of them would turn rotten by the time they arrived in the heat.
Birkner: Insofar as you can reflect on this from many years later, how would you describe the respective influences of your two parents on you?

Dunkelberger: You know, it’s not only my parents. I would have to acknowledge that my grandmother, Dr. Aberly’s wife, had a great deal of influence on me, especially on the years just before they came back to America, and I came with them and lived with them after that. My grandmother was the one who really read to me, was very fond of me, helped my preparation in the years before I got to school. So I would say not only the influence of my father and mother. Dad, of course, I respected and appreciated and had him as a kind of hero because he went out and shot big animals and all this. I’m sure that my attraction to him was that of a child who liked somebody who was sort of a hero. Mother was always very careful and kind to me, but I never felt quite as close to my mother as I did to my grandmother.

Birkner: Fair enough. Before we turn to coming to the States, do you have memories of specific objects or episodes as a boy in India that stick in your mind?

Dunkelberger: Yeah, I have a couple. If you don’t mind my mentioning it, my mother’s responsibility in the town in which we lived, at the time, it was called Rentachintala, was in charge of a school for the blind. And this school for the blind was provided for in large part by food and donations that they received through the mission program. But my parents tried to supply them also frequently with some foods and that brings me to the story the fact that one of the pets that I was given as a little guy was a lamb. This lamb grew up in the process of some time to be a sheep. And this sheep had a certain bad habit, because he had learned that when the blind children sat on the ground and had their rice and curry placed in front of them, that if he could give them a bump, he would be able to get most of that off of their plates. And this, of course, did not sit very well with the people in charge of the affair. So even though Jimmy was my favorite sheep, one day he disappeared, and I was to learn later that he furnished part of the curry in the days ahead, for the children.

Birkner: It didn’t make you very happy, either.

Dunkelberger: No, I was very, very disappointed. That was one of my favorite pets as I grew up.
Birkner: As a child, what were your recreations that you remember?
Dunkelberger: Hmmm. I know that I liked to try to go on a scooter. I remember some scooter occasions when I got up with my parents on a hill station -- summertime occasions. I liked to use that scooter and get up and down. One time, I recall I chose to go down a rather steep hill, and as I got to the bottom, I couldn't stop, so I went right on into a tree and had a rather bad time of it. That is one of the less pleasant memories of my earlier days. But I do remember those occasions at the hill station, and around when I would go with my parents to some of the services as well as some of the visitations that they conducted.
Birkner: And did you enjoy that?
Dunkelberger: I think that the things that stay with me most are some of these incidentals, rather than the actual involvement in any one of the evangelistic programs. I was only eight when I left India.
Birkner: And that was the next question I wanted ask. It is interesting that you left India with your grandparents rather than with your parents. Would you tell us a little bit about how it came to be that your grandparents would leave and that you would go with them.
Dunkelberger: Right. My grandfather, Dr. Aberly, had been in India for 33 years; he had had a couple of furloughs, but not many. And he was reaching up into his, I guess, fifties, when he felt a kind of call; he got a call to become the professor of missions out at what was then called Maywood Lutheran Theological Seminary, out in Chicago; it's since become part of the divinity school in Chicago, but at the time it was a strictly Lutheran seminary. And he was to become the professor of missions. My parents and my grandparents both felt that my possible future health would be largely dependent on getting out of India. I had some bad mastoid ear infections, and so, with his decision to come to America -- it had already been planned for a year or so -- that I would somehow get to feel that they were going to be my foster parents, and so I came back to America with them. I had been in America on my parents' furlough back three years earlier, and at that time, we lived in Carlisle for about nine months; and my very earliest recollections in my life are that I had a speaking part in a children's day affair at First Lutheran Church in Carlisle. I can still sort of remember that I had that part on a children's day event.
Birkner: I'm glad you reminded us of that, because it's good to have in the record. I guess the obvious question, Harold, is, how does an eight-year old boy take leaving his parents half way around the globe and traveling to a new place with grandparents? How did you respond to the whole process?

Dunkelberger: If I hadn't been as wonderfully cared for by my grandmother, and if she hadn't been sort of my... not only teacher and parent but a very loving person, it would have been very difficult. But I... I didn't find it easy to leave my parents, but their commitment was there, and my opportunity, as they saw it, was to come where I could grow up in a much more healthy environment. And so, I guess I simply went along with the flow.

Birkner: Did you actually spend the next ten years growing up with your grandparents, or did your parents finally return?

Dunkelberger: Parents came back on furloughs, but never while I was growing up. Dad did not retire until the 50s, and my mother passed away of leukemia here in Gettysburg back in 1948. So their attraction had, of course, always been to my grandparents who were here. And that's when they would come on furlough; we would spend those furlough times, all of us, together.

Birkner: I suppose we need to make it clear for the tape that you did not remain in Chicago, that your grandfather got a call to Gettysburg.

Dunkelberger: Gettysburg Theological Seminary as president, in 1926.

Birkner: So you would have been 11 years old, having spent roughly three years in Chicago area, and then in '26, your grandparents say, "Harold, we're moving to Gettysburg."

Dunkelberger: That's right. We all came. And at that particular time my parents were on furlough and were here along with my sister; and eventually my sister also joined my grandparents as her foster parents, but not until she was much older than I when she joined them.

Birkner: Did you feel any divided emotional loyalties as an 11 or 12-year old boy, in terms of relating to your parents versus your grandparents? Or was that readily dealt with?

Dunkelberger: I guess that because I had the constant association with my grandparents and the more occasional association with my parents, I would guess that I was somewhat closer to grandparents than parents. But I never, of course, felt any great animosity or felt that my parents had
let me down. I never had that feeling.

