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### Joseph F. Murray

Joseph F. Murray

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Oral Memoirs  
of  
Joseph F. Murray

A Series of Interviews  
Conducted by  
Megan DeFries  
April 9-April 29, 2017

Collection: Oral History Initiative  
Project: Duquesne Veterans'

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Legal Status

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Interview History

The recording(s) and transcript(s) of the interview(s) were processed in the offices of the Oral History Initiative (OHI) and University Archives, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Interviewer: Megan DeFries

Transcriber: Lauren Eisenhart-Purvis

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Final Editor: Megan DeFries

Project Detail

The purpose of the Duquesne Veterans' Oral History Project is to record, preserve, and make available the stories of Duquesne's student and alumni veterans in order to highlight the many ways they have contributed to our country and to Duquesne University.

Joseph F. Murray [1921-2018] was a veteran of World War II, serving in the US Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1946. He attended Duquesne University following his service from 1946 to 1949.

Megan DeFries was the oral historian for the OHI.

Joseph F. Murray

Oral History Memoir  
Interview Number 2

Interviewed by Megan DeFries  
April 29, 2017  
Home of Mr. Murray  
Bridgeville, Pennsylvania

Collection: Oral History Initiative  
Project: Duquesne Veterans'

DeFries: (air conditioner noise) All right, this is Megan DeFries and I'm here again with Joseph Murray, a veteran of the [US] Army Air Corps, and an alumni of Duquesne University. This is our second interview for the Duquesne Veterans' Oral History Project. It is Saturday, April 29, 2017, and we are in his home in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania [ed. note: Country Meadows Retirement Communities]. We're also joined today by his daughter, Mary Beth [Calorie], and Lauren [Eisenhart-Purvis], a grad student in the public history program, and Mary Beth's husband—

Calorie: Mike.

DeFries: Mike. (Calorie and DeFries laugh) So how are you today?

Murray: Awesome.

DeFries: Awesome. (all laugh) Good, glad to hear it. So, we left—

Murray: I—

DeFries: Oh, go ahead.

[00:00:44]

Murray: No, I—first of all, I think the unit deserves this. We had some letter indicating all the battle areas that the Fifth Bombing Group was involved in, so I think you probably have that—

Calorie: Yeah, we have their—

Murray: Balikpapan [East Kalimantan/Borneo, Indonesia]—

DeFries: Yes.

Murray: Luzon, the Philippines, all these were struck by—the President of the United States [Harry S. Truman] cited not only us, but other people. So we were proud to be in that

unit—unit for presidential [unit citation]—actually, the battle decoration for that is a little purple or blue—deep blue. It indicates the president has cited that particular unit, not just the air force, but other units, but we were proud to wear that.

DeFries: As you should be. (Calorie and DeFries laugh)

Murray: To get it, this prize, they had—we as a United States Air Force came in to rescue the RAF [Royal Air Force]. The RAF in England decided they were going to try daylight bombing and that almost riddled the—to zero. The United States sent the air force, the Eighth Air Force, over to England and the Eighth Air Force was a—had a—had a thing not very much bigger than that, but it could read—maybe you had a little boy or whatever, that could spin a top—well, somebody invented the Norden bombsight and inside it spun, it went up into a vertical zero. When it went to vertical zero, still spinning, so that the airplane was actually moving, but the zero things was standing its true vertical and it brought a whole change to the war because the Eighth Air Force bombed during the daylight and we bombed—and we didn't—the RAF bombed at night, but I thought that was an indication of [inaudible].

There were a couple of other things that were interesting, I thought it was interesting to Seth [his grandson], the ability of the Luftwaffe, that was the German air force. The German air force actually was terrible at—the Treaty of Versailles agrees that at the end of World War I, that they would not have armaments. So the armaments—the—General Hermann Göring decided that he was going to do this—he was going to train his Luftwaffe air force with gliders, so that when the war broke out, he had airplanes that were already part of their [inaudible], the front lines so to speak, and created a lot of devastation, particularly over in England. I thought that we lost people in England, but what we see now. There's one other thing that I felt was [inaudible], we're still at war. The only treaty that was signed by—was Japan. We're still at war with China, the old Korean War, nobody signed anything. (Calorie and Murray laugh) What was that war that we got involved with the Communists?

DeFries: Vietnam? Vietnam?

