

**University of Illinois Student Life 1928-1938**  
**Oral History Project**  
**David Hubbard – Class of '37**  
**Urbana, Illinois**  
**April 11, 2001**

START OF TAPE 1, SIDE A

**Ellen Swain: This is an oral history interview for the University of Illinois Archives. The interviewer is Ellen Swain, the narrator is David Hubbard, an alumnus from the class of 1937. We are at Mr. Hubbard's home in Urbana, Illinois, and the date is April 11, 2001.**

**Okay could I ask you your name and birth date?**

David Hubbard: [*Laughter*] I'm David Hubbard, I was born December 7, 1914. Both my wife and I are twins.

**ES: [*Laughter*] How's that?**

DH: I had a twin sister, she had a twin brother.

**ES: Oh I see.**

DH: That makes us twins, not twins to each other.

**ES: [*Laughter*] And where did you grow up?**

DH: I grew up in Urbana, the south end of Urbana. It was all vacant farmland, the people even complained about the high school being built in the country, when I was a boy.

**ES: The Urbana High School?**

DH: Urbana High School, that was all vacant farmland, and it was quite wet. They didn't drain the water out of that area until the 1930s when the Works Progress Administration provided labor and money to put a big drain from the corner of Florida and Race Street, north to Washington, west to Cedar and then on down to the Boneyard. And it's a very large tile, I could as a boy, run through it.

**ES: Is that right?**

DH: It's about a six foot tile that drains all the water out of this whole south end of Urbana. So, but that's where I grew up. My father was a farmer, a dairy farmer. And he also raised fruit and vegetables. He used twenty acres of the eighty acres, he had in strawberries, which was very, very profitable until the mid 1920s when the refrigerator car was invented and they started hauling fresh strawberries in here from Tennessee. And, he couldn't sell his strawberries, but before that, people would come from all over town to help pick them, because

they hadn't had any fresh fruit all winter long, and so that's the kind of thing I grew up. When I was little I helped eat the strawberries, and then I got bigger and I had to help pick them [*laughter*].

**ES: Did you have brothers and sisters?**

DH: I had four brothers, and the twin sister. The doctor gave her mercury compound back when she was a few weeks old and it killed her.

**ES: Oh!**

DH: I asked Mother why they didn't give me that, and she said you were sleeping, and I thought that would be better medicine than what the doctor had. And it was about twenty years later that they found the mercury compounds were poison, and they had been using calomel from about 1800 on, they must of killed an awful lot of Civil War soldiers with it, because they didn't know the mercury compounds were poison. So, yeah, I grew up doing everything you do on the farm; taking care of the cattle and the horses and the pigs and whatever. Later my father bought other land east of Urbana, and we had a dairy farm there, and going through college I milked the cows and helped pasteurize the milk and deliver it around town. And I think I did everything there was to do on the dairy farm, from cleaning out the stalls to milking the cows and as I said pasteurizing the milk and delivering it.

**ES: Did you go to Urbana High School?**

DH: Oh yeah, I graduated from Urbana High School in 1932, and then I stayed out a year to get enough money to go to the University. My oldest brother had a nervous break down, my father died with cancer about the time I was finishing high school. And, it hit us big. He couldn't take it, looking after the big business, and my next brother was in Schenectady, New York working for General Electric, and the third brother went to Southeast Missouri. My father had a large farm in the Boot Hill of Missouri, and my third brother went down to look after that. Then I was the oldest one home. So, Mother decided she'd get some other help, so she got a student that came to Urbana, a young man that came to Urbana with Frances my future wife, from her high school. And he lived in our house and helped on the farm. On Sunday, he brought her out for lunch, my mother got him to do that. And, so that's how we met.

**ES: I see.**

DH: It was very nice that he did that [*laughter*].

**ES: [*Laughter*] Was education important to your family, why did you decide to go to the University?**

DH: Mother graduated from the University in 1904, University of Illinois. She grew up in the northern peninsula of Michigan, her father came over from Germany with his family; she was born in Germany. They harvested timber, and they'd put the trees in big rafts and float those rafts of trees down to Chicago, to build houses. Her family lived about six miles north and east

of Menomonee, Michigan. They still had that property when my aunt died, and she gave it to one of my cousins. And so on.

**ES: Did she think that education was important for you. . . ?**

DH: Oh yeah, four of my brothers graduated from the University of Illinois. Father didn't, he had three years of the University, but he never graduated. Mother of course was very insistent that we go to school.

**ES: Did you think about going anywhere else, beside of U of I?**

DH: To school? There was no possibility of that, we didn't have any money. In fact, if Father hadn't died and left \$10,000 in life insurance, Mother would have lost the farm. So, everybody was broke in the 1930s, as you probably have heard [*laughter*].

**ES: What did you do? You said you stayed out a year or two?**

DH: I stayed out a year and looked after the farm. In fact I fired the fellow who was taking care of the cows and started doing it myself, because I couldn't get him to use the protein supplements to improve their production, so I finally had to let it go. And then he got a job running an elevator in an office building, in Urbana. I think he was better off. So we liked the family, of course, they were Irish and his name was Moore. My brother from the East came back so that I could go to the University. We let a lot of help go at that time. And he came back and he could look after things. I didn't have to do after he came back.