Birkner: I can just try to imagine how his parents must have felt seeing him when they came back on furlough and seeing their boy who was little at this point in time in India and who's much bigger when they see him in the States; I mean, your mother must have just found it hard.

Dunkelberger: It was hard for her. I know it was, because she was a very devoted mother, but one of the biggest crosses she bore, I guess, was that she had to give up her children to do the work that she was committed to with her husband.

Birkner: And I guess it was easier, again, knowing who you were with and how you were being brought up.

Dunkelberger: Oh, I’m sure.

Birkner: Now, tell us a little bit about Gettysburg -- first recollections of the community of Gettysburg in the 1920s, when you moved here. Where did you live and who did you play with?

Dunkelberger: Gettysburg was, in 1926. . . We came in the old Lincoln Highway from Chambersburg -- I still remember the Dodge was one of those old six-seaters. The whole family -- grandparents, parents and two kids -- came in together in that car, arrived at Gettysburg and found that the house that we were to live in, was what is today called the Singmaster house up at the Seminary. It's now used for all kinds of various seminars and so forth. That house was huge, so there was no problem accommodating, but it was a problem furnishing it at the time. I don't recall too clearly the process. But just prior to that, Dr. Singmaster, my grandfather's predecessor as president of the Seminary, had passed away, but he had built a house where, now, the president of the Seminary lives, and which was occupied then, for a good many years after Dr. Singmaster's death, by his daughter, Elsie Singmaster Lewars. And I had some very happy associations with Elsie Singmaster Lewars. I became her driver when I was a student at the College, so . . .

Birkner: Her driver in the sense that she had speaking engagements and you took her to them?

Dunkelberger: Down in Baltimore and Washington and so forth, and this great big cumbersome Packard sedan that she had: if you ever drove those cars before there was any additional ease in brakes or in steering -- boy! They were like Mack trucks!
Birkner: I believe it. I’m old enough to remember driving pre-power steering cars.

Dunkelberger: Oh, my! Well, anyway, my association with Elsie Singmaster was a very delightful one; I appreciate having had it. But meanwhile, grandfather, as president of the Seminary, had a lot of obligations as presidents do, to get around, raise funds, make presentations, and the like. And little Harold, living in that great big Singmaster mansion up there, and my grandmother would accompany my grandfather as a rule when they went out. To live in that huge place as a teenager, or even prior to a teenager, and have to carry on. Speak of the ghosts of Gettysburg! I sensed they were in that building all the time -- that’s huge, goes up to the third floor, if any of you have gone through it.

Birkner: I haven’t.

Dunkelberger: Oh! It is huge, and those days, having to stay in that, I usually locked myself in my bedroom. But I heard all kinds of things in that house, the creaks, and moans I thought, and everything else.

Birkner: Now, you were enrolled in the local public schools?

Dunkelberger: I was. I entered school here in 6th grade at what was then Lincoln School. It’s now the... Hedrick: The A Plus Mini Mart.

Dunkelberger: That’s right, you got it. That’s where a school was and that’s where the 6th and 7th and 8th grades were.

Birkner: Is that at the confluence of Hanover Street and York Street?

Dunkelberger: Hanover and York.

Birkner: Okay. I didn’t know that. So you were enrolled there.

Dunkelberger: Right.

Birkner: And you soon got involved in the rough-and-tumble of boyhood life in Gettysburg... Dunkelberger: Pretty much so, yes, I did and had some interesting friends in the process. We had the westside team and gang versus the northside team and gang. And on the northside team and gang were fellows like Robert Hanson and some others; but on the westside gang were folks like Jim Dickson, and Junior Hartman, and Valentine Wentz, Fred Wentz’s older brother, who passed...
away.
Birkner: He passed away when he was a boy, didn’t he?
Dunkelberger: Late boyhood, but not until he had played on this famous Gettysburg westside sandlot football crowd. We didn’t have any uniforms, we didn’t have any helmets or anything, and we banged each other to pieces. And I got a broken nose which never did get set, and I still have it to this day.
Birkner: A souvenir of your football career.
Dunkelberger: Playing sandlot football. But it wasn’t a sandlot, it was the yard up there, right next to where Dr. Wentz eventually lived, right there. That was where we had our football games.
Birkner: Now given that Valentine lived with his parents, and they were involved with the Seminary, was he especially close to you?
Dunkelberger: Yeah, he was closer to my age.
Birkner: And were you close friends?
Dunkelberger: We were quite good friends, yes. Tine -- we called him Tine -- passed away with I guess it was diabetes or something of that kind. Very unusual and very sad, because he was the oldest, and Mary Louise -- Bekstrand now -- Mary Louise Wentz and Fred Wentz were the other members of the Wentz family, and they lived in that house right across the street from the Singmaster house.
Birkner: Now, to what extent did you play on the battlefield, or were you just conscious of Gettysburg as a tourist place in the 1920s and early 30s?
Dunkelberger: Oh, we had a cannon right in the front yard; we had that to look at. And I got quite interested in the battle, and used to wander down to Willoughby Run to walk down the back road there, which went clear over and ended up there where you can walk clear on down to the Run. I used to do that from time-to-time. I recall one other thing, though, that I liked very much. The field, which is now occupied by all those Seminary dorms, was an open field. And they had the most wonderful wild strawberries I have ever eaten. Great big wild strawberries! You don’t think of a wild strawberry as big. They were magnificent and the sweetest things you
can imagine. And that field was the prize place to get wild strawberries in the spring and early summer.

Birkner: Sounds good.

Dunkelberger: Oh, that was delicious.

Birkner: Did you work as a boy, Harold, growing up? Did you do part-time chores?