[00:06:01]

Murray: Vietnam. And actually took a—the president an opportunity to pull our troops out of there and we spared 53,000 men. We still had many things signed—we go into places like Afghanistan and we get the same kind of treatment. So for all of—we see we can't have war continue and danger like we're facing now with the Iran. So regrettably, wars don't serve—the people are constantly in danger. The people suffer by these things and I guess if you think about it—it's something that you try to avoid. Whether our present president, whatever he wanted to do, if he wanted to counteract, which remains to be seen. I hate to add a comment on him though.

DeFries: Thank you for sharing that.

Murray: I think that—I think we could do that if we had enough—I'm sorry, I should've asked you if you had—wanted to ask me specific—

DeFries: (laughs) No, that's okay. No, thank you, for adding the additional history. (newspaper rustling)

Murray: That's my feeling.

DeFries: No, I appreciate that.

[00:08:10]

Murray: The people—the Amish people—I spent an afternoon with the Amish out in Oakmont [Pennsylvania] and it's interesting to see, they take the children and take them downstairs there to the place, then they come up and then the three of us—actually the four of us—they can sit down there. This was an informal meeting and they say, "John Smith would like to say a few words," how he enjoyed the morning, we had a coffee break, and John said that he would look forward to another time like that. Then that was be the end of that. They said, "Does anybody have any other comments?" And I said, "No," and I then I said, "Oh, [inaudible]. (newspaper rustling) They said, "We have a visitor today. Welcome Joseph." I thought that was pretty neat. (Calorie and DeFries laugh) Betty says, "What are you doing, parading around there with the Amish people?" (Calorie and DeFries laugh) You got the same thing in the year [inaudible].

Calorie: Yeah. (laughs)

Murray: They—

Calorie: Mom was just concerned she'd have to move to Lancaster [Pennsylvania] with you, that's all. (laughs)

Murray: Yeah, I know. It's too easy to go to war and it's tough to pull out. We had Vietnam—dreadful. From our neighborhood, Jimmy—

Calorie: Englemeyer?

Murray: Englemeyer.

Calorie: Yeah.

Murray: He wasn't over there for two weeks (newspaper rustling) and he was killed.

Calorie: Yeah.

Murray: And they were just expending people right and left.

Calorie: Right.

Murray: It really what was—after a while, became an un-wonderful, un-Christian way to do things.

Calorie: Yeah, because my brother would've been in that time frame—

Murray: Yeah.

Calorie: So, he would've been in that time frame. (laughs) So he had friends, (newspaper rustling) that—that were fighting in 'Nam. He, himself, had a wife and a child, so that's what kept him from being drafted, so—

DeFries: It's a tough time period.

Calorie: Yeah, yeah it—

[00:10:56]

Murray: The coming back home, I think that Duquesne University brought another dimension to my life. I had the—the people were important to me. When I was overseas, I think I lost an idea, intentionally, that the people weren't that important. You lose a friend flying, he wasn't really that important in your life was he, Joe? You say no. So then, there'd be a little horn that would blow itself and say, "All squadrons will fly tomorrow." So that was the way you kept that idea out of your head and maybe wrote a letter home once in a while, but it was taking things away from you, dulling yourself down so that you flew the next day. Made you—that everything was okay and you were going to have a good flight. So your whole attitude becomes permanently dogmatic, you're going to have a good flight, and you're going to take care of your aerial engineer. (air conditioner noise) And getting to Duquesne—back to Duquesne, that was getting back to order and we didn't know how it happened, but we—so I think the Spiritans knew and they—they brought subjects up sort of according—where they were in Africa, and they brought some interest back. Oh, somebody was out of this country many times, so—

DeFries: They were able to relate with you?

Murray: Yeah.

DeFries: On that level.

Murray: And I think it brought things in—my family that were out in apartments, I wasn't married and that was—my mother and my one sister I lived with they were—didn't ask many questions, says you can sleep late. (all laugh) Thank you people, thank you mother. My mother—there's a picture of her there, [points to photograph] that's with my father and myself, so—he didn't ask too many questions. That was the—(newspaper rustling)

DeFries: Was that easier, or hard for you, when they didn't ask questions? Was it easier for you when they didn't ask questions or was it harder to not talk about it?

[00:14:23]

Murray: I—I think it was—I think it was the question that you could lose yourself if you didn't do that and losing yourself, you wondered why there weren't many people that even knew who you were. And I think there were—one remedy (clock chimes) to that would be go to the nearest bar and have a memory restorer. (Calorie and DeFries laugh) But actually, the—something happened that changed my life significantly. Betty Davis was—school time at Crafton High School was preceded by a—by me, to be three years older than she, and a kid who had sandals I used to see would go up and go in their homeroom, so—faster than me and I wondered how they—after all, I was a senior.