Then when I finished at the University, I took a job teaching Agriculture in a high school in Virden, Illinois, which is about twenty miles south of Springfield, which is the same county that Frances grew up in as it turned out. And then after nearly three years I asked them for a \$200 raise, and I was making \$1800 a year and I wanted \$2000, which a few teachers were going out at \$2000, \$2200, and there was no reason they shouldn't have paid me that. I was making more than the principal and he couldn't stand it, so I told him I'd quit if they didn't do it, and they didn't do, so I quit. And I came up to the University and talked to the Dean, he said, "A man was just in here hunting a farm manager." So, he sent me over to the office in Champaign, and they hired me on the spot. They had acquired a lot of farms, in the Depression, they needed someone to look after them. Well, they had fifteen men in Illinois looking after farms. I had 23,000 acres in seven counties right around here. I don't think that people out in New York had any idea how big a job it was to look after that much land. They were all rented to tenants, I didn't farm them, but I had to supervise the operation and, then when some flunky out in New York, wired, "Sell all the grain on the Company farms." I had to get on the telephone and start selling it. They expected you to sell them the day that they told you to, but there was no way, you could make that many phone calls.

**ES: So how long did you stay in that position?**

DH: Well, I stayed with the Insurance Company until I retired, that's about, that's not the same position, after about a year I went in and talked to an old attorney who was a friend of the family from way back. And said, "I'm just selling myself out of a job." And he said, "Dave, if you do

as little time looking after those farms as you can, and as much time as you can getting new farm loans, this company's going to wake up all of a sudden and find they want new farm loans, and whoever can do it will be kept on." So I was the one they kept on. And I stayed with them until I retired. They were a wonderful company to work for, they didn't come out and supervise me much, in fact, the boss that I reported to said that I took the least training of anyone that he had hired. But, that was partly his fault. I went in with a yellow tablet, with a couple pages of questions and I didn't know then that he would like to tease people but I started asking the questions and he said, "What have you got there?" I said, "Things that I need to talk to you about." And he said, "If you can't your mind up about those things, then we'll get somebody else." Well I didn't know that he was one of those people who would just torment you, he didn't mean it at all, but he did say that. So I turned and put it in the wastebasket and never asked him about those things [*laughter*].

**ES: Now tell me, when did you start at the University then? What year did you begin?**

DH: It would have been the fall, I started in the fall, it would have been 33 wouldn't it? 1933, I graduated from high school in '32, then I didn't go for a year. Then I started in the fall of 1933 as a freshman. I played a double bell euphonium. Do you know what that is? I played in the Marching Illini.

**ES: I don't think so.**

DH: Well, it's a baritone horn that has a trombone bell in addition to a regular bell. They have five valves. The first three are like any ordinary brass instrument. The fourth dropped it down an octave, and the fifth valve ended out the trombone bell. When I was in the high school, there were not enough trombone players to make enough noise I guess you'd call it, music to keep the band director happy, so we would help the trombone efforts with the little horn. Our oldest son is in Danville, he has the horn now. He played the trombone for the University band, and was Quarter Master for several years, with the band.

**ES: Were you in the Marching Illini then?**

DH: For four years.

**ES: Oh wow!**

DH: Until my senior year and then I went out for the livestock judging team. I was on the 1936 University of Illinois Livestock Judging Team, and as the football season ended I dropped out of the band and made the livestock judging team. We had lots of dual meets. We'd go to Purdue for a dual meet. And Professor Edmonds would drive one of the University cars and I drove the other, taking the eight or ten of us.

**ES: You were allowed to drive a car?**

DH: We didn't even have to have a license in those days, and I'd driven a truck since I was big enough to push the pedals. So I was the one who drove. We went to Ann Arbor, we went to

Lansing, and Ohio State, Columbus, in these dual meets. And then of course at the end of the season, the team went to Kansas City to the American Royal; I didn't get to make that trip. But then the other trip they made was the International Livestock Show in Chicago that was in the amphitheater, and I made that trip. Our team came out 14<sup>th</sup> out of about 60 college teams, which wasn't too bad, but it wasn't 1<sup>st</sup> place either.

**ES: How many people were on the team? How big a group?**

DH: Well six was the standard number. We had a reunion, when was it after fifty-five years? Not too long back. The squad was about 10, only six could work. And, all but one of them was here for there reunion. I think it was fifty-five years after we graduated.

**ES: Are you talking about the Hoof and Horn Club?**

DH: No.

**ES: That's something else?**

DH: The College of Agriculture had several activities and Hoof and Horn was one of them. People in livestock stayed in livestock production membered in the Hoof and Horn Club, and if you were in field crops, you might belong to the Agronomy Club, or if you were in Dairy, you might belong to the Dairy Science Club. Or, Horticulture, because you were around fruits and vegetables. Hoof and Horn was the different divisions of the Agriculture Club.

**ES: I see. When you went to school, what did you want to do with your degree? Why did you go to college?**

DH: Well...

**ES: You were an Agriculture—?**

DH: Yes a BS in Agriculture. Kind of like going to high school, I was finishing my education [*laughter*].

**ES: Did you go with a career goal in mind when you went to the University?**

DH: No, I just went to get, to finish up my education and get a degree. But I did finish up what's called the Smith Hughes Requirement, so I could teach Agriculture. I didn't inherit any of my father's estate, so that when I did finish, I could take this job teaching school.

**ES: I see. But you did. . . .**

DH: Frances stayed here and finished her degree, while I was teaching down there.

**ES: Oh, I see.**

DH: I came back every weekend and did graduate work.

**ES: Do you remember any favorite faculty members in the Agriculture Department?**

DH: Well, I certainly do, if you'll notice over here, a block west a street called Burlison, he was head of the Agronomy Department, and when Bob Howell became head of the Agronomy Department he said, the man who proceeded him was Burlison, he said, "How did Burlison's name get on the street?" I said, "I named it for my Agronomy professor." He said, "Why in the world would anybody ever name their street for an Agronomist?" And the other streets, Harding, was director of the band, I put his name on the street. So yes I not only had favorites but I honored them by putting their names on the streets. Grange's name is on the street. Have you heard of Red Grange?