Dunkelberger: Well, I had a good many things to do to help grandparents. And they always had a maid by the name of Anna, who was... Her family is still in town. Anna was a wonderful black lady who really looked after all of us. She was the kind of person that certainly took away any racial prejudice you might ever have. She was a great gal, and she was wonderful at cooking, roasting lamb. My grandparents liked lamb, even though I had my prejudice against the lamb. They liked lamb every Sunday. Sunday was lamb day. And she did a roast lamb that was marvelous. In those days, it wasn’t quite as expensive as it is now.

Hedrick: And her name was Anna...

Dunkelberger: Anna Williams.

Birkner: Now, when you got into teen years, did you have to make spending money for yourself? For example, if you wanted to go to the movies, assuming that was available in the late 20s and early 30s, or you wanted to buy candy or something, how did you get the money?

Dunkelberger: Usually -- I mean, my grandparents were fairly considerate and would grant me a small allowance for things like that. But I would wander all the way back from the high school, which is out now where the high school used to be. I would make a point -- we’d get out at about twelve o’clock; I would make it all the way back to the Seminary, grab a bite of lunch with my grandparents and get back by 1:10 for the afternoon courses. That was something. And I perhaps got some of my acquaintance with riding a bicycle during that time, which I have retained.

Birkner: For many, many years. That’s indeed one of the good memories for me, of seeing you around Gettysburg. I understand you met Betty at Gettysburg High School. You want to tell us about that?

Dunkelberger: Well, I will. And you had asked a question I’ll back up to. As I was in early
college days, so I did get involved with salesmanship; at that time I became a Real Silk salesman, going from house-to-house, selling women’s underwear and stockings. So here is the grandson of the president of the Seminary, going around the town and neighboring areas, selling the Real Silk products. But that was able to net me some funds for things that I needed to do.

Birkner: There was a silk factory not far from here, right?

Dunkelberger: Yeah, down where the Silk Mill Apartments are still down there, near the Tiber. That’s where it was.

Birkner: That’s where you got your raw material from.

Dunkelberger: Well, in part. But most of it was sort of provided; we got a short orientation session to begin that.

Birkner: Were you any good at this task?

Dunkelberger: Not as good as I would liked to have been. I never netted very high rewards in income from same.

Birkner: And then, as you went on to college, you made a little bit of money doing the chauffeuring.

Dunkelberger: Yeah. Yeah, I got... Those things helped along the way, especially when I did it for Elsie; Elsie was very, very considerate and was willing to help me out a bit.

Birkner: Right. I wanted to come back to her, but first, let’s describe your high school experience a little bit. Really, take two different tracks here, the academic and the social. Were you particularly good at certain things and did you particularly gravitate to certain things, and then the second part was the question I asked a minute ago about meeting your wife.

Dunkelberger: Yeah. I was, I would guess, one of the better students in high school, I was always on the honor roll, and I did study pretty hard and was regarded by many of my student colleagues in those days as something of a bookworm. But they apparently thought enough of me, despite that, because I did go out and tried my luck at the football team and got bunged up, so I didn’t last a full season. I did play football, and that, I guess, gave me a little recognition. But in my senior year, I was elected president of the class and have retained that to the present time. So we’re still meeting after 64 years as the class of 1932.
Birkner: That is wonderful. And Colonel [Met] Sheads is in that class?
Dunkelberger: Not '32. He was ahead.

Birkner: Oh, he was at Gettysburg College in '32.
Dunkelberger: Yeah, he's '32 at the College. I was '36 at the College. But this was the class of '32, and we had some wonderful people in it, all of whom I recall. I liked my teachers, had a crush on one or two of them, who were rather charming. One was J.B. Baker of York's daughter, who was here teaching Latin. She was a beauty, and most of us got a little infatuated with her, and we had a couple of other teachers who were very attractive to us youngsters who were growing up and didn't know better. But anyway, these high school days remind me that I also had a friend who was the teacher of English, by the name of Miss McIlhenny. Miss McIlhenny not only taught English, but she also conducted all the plays and all the dramas that were done at the high school at the time. Unfortunately, Miss Mac thought that I gave the impression of being an old man. So all of the plays that they had always drafted me as the old man in the play, whether it was a musical or anything else, I was the old man; I never got any other parts than being the old man.

Birkner: You were typecast at an early age.
Dunkelberger: Which didn't appeal to me, and I don't think it was too much of an appeal to that junior in high school when I was a senior, whom I met out at what was then called Natural Springs Dance Pavilion. You know where Natural Springs is? You're on your way to Festival Foods; before you get there, there's a road to the right that goes up now past the modern Giant store. Back in there was the Natural Springs Pavilion. It had been in the Civil War times, that woods between the Giant store and Festival store, that was a hospital at the time of the battle of Gettysburg.

Birkner: That's very interesting. So you met out there...
Dunkelberger: Met her... Well, I actually met her at the home of one of my classmates who had arranged for this group to have a party, and I was one of those who rated an invitation to the party, and got to meet Betty Rebert, they called it here -- over there, they called it Betty Rebert -- as a blind date. She and her folks were over at that time, and when she heard... Her
parents heard that I was the grandson of the president of the Seminary, they said, “Oh, my, you’ve got a dud on your hands.” But I kept in there, regardless. . .

Birkner: Well, did they think you were going to be very, very formal. . .

Dunkelberger: Very formal. . .

Birkner: And prudish and stuff. . .

Dunkelberger: I guess.

Birkner: But she decided that you weren’t.

Dunkelberger: Well, I kept after her pretty hard; as a matter of fact, three consecutive nights with three consecutive dates, and the third night I was so elated that on jumping into the car, I hit the rear vision mirror and gave myself a nice gash right over my forehead, so I went in as a veteran, then.

Birkner: That’s a great story. And she was a year younger than you, Harold?

Dunkelberger: No, she’s the same age I am, but I was one year. . .

Birkner: You had jumped ahead a year.

Dunkelberger: I had jumped ahead a year.