(Calorie and DeFries laugh) The war came. I didn't have much to think about after that, but one day I was with a friend of mine and we were in a Kaufmann's department store and was on an escalator—looked down there—I saw this girl down there and I said to Al, who was with me, Albert Flacco, "Who is that girl?" He said, "Don't you know, that's Betty Davis." I couldn't wait to get home and call her, I said, "Hi Betty, this is Joe." (all laugh) From there things—things moved in one direction and we got married.

DeFries: So did you date in high school?

Murray: Yeah, I kind of liked the idea of 1800 weddings, that you courted the girl. (Calorie and DeFries laugh) She'd say, "I'll meet you at the downtown area," (newspaper rustling) because we didn't have cars, she didn't. So that was the courtship and I kind of liked it, but I was old fashioned. (laughs)

DeFries: That sounds nice. (laughs)

Calorie: You didn't date mom in high school though, right dad?

Murray: No.

Calorie: No, it was when you came back that you started to date. Yeah.

Murray: (speaking at the same time) Yeah. That's true.

DeFries: Oh okay.

Calorie: Yeah. Now mom had graduated from Pitt [University of Pittsburgh] by that time. You were at Duquesne.

Murray: Yeah.

Calorie: But mom had graduated from Pitt.

Murray: She had graduated.

Calorie: And she was working in town, yeah, yeah.

Murray: One of the things she did, she worked for an airline as a stewardess, which I didn't know. (newspaper rustling) I said, "But you quit." She said, "Yeah, it got boring." (all laugh) I said, "That's the girl for me." (all laugh) Life—things get too boring, except marriage.

Calorie: Of course, of course. We used to tease her about flying in the open cockpit airplanes (laughs) and then she would roll her eyes at us because my mom wouldn't get mad, she would roll her eyes. (all laugh) I think dad got a lot of eye rolls in his sixty-some years. (Calorie and DeFries laugh)

Murray: Yeah. (laughs)

DeFries: So you began at Duquesne in September 1946? Is that right? You—you began at Duquesne in September 1946?

Murray: Graduated?

Calorie: (speaking at the same time) No, you began, dad.

DeFries: (speaking at the same time) No, began school, began. You graduated in 1949, correct?

Murray: Yeah.

Calorie: (speaking at the same time) Yeah.

DeFries: Okay. So can you tell me a little bit about what Duquesne was like when you started there?

[00:18:44]

Murray: Well Duquesne was pretty much like a lot of other schools, religious or not. They—I think—they had a Spiritan and his name was Father Baker. He had just come back, they brought him back because they thought he had scarlet fever and he was there. He could speak Swahili (Calorie laughs) and so that turned me on right away. He was a priest there during the war, you know—because we—our group did not have a chaplain, we did not have a chaplain when we were overseas, that was pretty bad. And so, Father Baker also liked to take pictures. That was very nice. He sort of worked things in, (newspaper rustling) like I wasn't the only man in the world and Father Baker would say, "Yeah, we have plenty of nice people here," things like that. So I think he supported—we had—taking most of our classes and I was thinking of—there was a girl named Anne Miller, whose father owned an airplane rental thing. So Annie was not very big, but she could fly, I mean, do the pilot work. So she said to me, "Would you like to fly with me one day after?" "No thanks, not for a while," (all laugh) but I thought it was interesting that girls being—driving cars was big, still big then, and to fly was something else.

DeFries: Unusual. (laughs)

Murray: Annie Miller, I wonder what happened to her? (Calorie laughs) I guess she got married. (all laugh)

DeFries: That's a good bet probably. (all laugh)

Calorie: Probably, that's true.

Murray: Also, interesting that she—mainly, at that time, there were more—there were more men enrolled at Duquesne than women, which is kind of interesting. Why do you think that was?

DeFries: Because they came back from the war and had the GI Bill [Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944], perhaps? (Calorie laughs) Do you think?

Murray: Maybe, maybe.

DeFries: Did you plan to go to—before you left for the war, had you planned to go to college or did you decide to go to college when you came back from the war?

[00:21:54]

Murray: I—I hadn't made up my mind, it was—it was kind of one of those secondary things, but I came back and Gulf Oil Company had some rental airplanes. When I got back, the Gulf building—there was a line of about 120 guys who were going to fly airplanes again in peacetime and I turned around and walked away. (all laugh)

DeFries: Said no thank you.

Murray: Yeah.

Calorie: Try something different.