**ES: Uh-huh.**

DH: He delivered ice to our dairy. In those days we didn't have electric refrigeration, the only way you could keep the milk cold was ice the room. It had a loft and they shoved 300 and 400 cakes of ice into that loft. It was literally about the size of this room. And the loft had these big cakes of ice. And Red Grange was one of the football players that worked for the ice company delivering ice.

**ES: So you would see him at your farm?**

DH: I saw him better for delivering ice than playing football. In fact I didn't get to go to the football games until I got into college and the band. But, we didn't have the money to buy tickets. So, my father did take us to one, all five of us brothers and mother, we all went to one of the games where Red Grange played. Well, I saw him running with the ball. One game is all I got to see Red Grange play.

**ES: Was he a real celebrity in town?**

DH: Was what?

**ES: Was he a real celebrity in town?**

DH: Yes because he was such a great football player. He grew up in Wheaton, Illinois, up in the north end of the state. He also worked for the ice company up there, but in the fall, when he was working his way through school, then he worked for the local ice company. But, of course everybody knew him because he was such a fine football player. Also, one of the customers that took milk from us, and cream, was Bob Zuppke, the football coach. He was another short fellow. One of maybe 5'2". And he lived in a second floor apartment, in south Champaign, and I ran up there with cream ordered everyday. And I think he drank it. But, he'd come out in his nightgown and get that cream when I got to the top of the stairs [*laughter*]. So, I got to know Bob Zuppke, real well. But that's delivering around town. I got to know a lot of people because they were customers.

**ES: And this was before you were in school?**

DH: Both.

**ES: Both?**

DH: Mostly before though, because after I got in school I started to take care of the cattle. Sometimes I drove a milk wagon. Frances went with me.

Mrs. Hubbard: I did.

DH: In fact I proposed in the milk truck.

**ES: Is that right [laughter]?**

DH: Isn't that the normal place to propose? What have I left out.

Mrs. Hubbard: Just answer her question.

DH: Okay.

**ES: Did students and faculty have a good relationship outside of the classroom? Did you know faculty outside the class?**

DH: Well some of them, yeah, because their children went to school with me. Head of Accountancy Department was Mr. Scovel and his son and daughter were in the same high school class I was in. And occasionally I went to their home and met him and their children. It was a small town then too. You knew about everybody in town.

**ES: Did a lot of people from Urbana High School go to the University?**

DH: I suppose maybe half the class.

**ES: Really?**

DH: I don't know, I never checked up on that. But, there sure were a lot of us, that went.

**ES: What do you remember about the rules for the students on campus?**

DH: [Laughter] Did you ever here of Pete Adams?

**ES: Uh-huh.**

DH: Well, he was the campus policemen and even in cold weather he'd stand out on the Quad, in his heavy overcoat and if you cut across the grass it was a \$5 fine. And he nailed you right now, don't think he wouldn't. He was, she saw him too. And no one dared cut across the

grass, you'd stayed on the sidewalk. And you couldn't wear jeans to school, you had to dress up, jeans were outlawed. I remember one young lady went to class with nothing on but her fur coat, and they kicked her out of school, even if they had no proof of that. She should've kept still. The problem I had, they had a rule in those days that if you missed the last class before vacation, or the first one after vacation, there was, I think a \$25 fine, or you could be flunked. You just weren't allowed to miss that last class, well, one time I was peddling milk and the snow was deep and I got to that class about half way through, and he marked me absent and didn't correct it, so here I got a notice that said I was in trouble. So I went to the prof and told him that I was here for that class, I came late, and he says, "Yeah, I remember." So we managed to get it straightened out and I didn't have to pay the fine, but it was real disturbing to get a fine. In those days when a man made a dollar a day, \$25 was a months pay. So that was an awful big fine. Anyhow, we got it straightened up. Most of the professors I had, I thought were extremely helpful. They were nice to talk to. They helped you get through school.

**ES: Were they having a hard time with the Depression too?**

DH: Yes, the salaries were way down, and of course, we went through the bank holiday; you probably heard of that. Three days after President Roosevelt took office, he closed every bank in the country. The week before Roosevelt took office, I think there were about 25,000 that went broke. So he just closed them all and they couldn't reopen, until the bank examiners passed the requirements to reopen. By law they could reopen in three days, but from a practical standpoint, it took from a month to three month's to get them reexamined, to get them reopened. We had a mayor in town, by the name of Reginald Harmon and Reginald came up with idea making Urbana money. And the merchants that belonged to the Chamber of Commerce, and if you came in with your check, they gave you like 80% of what you had coming, then held the check and then when the banks reopened you got the balance. Well in Urbana the Busey's Bank was about six months before it reopened. The Urbana Banking Company went broke, never did open again. First National Bank went broke and never reopened again. There was another State Bank on the south side of the street in Urbana that never opened again. You can't imagine how difficult it is when you can't cash a check anywhere. Mother gave the hired man a check and he came over and said, "I can't cash this anywhere. The grocery stores won't accept it." Nobody would accept it. So she went up in her purse and got enough cash to pay him off, but it was a very, very difficult time. And this idea of Urbana money, went across the nation. I talked to a man from Minneapolis, and he said, "Oh yeah we had Minneapolis money when that happened." And his city patterned off of what Reginald Harmon did. And Reginald went on to become Attorney General of the Air Force, and he died in his nineties. His brother was Chief of Police here. Some of his nephews are still on the police force. They were a prominent family here. So that was one of the things that I mentioned, that the Work Progress Administration put that drain down Race Street. If you look at Urbana High School all the large terraces all around the building were built to get the building up out of the water. When this tile went in, it drained the water. I remember seeing water in my high school two and three feet deep. And we lived on the corner of Race and Michigan and that whole basement would fill with water. And the furnace wouldn't heat with a basement full of water.