Birkner: I got you. And so you started to get more interested in her and she started to get more interested in you. . .

Dunkelberger: Even though she lived up in Newport, Pennsylvania. And I had the problem of courting a lady that was 53 miles away, and I was not a person in possession of a vehicle that could do it very conveniently. But I did get to borrow my grandfather’s old Buick from time-to-time. It was a new Buick then, but it was an old Buick that I had to go up every once in awhile, and I would have to save all my allowances and other income as a way of buying the gasoline, and so forth. But the most famous story of this is that a couple. . . I guess it was a couple of months after I had started going with Betty; I was resolved to get up to see her, and I couldn’t get the car because the grandparents had some need of it, or I had asked for it too often. So, a good friend of mine. . . I should have mentioned him; he was another of the football players in the westside football team -- Kenneth Hull -- one of the Hull boys. Ken was a good friend. Ken and I decided that we would rent a “U-Drive It” and make it all the way to Newport. And it cost both of us a
considerable sum. But I didn’t tell my grandparents I was going, because they would never have approved my getting a used car and going up to see her. Well, I didn’t get back, and eventually, my grandfather called Newport to ask whether I had been there, and my lady, my courted lady at the time, said, “Yes, he’s here.” “Well, how did he get there?” “Well, he came in a car.” “Well, where did he get the car? Did he steal it?” And she said, “I don’t go with anybody who steals cars.” So, I made it back, but I was not in very good repute for awhile.

Birkner: I would think not.

[End of Tape I, Side 1]

[Tape I, Side 2]

Dunkelberger: . . . classmate’s name was Eleanor Zinn, and another, Virginia Mumper; they were just a group of young people from the class that had decided that they were going to sponsor this party, because prior to that, Betty’s outfit up at Newport had sponsored a party and had them up there. This was a return engagement. But I was dragged in as a, I guess. . . I’m not sure if I was a replacement for some other one who was supposed to. . . I do know I was a replacement for the date for Betty, because she was supposed to have gone with someone else, and he got another date, so I was placed in the replacement.

Birkner: Alright, let me ask you this. When you were a senior in high school, did you know you were going to college, and did you know that you would go to Gettysburg College?

Dunkelberger: That was about the only place I could go, because I was going to live with my grandparents so as to cut down on expenses and because grandfather was a good, close friend of Henry W.A. Hanson. And they would get together almost weekly for lunch, along with a very famous Gettysburg character by the name of Doc Crist. Those three would have lunch together once a week. But because of the closeness between Dr. Hanson at the College and Dr. Aberly at the Seminary, a very considerable reduction was given me in the tuition, which at the time was 300 dollars a year.

Birkner: Now, we need to back up and just clarify who this gentleman Crist was.

Dunkelberger: Crist was the physician in town. Dr. Chester Crist was physician who took care
of the family; he was the family doctor. I guess he was Dr. Hanson’s doctor as well. But he was rather rough-mouthed, hard kind of character. We had some tough-minded doctors around the town. There was one Dr. Stewart, who was even tougher than Dr. Crist, but they were... Docs were kind of rough-and-ready in those days.

Birkner: I think that’s right. Did Dr. Crist spell his name Crist?
Dunkelberger: Yeah.

Birkner: And he just happened to be personally friendly with your grandfather and and with Henry Hanson.

Dunkelberger: Yeah, and they, for some reason or other, found it pleasant and interesting and informative to get together once a week for a meal. And every once in awhile, Anna would cook them rice and curry, and they’d enjoy that up at Doc Aberly’s house.

Birkner: Now, if I can take this medical motif just one quick step. When you were a boy and suffered childhood illnesses or broke your nose, what doctor would treat you?

Dunkelberger: Dr. Crist sewed up my cut over my forehead. I went in and he sewed it right up, you know, no anesthetic of any kind, he just sewed her up.

Birkner: Probably made a remark to you about how you had done this, and then did it, right?

Dunkelberger: Right, yeah; it wasn’t exactly a complimentary remark, either.

Birkner: So you knew that if you were going to have a college career, it was going to be at Gettysburg College.

Dunkelberger: Going to be at Gettysburg, there was no other way.

Birkner: We can do a little arithmetic here and figure out that you entered Gettysburg College at probably the depths of the Great Depression.

Dunkelberger: That’s correct.

Birkner: Can you say a word or two about what you found when you went to college, in terms of the physical environment, or just your general perceptions of how Gettysburg College was doing.

Dunkelberger: Gettysburg College was struggling along like a lot of other institutions were at that time. Many of us felt that our way of making it through college was to get into ROTC and get some of our clothing, and hopefully, if we made it the two upper class years, we’d get a little
stipend for that as well -- so all the ways that we could -- and I’ve already told you I was a salesman for awhile and driver for quite awhile too. Things were real tough financially. Of course, the one thing that was quite. . . . I’m not saying it was interesting, but it was a fact. Gettysburg had no women. Women were dying out at Gettysburg; they had been second-class citizens up till the class before the class that entered when I did, up til the class of ‘32. I think ‘31 was the class that had no women, and the class of ‘32 had no women, because, as I understand it, a very powerful member of the board of trustees, by the name of Fred Dapp, was terribly affected by the fact that his son had committed suicide over a girl who, I’m not sure, was a coed here. I mean, of earlier days. But he resolutely got the board of trustees to refuse women in the College for those few years.

Birkner: That’s very interesting.

Dunkelberger: And it wasn’t until two years after we entered, the class, I think, of . . . It would have been ‘38, when the first women returned, and they were given Huber Hall over here to reside in. Betty almost came over and joined that first group that was coming over, but she didn’t quite make it. She decided to stay at Wilson instead.

Hedrick: Wasn’t Elsie Singmaster involved in reversing that decision?

Dunkelberger: She helped a lot.

Hedrick: Did she talk with you about that?

Dunkelberger: Well, she did in later years, yes. But at the time, I was just one young college individual, and she didn’t think I was in the position to be of much influence. But Elsie did push a lot for the return of women to Gettysburg College.

Birkner: Was she on the board?

Dunkelberger: No. She wasn’t on the board, but she was a strong voice in the area.

Birkner: Harold, when you came to the College, where did you eat? Did you eat with your grandparents, or did you eat at a boarding house?

Dunkelberger: I ate with my grandparents to start with, and then I joined the Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity, and when I did that, I would take my noon meals at the fraternity, but my breakfast and evening meals out at the Seminary with my grandparents. So I was clearly a local boy.

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Birkner: And what you describe fits in with what Ted Bulleit told me about his experiences as a local boy on campus too.

Dunkelberger: That’s the way we had to do it. There wasn’t the funds to do it otherwise.

Birkner: Who were the prominent personalities on the College campus when you arrived, as you perceived them?

Dunkelberger: Oh, let’s see. We had a really great alumni secretary who was sort of. . .

Beachem.

Birkner: Charles Beachem?

Dunkelberger: Charlie Beachem. Hips Wolfe was a very much respected individual, even though he taught at the Academy; you must realize the Academy was still a feeder to the College at that time. Obviously, Henry W.A. Hanson was regarded as a very important, impressive president. Wilbur Tilberg was, in one way, I think very much respected, and in another, sort of an object of some joking around. I would say on the faculty, Robert Fortenbaugh, Thomas Cline, Warthen and Mason were also very respected. . . Because I became an English major, I got to know these folks.

Birkner: Was Dr. Zinn on the faculty?

Dunkelberger: Zinn was definitely one of them, very much respected. These people, of course, were all chairs for life. They were named for life, and of course, we had an interesting individual in philosophy and psychology -- he did both of them -- by the name of Sanders. Dr. Sanders.

Birkner: Why do you say he was interesting individually?

Dunkelberger: He had a number of characteristics. He would tell us stories that sometimes were a bit on the shocking side. Students would eat some of that up. He also had some coarser habits. He had a way of coughing, bringing up phlegm, and spitting right in the corner of the room!

Birkner: It’s awful!

Dunkelberger: He was coarse, but he had a way of challenging you to do some thinking, and that’s what a philosopher should do.

Birkner: So he was good at provoking you.

Dunkelberger: He was good at provoking. But the stories he would tell, I can still remember
Birkner: Since you just mentioned to us that you wound up majoring in English, say a word or two about Dr. Warthen and about Francis Mason, if you would.

Dunkelberger: All right. I have mentioned Dr. Cline was head of the department. But those two individuals were the real challengers. One, who somehow made Shakespeare come alive, and the other, who brought American literature into a focus that I have appreciated ever since. Warthen in the English literature and Mason in the American literature area, they both demanded that one write, write a lot of things and not just pick it out of books, but write imaginatively.

Birkner: Do you have any recollection of a litany that Francis Mason was supposed to have told students at the beginning of each year about the grading system he had? Do you remember that story?

Dunkelberger: I have a vague impression of it, but one of the things I will always remember of Francis Mason was his remark before a Thanksgiving. He said, “You can’t give God thanks with your mouth full.” This one I’ll always remember: “You can’t properly thank God with your mouth jammed full.”

Birkner: So he had that homely wisdom about him. He was a poet.

Dunkelberger: He was, indeed.

Birkner: To what extent did that affect his teaching style or your memory of him?

Dunkelberger: I’m sure it affected my memory of him, and I’m sure it affected the fact that somehow or other, he caught your imagination and held it, because with that poetic gift he had, you just were impressed with him.

Birkner: Let me ask you another question. Unless I’m mistaken, and please correct me if I am, Warthen and Mason and other important faculty members were Virginians.

Dunkelberger: That’s right.

Birkner: To what extent . . .

Dunkelberger: Cline was too.

Birkner: Cline was also. Did you draw any conclusions about the network that got them there? I mean, Dr. Hanson had been in Virginia.
Dunkelberger: That’s right, at Roanoke.

Birkner: Was he especially enamored of Virginians? Or what do you think?

Dunkelberger: I don’t know; I think that Hanson always retained a certain affection for the time he had been at Roanoke. Of course, he went from Roanoke up to Messiah Lutheran in Harrisburg and came to Gettysburg after being at Messiah as a pastor. But I think that that had something to do with it. I think he had a real affection for Virginians.

Birkner: And his wife was a Virginian.

Dunkelberger: His wife was a charming Virginia lady. Really a lady.

Birkner: So that was a connection there. To what extent as a student did you either have contact with Dr. Hanson on campus or visit his home as part of a group of students or individually? In other words, how did he fit into the scheme of things at the College?

Dunkelberger: Well, he was the “great white father.” No question. He was up there on the pedestal. If you ever went to his office to request anything, you were welcomed and given the warmest possible welcome. And usually without your request being granted.

Birkner: I like that!

Dunkelberger: He had that gift; he made you feel wonderful when he said “no.” That was the way it went.

Birkner: Charlie Glatfelter told David and me a story -- I hope I’m not garbling it -- where at one point, Hanson was actually approving every map purchase that the History Department or Economics Department was making; I mean it was that much of a hands-on kind of budget matter, and eventually Charlie convinced him that he shouldn’t have to be approving every map that he wanted to buy. But he was the great white father. Do you recall stories or events where if the football team won a big game either against Dickinson or F&M in particular, that the students would charge over to his house and demand the day off?

Dunkelberger: Oh, sure.

Birkner: You remember that?

Dunkelberger: Oh, my goodness, yes.