**ES: I didn't know that.**



DH: We had a big wood fire range in the kitchen that's the only heat we had in the house when water came in the area. At that time, Race Street was a mud road. In fact even when I started with the Insurance Company there were a lot of mud roads in Illinois. The townships oiled all the roads to each farmstead, but if I were to go look at a vacant piece of farmland there would be mud so I'd walk. It was much easier to walk than push.

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**ES: Do you remember Fred Turner, the Dean of Men?**

DH: Oh yeah.

**ES: At the time did you have any dealings with him?**

DH: No, but the one the ahead of him was Tommy Arkle Clark, did you hear of him?

**ES: Uh-huh.**

DH: And he was, I don't think I ever had to go in to see Turner, and I don't think I did it on my own. One of my brothers got called into see Tommy Arkle Clark, and he was the dickens about something. He came home pretty sad, but we told him, "Get over it, it won't hurt." [Laughter] You asked about some of the professors, there was one of the professors, his name was Sleeter Bull, B-U-L-L. He taught Feeds and Feeding and Meat in Agriculture. And my first day of school, I had the book my brother had used in that course. And, so I had it under my arm, and I took it to class, and Professor Bull looked, "Does anybody here have a used book?" And like a dummy I said, "Yes!" "Well, don't you know the professor gets a royalty out of each book sold, and if you have a used book you needn't expect to pass this class." Now, I was very, very upset and I came home and told my older brothers what had happened. Then "ha, ha, ha, ha, that's silly don't think anything about it, he's just having fun. Pay no attention to him." And they were right, I got an A in that course [laughter]. That was mean to do to a freshman.

**ES: Yeah sure.**

Mrs. Hubbard: What was the name of the professor that had this special diet that he—

DH: When I studied to be a teacher, the professor of Agricultural Education that was training the teachers, his name was, Aretes Nolan, A-R-E-T-E-S, was his first name, N-O-L-A-N. And he had a special diet called the Hay System. And we heard somebody mention something about that at dinner last night. We were at the Travel Lodge and this lady mentioned that you could only eat carbohydrates in one meal and only proteins in another meal. And you had to keep your diet ( ) and that was his Hay system, that this women followed, that you could only eat carbohydrates at one time and proteins at another time. And, I remember him putting it as one of the questions he asked on the final exam: Well, what can you do to keep yourself in good health, so that when you're teaching you—, and I put follow the hay system, I didn't do brilliant in it, but got a good grade [laughter]. He never was allowed to teach graduate course,

he was, he gave everybody A's. He was terrible teacher, really, we didn't learn much from him. But you had to have that course to teach. You know how that was. So, I took the course, but—

Mrs. Hubbard: Tell her Dr. Roberts' genetic problem.

DH: Oh yeah. I took a graduate course in Genetics, and this professor assigned the problem that involved the goodness of it. It involved tables, that in up to 90% of the theory, it would fit the table. You could get it off the table, but if it was over ninety, that was between ninety and infinity and there was no way you could interpret it, and fill in the answer. And he assigned that problem, and I worked on it a couple of days. Frances was taking an advanced Calculus course and I says, "He came in with this dumb problem, I can't work it." So she takes it and she says, "Well, it involves Calculus beyond her training." So she took it to, who was it, Stimely, Professor Stimely?

Mrs. Hubbard: Yeah.

DH: And she was taking the course under him and he says, "This is very interesting!" And so the two of them worked on it and I don't know how long it took them, but they came up with a whole bunch of figures and they had it worked and I remember the answer was something like, what was it?

Mrs. Hubbard: I don't remember.

DH: 998 times out of 1000 you would get poorer fit to the theory than that was. I don't remember the exact answer, but it was something like that. Wasn't I right?

Mrs. Hubbard: I don't remember.

DH: Yeah.

Mrs. Hubbard: It's not important.

DH: So I put a note with it that I had help getting this problem worked that I couldn't work it myself, and that my wife and her professor had worked it, and here was the answer. And he comes in just beaming. He said, "I've been assigning this problem for twenty-six years and that's the first time it ever came back worked." And he said this exact problem he had was some results he had in Genetics, and he had to get help to get it worked too. But, I thought that was kind of interesting. Well, I didn't work it, I didn't take credit for it and I put on there that I had to have someone else help me. So, but that was some of the kind of things that some professors did though. They'd give you a problem that no one could work.

**ES: To see what you'd come up with huh?**

DH: And if I hadn't been married already and she hadn't worked it, why, maybe that would fool him, no we were married weren't we?

Mrs. Hubbard: Yes.

DH: So, she's been very wonderful.

**ES: Just have a couple more questions on Fred Turner. Do you remember how students viewed the Dean of Men at the time?**

DH: Well there was some animosity toward him, but I never knew exactly why.

**ES: Toward Turner or toward Clark?**

DH: Toward the position, they laid the rules down a little too stiff. They were too stiff for some of the students. I was never troubled with that, I usually did what I was supposed to do, so I never had any problems with him. But some students you know, got a little off the track, and they were very rough in those days. I mentioned the girl and the coat, kicked out of school, and that's the way Turner operated. If one got the least bit out of line, he kicked you out of school, and that's why the animosity is toward him. Maybe you got that from somebody else too, I don't know.

**ES: Were there a lot of problems? Were people being kicked out of school often?**

DH: Oh, no. No there's wasn't. But, it did happen, but if you did something like drove a car onto campus, and you weren't allowed, the penalty was being kicked out.