Birkner: Describe the scene. How did it work?
Dunkelberger: Well, first of all, we kept winning games from teams that we never should have been playing; they were far and away much bigger and larger schools. We beat teams like Temple and Delaware, and even Villanova and Bucknell, and all that. Well, first place, there was a great deal of spirit, which Dr. Hanson and his wife -- I failed to mention the Kramers; I should have mentioned the Kramers -- were great to build college spirit. And they were always at the athletic events, and particularly, the football events. And they were that spirited involvement. It involved virtually all the faculty; they showed up for all the athletic events. And I would say that because of that great deal of commitment to the Gettysburg teams, Gettysburg spirit, why, somehow the students caught the same thing, and they felt that a victory deserved some kind of reward. And if they vicariously shared in the victory that the team had won, they should get something for it, and unfortunately, the idea was that the best thing you could get was a day off from College classes.

Birkner: So they would go, after a victory, and they would go in front of the president’s house? Dunkelberger: Uh-huh. Over there at the White House. . .

Birkner: Would they chant, “day off” or something like that?

Dunkelberger: Oh, yeah, and you’d ring the College bell. You always had to ring the College bell when you won a big game. And then from ringing the bell, you went down and chanted for a day off. And when the victory was great enough, as it was one year when they beat Bucknell, the student body. . . I’m not sure whether it was because the president hadn’t granted them the day off, but we had a near riot in the north end of town, and they gathered together all available outhouses and burned them. That outhouse burning eventually cost the student body considerable money, because they had to re-erect outhouses for the local citizenry.

Birkner: So they just went into neighborhoods and took people’s outhouses.

Dunkelberger: They took the outhouses and burned them.

Birkner: Now, if Dr. Hanson was in a good spirit -- I don’t want to put words in your mouth -- what did he do? Did he listen to the chants and then at the appropriate moment come out and grant the requests? How did this work?

Dunkelberger: Yeah, pretty much so. I mean, he would, I think, try to see how enthusiastic they
were about it, and if they were enthusiastic enough, he yielded to the desires of the students.

Birkner: And how would he announce this? He would come out and say it?

Dunkelberger: I'm just trying to think whether he came and announced it, or whether he put it on the bulletin boards as a response to the request.

Birkner: I would think he would get a tremendous ovation if they were all... Students surrounding the porch of the white house, and he comes out in response to these chants and says, “Boys, you have the day off on Monday,” that they would all start cheering him. Wouldn’t he like that?

Dunkelberger: Oh, sure, he’d love that, of course. Of course. I’m not quite sure of the circumstances on his issuing the granting of the request. It just doesn’t quite focus.

Birkner: Okay. I assume that football was an important part of the extracurricular life of the campus.

Dunkelberger: It certainly was.

Birkner: Football and basketball... Dunkelberger: Football and baseball and basketball, those three.

Birkner: Do you remember Ira Plank as the baseball coach? Do you have any memory of him?

Dunkelberger: Yes, but I was still in high school when Ira was coaching baseball.

Birkner: So he wasn’t still the coach when you came to the College?

Dunkelberger: I think he was. But he wasn’t there for very long. Hen Bream took over.

Birkner: Okay.

Dunkelberger: Hen Bream was pretty much there from the time I got to college.

Birkner: Did you ever take any courses in phys ed with Hen Bream? Did you have to take physical ed with Hen Bream?

Dunkelberger: No, because I was ROTC. And John Glenn was our tennis coach; I played on the tennis team. And of course, being in ROTC, I was on the rifle team and managed always to mess up the... I would do an excellent job up til a certain point, and then I would start firing on the wrong target. So I didn’t aid our performance very much.

Birkner: Despite the fact that these were hard times for the country and for the College, was the
College life as you remember it a largely happy life, and did people do the things in academics and extracurricular life that he would do in any generation in college?

Dunkelberger: Well, dances were quite the thing, and they were formal dances, and they were done in Eddie Plank gym. And the fraternities also were a very big part of the College life, because the College could not afford things like the college unions that we have and other facilities that are available now. And so the fraternity had to provide a large part of the social life, and the fraternities worked together to put on the interfraternity prom, and the annual military ball, and all of these things. They were big social events. And of course, with imports from Wilson and Hood, and so forth, they became a very significant part of our college social life.

Birkner: Did Betty attend these with you?

Dunkelberger: She sure did. She had a good friend up on Baltimore hill by the name of Zinn. I’ve mentioned Zinn before. And she would stay with Effie Zinn up on the top of Baltimore hill, and I would get her from there and take her to the dances. We didn’t go to the hotels or the motels; we had no funds for that.

Birkner: Did Dean Tilberg or other faculty member or administrator chaperone these events?

Dunkelberger: Oh, my goodness, yes. We always had chaperones all over the place. I guess you’ve heard the famous story about the dean going back from one of his chaperonings... Birkner: ... And finding a couple in the...

Dunkelberger: ... Where he found two of the students involved in a car, and he looked in and said, “Excuse me,” and went on.

Birkner: He said, “Excuse me,” and went on. Well, that was interesting. You mentioned that Dean Tilberg was, in some respects, respected by the students, and in then in some respects, was the object of some joking. Would you elaborate on that?

Dunkelberger: Well, I guess deans get a kind of reputation wherever they be, and it isn’t always a very high class reputation. They have to do some of the things that are not as pleasant as they might want to be. And Dean pretty soon got a name called “Wifty.” And you might remember that Wifty was also one of the funnies, a figure in the funnies. And I think that that is related, that he was sort of thought of as a character out of the funnies. But he did his job, and he did it
Birkner: Do you remember him having to keep tabs on who attended chapel and who didn’t?
Dunkelberger: Yeah, and that didn’t make him any very popular person. All the methods used in old Brua to see that chairs were occupied because the ones in charge had to mark off the seats that were occupied. And so one of the charges that usually came to freshman pledges in the fraternity was to occupy spots for the upper classmen so they could get out of going to chapel. Of course, chapel had many different characteristics including the ringing of alarm clocks going off during the service, and occasionally, the bringing of dogs into the chapel for the occasion. And once in awhile, even the dogs got into the interest of . . . their sexual interests, and those performances right in chapel were not exactly thought of very highly by the students. Well, by the students they were great, but by the faculty members who were involved in conducting the services, which I wouldn’t call particularly pious services. But Dr. Hanson, when he would speak, he usually . . . Well, his remarks about, “You’ve got to reach for the stars.” This was frequently put on as a show by the students when they wanted to make a bit of fun of the characters.

Birkner: He was very florid, wasn’t he?
Dunkelberger: Very fluent, and incidentally, his son Robert, has a little of the quality of his father’s eloquence. I would call him one of the last of the orators that we ever had around Gettysburg.

Birkner: One of the last of the Victorian gentlemen.

Dunkelberger: Well, you can call him that -- but the real orators. Bryan, I would say. Hanson must have learned some of the characteristics from William Jennings Bryan.

Birkner: Let me ask you, I mean honestly, did you all listen to him when he talked?
Dunkelberger: Yeah, we listened, and of course there were all kinds of snide remarks being made, either afterward or sometimes during.

Birkner: But he was one who wanted you to be Christian gentlemen, and he wanted you to . . .
Dunkelberger: Christian gentlemen, no doubt. And the one thing I will have to hand it to him, 30, 40, 50 years later, we remember those oratorical “reaching for the stars.”
Birkner: Dr. Hanson was big into mother’s day and father’s day, wasn’t he?
Dunkelberger: Oh, yes. Very much.
Birkner: He tried to encourage parents to come and visit the campus in that connection, is that right?
Dunkelberger: Yes. Oh, he made mother’s day a very, very important event and tried to do father’s day too. But that... Yes. And oh, he could really push the heartstrings when it came to speaking about mothers. Oh my, yes.
Birkner: Of course, I think it’s understandable. He is the head of the hierarchy, and you’re dealing mostly with your professors and tutors. Do you feel your four years at Gettysburg that you got an education that prepared you for the next things you were going to do in life?
Dunkelberger: I think in some of the departments, I most certainly did. I think the English Department was one which certainly gave me a basis which I have carried the rest of my life with great appreciation. And I would say, the influences that I had, even from Dr. Sanders, and of course, Dr. Waltemyer, whose department I inherited eventually. And some of the others. I thought a great deal of Dr. Kramer; I thought he was an outstanding person and he did so much for the College and he was so loyal, and Mrs. Kramer was a wonderfully loyal person to the College in all of its aspects, but particularly in its athletic aspects.
Birkner: Dr. Kramer married Mrs. Kramer late in his life.
Dunkelberger: Late in life, yes.
Birkner: But she fully embraced the kinds of cheerleading and other extracurricular activities he was involved in.
Dunkelberger: But let me add in passing, I think one of the ones I respected most for his intellectual qualities, was Bob Fortenbaugh. He was sharp, really sharp. I often thought he was a little cynical, but he was sharp.
Birkner: I’ve heard that from other alums, very kind notices about him as a man with high standards and who cared about his students.
Dunkelberger: Right, right.
Birkner: Now, I was going to ask you about another professor, and I’ve just forgotten the
question. You graduated with a bachelor’s degree in English in 1936, is that correct?
Dunkelberger: BA, 1936.
Birkner: And you knew you were going to go on to Seminary with that degree?
Dunkelberger: Yes, I knew I was going to Seminary.
Birkner: And was your grandfather still the president at that time?
Dunkelberger: He was the Seminary president until one year after I completed my Seminary course.
Birkner: Did you have any feeling that you were being pressured, or did you know you wanted to do this?
Dunkelberger: That’s a good question, because I think, to some degree, the fact that my great grandfather had been a clergyman, my grandfather had been a clergyman, my father was a clergyman, it kind of pushed you into a kind of role, whether you felt it was exactly for you or not. And I think that right down the years, I revolted a little about that, because I began to aim towards teaching rather than the ministry. And I must admit that Betty’s reticence about thinking at all about the mission field, because she was an only daughter and her father had died, and she felt a great obligation to her mother. She just couldn’t think of marrying a missionary going off to half-way around the world. I think that had a lot to do with my focusing a little more on the educational, that I would start out, perhaps, in the ministry, but that eventually I’d like to be a teacher.
Birkner: Which gets me back to what I had forgotten for a second. I did want to ask you about your impressions of Dr. Waltemyer, and then I’ll add onto that, did Dr. Waltemyer give you any particular counsel about how you might pursue a life beyond the College?
Dunkelberger: Well, Dr. Waltemyer asked me, when I was in Seminary, to be one of the... They had to use some Seminarians to do some of the basic Bible courses. So he asked me, as he did a good many other individuals, to be one of the instructors in the basic course in Old Testament and New Testament. I did that for a year. So I already had a very happy relationship with Dr. Waltemyer. But I would say he was not the major influence in my proceeding as I did.
Birkner: Did you take any time off in 1936 except for the summer, before going to Seminary, or
did you enter Seminary immediately upon graduating from Gettysburg College?
Dunkelberger: I went right through the next three years at the Seminary.
Birkner: Did you take courses with Dr. Wentz when you were at the Seminary?
Dunkelberger: Oh my, yes. I should say so. He was the best organized of any of the professors.
He had things lined up so that you knew exactly where A was and B was and C was, and he conveyed that desire to be well-organized to all of his students.
Birkner: Did you have any sense of discomfort at all, being in class with Dr. Wentz, given that you obviously knew him as part of your environment growing up?
Dunkelberger: Of course, I knew all of the Seminary professors; I was a Seminary brat.
Birkner: How did you deal with that as a Seminary brat? Was that a problem at all?
Dunkelberger: Yeah, it was something of a problem, because I had to try rather strenuously to convey the fact that I was not a pampered pet of anybody. And I had to do that particularly with my grandfather, whose courses in systematic theology, and so forth, I treasure to this day. But he wasn’t organized like Wentz. But he was more mystically inclined. His thoughts and ideas reflected some of Eastern mysticism, because he had had all that experience in India.
Birkner: That’s fascinating. Do you think that, because of your background, you were better attuned to that, or did other students in the class find it interesting as well?
Dunkelberger: There are some who found it very, very interesting, and thought that he carried something of the spirit of the Orient, especially of the Indian Orient into his lectures and so forth.
Birkner: It’s interesting. I have to interject here, that when I was in graduate school, I worked for the library at the University of Virginia, and one of my jobs was to categorize and organize the papers of a local poet, who had for 25 years been in a monastery -- Hindu monastery -- and he wrote a book called *A Journey to Gurakhpur*, the connection between Hinduism and Christianity. And he had first introduced me to the idea that there might be these connections. But clearly, antedating that, somebody else is bringing that back to the Seminary.
Dunkelberger: That’s right.
Birkner: Harold, can you give us a rough estimate of what percentage of the students at the
Seminary were Gettysburg College graduates?