**ES: No tolerance?**

DH: He didn't have, there was no tolerance anywhere. But on the other hand, that was very effective, there were very few people who violated the rules.

**ES: Was drinking a problem after Prohibition? After it was lifted?**

DH: It might have been. Mother didn't permit liquor in the house and I always had to come and work. I never had time for the drinking parties.

**ES: How important was religion on campus? Were students involved in the foundations?**

DH: Well, I don't know, my only experience was that I went to the Baptist Student Foundation. And much rather stay down at the basement, and I belonged to the Baptist church of Urbana, and a group of us went over there to dig their basement, the students help do that. And then as an adult many years later, I was in the Baptist Student Foundation Board for six years. So it's been a long time ago though.

**ES: When you were a student were you involved in the Foundation?**

DH: No, uh-uh. No, I only went to my own church in those days.

**ES: Do you remember the President of the University? Did he play a big role in your time here?**

DH: There was David Dodds Henry.

Mrs. Hubbard: Um, do you remember any of them?

**ES: President Willard?**

DH: Well, I never knew him personally, no.

**ES: They didn't have much affect on you when you were—?**

DH: Even the Dean of the College of Agriculture, I knew him because he and my father both bought land in southeast Missouri around the same time, and we had made some trips together, but I had very little contact with the Dean of the College of Agriculture on campus. Except, of course, when I came back from teaching school and was hunting a job, he was very helpful. But, in general, I had very little contact with the Dean.

Mrs. Hubbard: What about the President? Not much.

DH: My freshman year, or after I was in school five or six weeks, the Dean called me in and asked me how much time was spending on each course, and I said, "30 minutes to an hour depending on what it took." And he said, "Oh well I spent at least two hours on every course, every class." I said, "I don't have two hours" [*laughter*]. I'll never forget that, because I don't know where I would have got two hours.

Mrs. Hubbard: They had a rule that you were supposed to spend twice as much time outside of school as the amount of time you were spending in class.

**ES: With the class, yeah, wow. Did students do that?**

Mrs. Hubbard: I don't know. Some did, some didn't.

DH: Frances got a job as a housekeeper, well not a housekeeper, but as a children's sitter, with the Rooney Stipes family in Champaign.

Mrs. Hubbard: Yeah a baby-sitter.

**ES: Did students have jobs?**

DH: Yeah most of them did, waiting tables and cleaning, and cleaning. I mean most of them couldn't have gone through school during the Depression days if they hadn't of had a job helping help.

**ES: How did they find jobs? Was there a place to go to—?**

DH: They had a list didn't they?

Mrs. Hubbard: I came here from Mt. Olive, Illinois and I came on a scholarship that I won through the county testing. And, we had a teacher in our high school who came from here, so he arranged for us to go to various places where we might be hired.

**ES: I see.**

DH: He arranged for this boy that came out, that my mother hired that brought Frances over.

**ES: I see. So there was some help on campus?**

Mrs. Hubbard: He helped, yes. I'm sure the deans would have helped too, if you would have gone to them.

**ES: The Dean of Men and Women?**

DH: I go over to the Levis Center and play cards every week and now there was bunch of people from industry and they were interviewing students. Nobody interviewed students when we graduated.

**ES: You had to go out and find your job?**

DH: The industry didn't want help. They wouldn't hire you if you didn't find a job on your own, you didn't get it.

**ES: How did you get that first teaching job? Did you tell me?**

DH: Well, the school had notified the University that they were needing an Ag teacher and I went down and interviewed, and took the job, I probably shouldn't take it, because I didn't think they paid enough, but I made it a job too. So I had a good job, and I had a good time teaching, I had a wonderful bunch of boys, they learned well and at Virden the farmers were of English decent, and they were a good bunch of boys. There was a little town called, Thayer, near by where the students of Italian decent and some of those boys came in and took Agriculture. But, they weren't really the Ag boys that the farmers sons were.

**ES: The farmers. When you were in school you lived at home?**

DH: Oh yeah. I was invited to join Farmhouse [fraternity], but I didn't have the \$25 a semester. They wanted me to join because I had good grades, but I couldn't do it.

**ES: Did you want to? Did you want to join?**

DH: Oh sure, I would have loved to have joined, but I came home and talked to Mom, but I didn't think that our family had \$25 for that [*laughter*].

**ES: How did the fraternities and the independents get along on campus?**

DH: Well, when I was in school the independents ran the school, the Ag Club, the Ag Club was run by the independents. I was elected to Alpha Zeta, which was an honorary Agriculture Organization. And all the officers were independents. The Greeks didn't, at least in Agriculture, didn't have much of a hold anywhere. Now that might not have been true in some other schools, but certainly in Agriculture the independents ran everything.

**ES: I see.**

DH: Yeah, I wasn't in Education, or did you know?

Mrs. Hubbard: They didn't work together very much, but there were more independents than there were sorority girls.

**ES: Sorority girls.**

DH: Because most of the students were independents.

Mrs. Hubbard: That's right.

DH: The Greeks had trouble filling their rosters because they were more expensive and unless you came from a family with money, you couldn't be Greek.

**ES: I see. So they didn't, the Greeks and Independents, didn't really interact?**

DH: I had a lot of good friends who were Greeks.

**ES: That were.**

DH: There was no animosity between them whatsoever. In fact, when I was still in high school, one of the ways I got a few extra dollars was to take a team of horses and a bob sled and haul students in the sled up to twenty students at a time, and the horses were shod to pull the milk wagons with sharp shoes, so that they could walk on the ice, and there were no snow plows that cleaned the streets when I was a boy and there was plenty of snow. Any time it snowed, you could take a team in sled and go anywhere. So, the city did have a single horse with a V-shaped plow that did the sidewalks, and today they never touch the sidewalks, but in those days they cleaned the sidewalks and let the streets go. So it's funny, but that's the way that it was.

Mrs. Hubbard: More people were walking then.

DH: Oh yeah. Students had to walk to school if they lived out in the community, they couldn't have a car, they had to walk [*laughter*].

**ES: So they, they paid you to take them on the sled?**

DH: I got \$20 an hour and I remember one time, I had to take Jew fraternity when it was below zero, and I filled the big box completely full of straw, and then I had four big horse blankets laid across the top, and these ten couples just went in that straw and disappeared under those blankets and I could see the blankets bounce, and I hauled them around for two hours, and that was \$40. Then two of them gave me \$20 tips. I came home, and I wasn't in the least bit cold [*laughter*].

**ES: [*Laughter*] Now they were just out joy-riding?**

DH: Yeah that's what it was. The bobsled ride for the students.

Mrs. Hubbard: It was a party.

DH: Now that's just about the Greeks, were the only ones that could afford to rent a sleigh. Independents did once. A church group would rent a sled, but that was terrible because I told them no more than twenty people and forty would pile on and the horses couldn't pull it. I would have to make them get off and half of them of them on and then a half hour and then other half would, it was no good [*laughter*].

**ES: Tell me what you did for fun, when you were a student. You talked about some of the groups you were in.**

DH: I had to take care of the farm work. I did play in the band and that was fun.

**ES: Did you travel with the band, did you go to different schools?**

DH: Well yeah, we made trips to Columbus and St. Louis and Ann Arbor. And, Chicago one time.

**ES: Was it prestigious to be in the Marching Illini like it is now?**

DH: Probably more so then than it is now because the—

Mrs. Hubbard: There weren't as many.

DH: We have so many, well it was prestigious, you had to be a good one to get in the marching band.

**ES: You had to audition?**

DH: Oh yeah. I remember Ray Dvorak was the director that auditioned me and I could read both treble clef and bass clef and most of the people on the horn I played could just read the bass clef, and so I got in alright, but he had me play both.

**ES: I see.**

DH: But yeah it was about a thirty minutes try-out. When I got in the band, the thing that surprised me, was that about 90% of the numbers we played were sight read and played once and then he laid them back and do something else. You never, you rarely worked on a number and played it and played it and played it. Like we could play it when we were in high school. In college we would play it, and then we would go to another number. In high school we had to practice for those contests and they'd drag you over the same number time after time until the whole band could play it and then you'd go to the contest. So it was very different, you didn't think about those things until it happens.

Mrs. Hubbard: You asked what he did for entertainment. We did go to the movies, of course, there wasn't any television then. Football games, there was a big rivalry between Champaign and Urbana, so the Urbana and Champaign people would all go to the annual game.

DH: Would all show up for a home football game, in fact they had them at Illinois Field, which the field is now where Beckman Institute is, that was the baseball diamond later. But, other than that it was the football field, when I can first remember Illinois played football there. The stadium hadn't been built yet. So there were big wooden stands at Illinois Field.

**ES: So Urbana and Champaign held their games there, in the U of I stadium?**

DH: Yeah, sometimes, when the University would let them. They even had their game in the stadium, but not very often. But people won't come to high school football games like they did when we were young. Everyone in town would go to the football games.

**ES: Were the Illinois games attended, well?**

DH: No. No.

Mrs. Hubbard: Couldn't afford it.

DH: When I was in the band, there were less than 10,000 people in the stadium, few could afford to buy tickets. I thought when I was in the University and playing in the band, the stadium would be full of people, but when I got there, the stadium wasn't full of people because no one had money to buy tickets. Very small crowds in the stadium during the Depression.

Mrs. Hubbard: And then you said that you did not go to the University Foundation, Baptist Foundation, but that's where you took me on Sunday evenings.

DH: I guess I did go.

**ES: They had social events there?**

DH: Yeah.



**ES: Did you go to dances?**

Mrs. Hubbard: Not then. We did that later in our life.

DH: Well I took you to the Ag Dance, I took you to the Agriculture, Plow, what was that the Plowman's Prom?

Mrs. Hubbard: Yes I know, but that was later.

DH: Yeah, that was later, we didn't, I never learned to dance until I got with her, and then I never was very good. My father didn't believe in dancing and playing cards and he was a hard shelled Baptist. And the day after he died, Mother came home with a jug of wine and several decks of cards and it was a different story after he died [*laughter*]. Her German ancestry would have approved of those things and his old...the Hubbards came over from England in 1630, and they were Puritans.

**ES: Pretty straight-laced?**

DH: Yeah, Roger Williams and that bunch. And, in fact, the first Hubbard that came over brought his three year old son, which would be my 12<sup>th</sup> great grandfather, and he was indentured to the Massachusetts Bay Colony until he was thirty years old, to pay for his passage. The father had to work six years for the Massachusetts Bay Colony, to pay for his passage, but the little boy, they kept him as a slave until he was thirty, which is in the family history. So, yeah.

Mrs. Hubbard: Who was President of the University when Betsy Ross was keeping house for him, as his sister? Was it Arthur Cutts Willard?

**ES: I think so.**

Mrs. Hubbard: Was it President of the University, because David's mother was quite a character [*laughter*].

DH: She was an activist.

Mrs. Hubbard: And she, she went to the President's house and knocked on the door.

DH: Yeah.

Mrs. Hubbard: And they let her in. And she walked in and went to the piano and started playing the piano, and she said that as a taxpayer she had helped pay for the things that the President's house, so she had the right to play the piano. Betsy Ross later wrote a book and she mentioned this in there.