Dunkelberger: About 90 percent when I was there.

Birkner: That’s a high percent.

Dunkelberger: Oh yes. Well, now wait a minute. I have to qualify that a bit. About 75 percent Gettysburg and about another 20 percent Susquehanna. Those two schools, they were the feeders.

Birkner: And then a smattering from elsewhere.

Dunkelberger: Just very few others.

Birkner: That was in part because Dr. Hanson really worked hard on Gettysburg College students to think about the Seminary as a life.

Dunkelberger: That’s true.

Birkner: I mean I understand... Someone told me -- I guess Ted Bulleit -- told me that Dr. Hanson called him into his office when Ted was a senior, and said, “Young man, I think you would have the makings of a great minister,” and Ted told me that this was the most preposterous thing he had ever heard in his life, but that Dr. Hanson had taken the trouble to encourage him. And as we know, he went off to law school. But a very high percentage of the students were College students, Gettysburg College students, gone onto the Seminary. Did you at any point feel that you were stuck in a rut, having been in Gettysburg for so many years in a row, high school, college, seminary?

Dunkelberger: Right, of course. That’s why I tried to think in terms of getting away from Gettysburg as soon as I was through Seminary. That’s why the opportunity to go to Columbia to pursue my PhD work and to work in Columbia in the chaplain’s department, all of that had its real appeal. And a number of my friends, other than my immediate family, said, “You need broadening. You’re stuck in a rut. And you need to get out where you see what the rest of the world is doing.” And it wasn’t easy, but it helped.

Birkner: Did you make the connection with Columbia before World War II? Had you started at Columbia before World War II?

Dunkelberger: I started in Columbia in the year 1940. We were not in the war at the time. But I
had completed most, or part, of my residence requirements for the degree. One year.

Birkner: And you were shooting for what degree at Columbia?

Dunkelberger: PhD.

Birkner: And the PhD was in what field?

Dunkelberger: The field of philosophy of religion.

Birkner: Now, before the tape shuts off, if we still have a minute or two, I’d like to ask Harold a question. If we don’t, we’ll pick this up next time.

Hedrick: We’d probably ought to pick up . . .

Birkner: Okay, just before we stop, let’s just clarify; you graduated from the Seminary in 1939, and then you immediately began to think about going to Columbia University?

Dunkelberger: I was at Columbia University from ‘39 to ‘41. Two solid years.

Birkner: Where was Betty during that time?

Dunkelberger: She was in the treasurer’s department of the state of Pennsylvania and the auditor general’s department. She was a receptionist in Harrisburg those years. We married in ‘40. She kept commuting part of the time after we were married. The first year we were not married and I was up there by myself. Second year we got a little apartment, and she would come up for weekends. Back and forth.

Birkner: I think that’s a good point at which to stop for the day.

Hedrick: Let me back up and ask you one question about 1938. Franklin Delano Roosevelt came to Gettysburg. Tell us about that.

Dunkelberger: All right, I can certainly tell you about that. I went up because I needed money to get through some more of my life work. I needed money, so I went up and had an interview with Paul Roy and Henry Scharf and John Rice, who were the three organizers of the planning program for the ‘38 event. And by my request, I got a job up in what is still . . . Well, they’re the Ice House Apartments now; they were the supply depot for that ‘38 event. And I had a rough time, but I worked all summer, and I earned enough money to buy an engagement ring for my wife.

Birkner: In ‘38. And did you see President Roosevelt when he came?
Dunkelberger: From a distance. I was working in the depot; I was not out where he was easily visible.

Hedrick: So some of those photos we’ve seen of all the supplies and things they brought in, you were the muscle for.

Dunkelberger: We were getting them out! You bet. The Ice House was taken over for supply depots.

Birkner: Did you physically run into any of the very old veterans who came back? Did you see them?

Dunkelberger: Well, I must say, we saw them. But our job was such that we didn’t get out in the tents where the veterans were, very much. We were... Well, once in awhile, we had to get some of the supplies out. And that’s about all we had the chance to do; otherwise we were tied up at the depot.

Birkner: Pretty exciting event, though, wasn’t it?

Dunkelberger: Oh my, yes, I should say. The peace light came to Gettysburg.

Birkner: Indeed. Very good, Harold, I’ll tell you what. We should be so lucky as to interview everybody who’s as articulate and quick on the trigger as you are.

[End Tape 1, Side 2]