**ES: Is that right?**

Mrs. Hubbard: Right.

**ES: We've got that at the Archives, I'll have to look it up.**

DH: Well, Father didn't understand at all. She worked hard for woman's rights and the right to vote. I've got a picture somewhere of on the front of the *Tribune*, she's carrying a sign of Mother's of America working for the right to vote, she would often, she had sisters that lived in Chicago, and she would suddenly disappear, not tell Dad where she's going and then we'd see her picture in the paper where she was parading for women's rights.

**ES: This is in the 20s?**

DH: Yeah when she was gone we four boys that were older had to take care of, and do the cooking and the dishes, and all that stuff.

**ES: So did that get written up in the Champaign paper, that she had played the piano at the President's house?**

DH: I don't know about that, but it's sure up in that Betsy Ross book.

Mrs. Hubbard: Betsy Ross wrote it.

DH: Maybe we got that around here somewhere.

Mrs. Hubbard: I think I have a copy.

DH: I think we do too, but—

**ES: We've got one in the Archives.**

DH: Yeah so—

**ES: I'll have to look.**

DH: She was active with the local women who were working for women's rights, and also with the Chicago women and then she went to the Democrat and Republican National Conventions as a member of the Mother's of America, and she always got ticket from somebody who got her there. And she was a very active lady. Father didn't understand that, he thought something was mentally wrong with her that she wanted work for people's rights. But I didn't think it was.

START OF TAPE 2 SIDE A

DH: My brother [five] went to the University of Illinois too. The brothers helped me along [*laughter*]. And four of us went through in Agriculture, then the other brother went through in Electrical Engineering.

**ES: And you all lived at home, to save money?**

DH: Oh yeah, we all lived at home, and the one that was in Electrical Engineering, made the Bronze Tablet. Frances made the Bronze Tablet too. So I associated with smart people.

**ES: How do you think the Depression affected student life? You've answered this somewhat, but—**

DH: Well, there was a problem getting things done because there wasn't any money. And, the brother went down and took the farm down over in Missouri there was about 1300 acres in that farm, and his first year he could just hardly could make ends meet. But then the federal government came in and there was over \$100 an acre tax due immediately. And the federal government came in and refinanced that drainage district and spread that tax over one hundred years. They spread it out so that it was \$1 an acre. And suddenly he had that load off his shoulders, and he survived. He owned the land. As my parents gave all their title to him.

**ES: Were students on campus, how did they feel it, were they, did they go hungry at all, did they—? How did they deal with the Depression?**

DH: Well most—

Mrs. Hubbard: Maybe I could answer that better than you can, having come here and not having a place to live, because you lived at home. Most of them that did not have wealthy parents, had to work, as I did. But things were not nearly as expensive and the students who lived on campus, and on campus or near the University buildings that were not in sororities or fraternities, didn't have to pay nearly as much as they pay now to stay in the dorms or the housing, in fact, the first semester that I came to school, I worked for the Stipes' as a babysitter. And then we got married, so I applied for a scholarship of \$200, and that \$200 paid for my room and my meals and my books, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, no way can you do that today.

**ES: Right. Were—**

DH: That's the way that students survived, I mean the ones that I knew that went to University, a lot of them waited tables, and did something.

Mrs. Hubbard: And they got scholarships—

DH: They got scholarships. The scholarships, if she hadn't taken that county scholarship in her county, it, and nobody else took it, it would have been transferred to somebody in some other county.

**ES: I see.**

DH: In other words, if everybody took the scholarships in this county that were available, but say if somebody was second high on the county scholarship test, they could put scholarship in from one of the other counties where nobody took it and give it to that second person. In other words, they moved those around.

Mrs. Hubbard: Well then the two boys from my high school class that came to the University with me, each got a scholarship. One of them was, what was Otto's?

DH: I think his was an Ag one.

Mrs. Hubbard: Agriculture, and then other one was in Ceramics, so he signed up for the Ceramics School to begin with, simply to get the scholarship to come here.

**ES: I see, and then you had to stay with subject or could you change?**

DH: No after two years he could drop it.

Mrs. Hubbard: Right.

**ES: I see.**

DH: But of course he lost his scholarship when he dropped it, but they Ceramics people evidently had a lot of scholarships because that Ceramics scholarship was available in every county. I don't know whether they came from the brick companies or the tiling makers. Illinois needed lots of drainage, there were big tile companies making tile to drain land with, I expect that's where that Ceramic Scholarship come from, rather than making sculptures. You might think it would be sculptures, but I think it was from the ceramic tiles.

**ES: More practical, yeah.**

DH: When we drained farmland, it was ceramic tile.

**ES: Do you think students were more focused on their studies then, rather than being involved in student organizations, or since the money was so tight?**

Mrs. Hubbard: I would say so. I know I definitely was.

DH: Yeah, I think so too, most of the ones that weren't focused didn't make it [*laughter*], they didn't last. If they weren't really working hard at it they wouldn't get through.

**ES: What was the student body like?**

DH: About 9,000.

**ES: 9,000. What, were there black students on campus, do you remember being in classes with—?**

DH: No, in Urbana High School, there were three black students in my graduating high school class, there were 165. And I don't think there were more than a dozen black students in the

school, high school, including the other three classes. But there were only three black ones and the University population was very similar, we didn't have an awful lot of black people.

Mrs. Hubbard: No we didn't.

DH: Very, very few. And in fact, even when I first started travelling up and down the road for the insurance company, I get to Arcola down here and they'd bragged that no black man had ever spent a night in that town. They couldn't get a meal at a restaurant there, they had, they could go to the back door of the restaurant and he'd hand them out something to eat, and they could eat it on the street corner or wherever it was, but the black man couldn't spend the night in that town. And that's where most of the, I expect your town was that way too; black man couldn't eat in a café.

Mrs. Hubbard: Well, yes, he could spend the night, but they put him in jail for the night.

DH: People treated the blacks terrible when we were young, didn't they?

Mrs. Hubbard: Well, yes.

**ES: Were you aware of that on campus?**

DH: Well, there just weren't any blacks on campus to speak of.

Mrs. Hubbard: There weren't very many. I recall that there was a black girl that I occasionally walked home from class with, because she lived in my same general direction, but there weren't very many, no.

DH: There were very, very few blacks.

**ES: You mentioned Jewish students, did Jewish students mingle with other students on campus? Were they accepted?**

DH: Well, sure. They had several organizations, dances and so forth. I think, I had too much work at home to do to go to dances and parties [*laughter*]. Hadn't I, I wouldn't have gone anyhow, I wasn't very party inclined. I never took up smoking and in fact I tried it, but I couldn't get any pleasure out of it [*laughter*]. And she never smoked, thank goodness. And maybe that's why were both still here [*laughter*].

**ES: [*Laughter*] How aware of you, when you were in school, how aware of national events going on outside of Champaign-Urbana?**

DH: Oh, we get that by the news, and of course, in '41 when the war broke out, why I applied, I went to Chicago to apply for commission, and about the time I got there I passed a kidney stone and with blood my urine and they sent me home faster than I went up there. So, I was never in the service.

Mrs. Hubbard: You weren't in school in '41.

DH: No. But that's when I tried to get into the service.

Mrs. Hubbard: Right, but, yes when we were in school we were very interested in what was going on in the nation.

DH: Yeah—

**ES: Was campus politics a big activity, did students run for offices on campus?**

DH: I remember they elected Illini Nellie, May Queen. Did you ever hear of Illini Nellie? She was a cow, one of the best cows on the campus. They had to pay, I don't know a nickel a vote, and then she won [*laughter*]. She was elected May Queen.

**ES: [*Laughter*] What year was that?**

DH: Oh, when I was in school, '35 or '36.

Mrs. Hubbard: '37.

DH: Huh?

Mrs. Hubbard: You were in school '33 – '37.

DH: 1935, one of the those years, and it was in, possibly, that book where you got those pictures.

**ES: Uh-huh, I'll have to look. I'll have to look for Illini Nellie.**

DH: I've got one here of course. But yeah they, when they had those elections for May Queen and so forth, everybody was interested in voting and seeing who got elected, and I don't know how I came to pick the poor old cow, but—

**ES: Were there radical groups on campus during the mid-30s, peace activists, or—?**

Mrs. Hubbard: No nearly as much, because everybody was too busy trying to make a living.

**ES: Yeah.**

DH: Yeah most of us were too, had their nose too close to the grindstone to do much else.

Mrs. Hubbard: Yeah, that's right.

**ES: Did you go through Commencement?**

DH: Yeah.

**ES: Ceremonies?**

DH: Yeah.

Mrs. Hubbard: He did, I didn't.

DH: She didn't because she graduated mid-year.

**ES: Oh I see.**

DH: And then you went down to Virden, when you finished.

Mrs. Hubbard: I ended in August, wasn't it, yeah. I took two summer sessions and that's how I made it through in three years. So I ended my college work with August of '39, so I didn't come back for Commencement. Because by that time we had our first child. We have four children and they all graduated from the U of I.

**ES: Is that right?**

DH: We have four children, and three of them have doctor's degrees.

**ES: Is that right?**

DH: It's not the same Ph.D., the one that the lawyer's have, they have a doctor of jurisprudence. The other two have Ph.D.'s. But those are still doctor degrees.

**ES: Uh-huh, uh-huh, that's great.**

DH: The other boy, when he finished high school he joined the Navy and after six or eight months he wrote home, anyone who joins this Navy to get out of going to school's sure nuts, all they want to do is keep me in school. They could teach him how to guide the guided missiles [*laughter*]. He stayed in the Navy ten years and then came back and got his degree from the University, so all four of our children have degrees from the University of Illinois.

**ES: That's great.**

DH: But the daughter that is a professor in Milwaukee, she got her doctorates at the University of Washington-Seattle, and the other girl got her doctor's at the University of Toronto. And then of course the oldest boy got his degree here [in law].

**ES: That's great. I guess I just have one more question. How do you think your education has influenced your life?**

DH: Well, it put you in a position that you can be with any group anywhere, I mean, when I went to work for the insurance company. I couldn't have gotten the job with the insurance company without the degree, but even then, when I met with those people, they were all well educated, and I fit right in. And, if I was with the farm laborers I still fit with them. It seemed to make me fit anywhere. You could meet people that didn't have a college degree and you could tell they felt left out of a lot of things, and they were, they couldn't get, and they were, like I said, I couldn't have gotten the job without it. So, yeah, it was very important, more important than I realized when I went and did it. I didn't know I needed it as bad as I. I've often wondered about my mother, she told me I should go to University, but I shouldn't study Agriculture. And I went to the University and studied Agriculture and I often wondered if maybe she wasn't way ahead of me, she told me not to do and I go do it [*laughter*].

**ES: Why didn't she want you to study Ag?**

DH: Well some reason she thought that somebody could fall on that in education, I think that's it, but I'm not sure, maybe she thought if she told me not to, I would.

**ES: You would [*laughter*].**

DH: We all have a little perverseness in us, and when somebody tells us not to do something, you do it.

**ES: Well thank you. Do you have anything else you'd like to say?**

DH: Well, we're both in Who's Who, would you like to have a copy of that?

**ES: Oh sure, sure.**

END OF INTERVIEW.