[00:22:35]

Murray: I thought the interesting thing, there was a fellow who used to [inaudible] groceries to my mother and his name was Kunio Yashisato and Kunio and I used to go up in his attic where he rented a place and build model airplanes. And the—Kunio's parents—his father owned this shop in the Jenkin's Arcade—his father was pure Japanese. He had these beautiful little trinkets and so, when war came we were so rattled that we [Americans] took his father and his mother and put them in the West Coast, in those securement areas [ed. note: Japanese American internment camps] because we might—they might be fifth columnists, but we didn't know whether they were, so why not just ship them there. Ship Mr. Yashisato and his beautiful things into a place where this was not that. His—Kunio and I had no idea that when we were building our little model airplanes, that maybe Kunio (newspaper rustling) would go to—go overseas and go back to Japan. It didn't happen that way. The army created a Sino-Japanese regiment [442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team] that was sent to the fifteenth battle area and they were used by the United States and Kunio was there; Kunio also got there. But one day I stopped in a saloon for some Coca-Cola and there was Kunio and I said, "Hi Kunio, how are you?" He didn't say a word, didn't say one word, yet he was as American as I was. So I got my beverage and—but it showed you how maybe inside of him, he was thinking about the atom bomb, how violence is something you need to take some of his father's countrymen and treat them pretty badly.

[00:25:45]

And that was the other thing, justifying the atom bomb was, I thought, a terrible thing. These people would've liked to have—many of them, I think, would've liked to have—but they had also had a mission out of their religions, a code of bushido, and that's what the Japanese warriors had from generation to generation. You live by the code of bushido. So there was always that mix—mix-up, who was going to be the good guy and who was going to be the bad guy? But the bushido, you can see, the good guy was going to be the violent guy and that's the reason, oftentimes a Japanese soldier could live on three years of rice, without any receiving those—we were denying them in the Pacific, our air force was denying them the islands that I mentioned—Yap, the Dutch were all over the—and the last one was Balikpapan, which was the oil fields that the Japanese

had that we took them back by flying the Thirteenth Air Force against them. So the things were—things were not always that orderly. (coughs) Excuse me. (coughs)

DeFries: Would you like to take a short break? (chair creaking)

Calorie: Do you want some water, dad? Or is the coffee good?

Murray: (speaking at the same time) No, I'm fine.

Calorie: Okay.

[00:27:59]

Murray: You see, Duquesne was more of an anchor point in my life and (coughs) I might not have agreed with everything—but I was, that I should be looking to a—a Christian Catholic [university], pick up again. Not that I was that intense in my feelings before I left for the war, but at least—but I think the Spiritans were very, very influential in the way they approached us, they—(fire alarm)

*pause in recording*

DeFries: All right, so we're back after an eventful fire alarm. (laughs)

[00:29:05]

Murray: Yeah. Once I—when I came back from overseas, I was classified in one of the fields in Arizona. So then I came back to the eastern part of the country, for what reason I'm not sure, but I found out that I had neatly gotten to go to New York [City] and to spend at least 500 dollars, which was a lot of money then, and that's—but I got to New York and got to a place called the Ice Restaurant [Iceland Restaurant]. In the Ice[land] Restaurant, they had waitresses who—you had skates and they'd skate around. They'd pick out people out of the audience who would—with their little chariots; they'd put them in there and skate around—skate. I couldn't miss that. (all laugh) There was this beautiful little girl—little waitress I had she was pushing me, she said, "I'm going to push you." I said, "Okay" (DeFries laughs) and she says that—we had some fun. Next thing you know, we're out walking in Central Park and—(chair creaking) she was Norwegian—and she said to me, "You know, we've had a grand time," I said, "Yeah, that's right." She said, "Did you ever think of getting married, like, to me?" (Calorie and DeFries laugh) And I said I hadn't. A while later, I think I told Mary Beth, European girls don't have any hesitations and this was a time—her father was a good provider, [inaudible] I was a provider. (laughs) I said, "No," a—Mitty Gustafson was her name—"No, Mitty, I haven't been thinking of this at all." She said, "Oh, well take me back to the Iceland Restaurant then," which we did, and had some more dinner and whatever and we kissed, and she went down to South Carolina. And later I got a letter that said—in the letter, that said, "Sorry Joe, I met a guy," was very much the idea, "I'm getting married. So good luck and goodbye, Mitty." (all laugh) And I brought up something and I guess that it's true, the European girls are much more ready than the American girls. The European girls, I think, when they—they think they found their everlasting mate, this was a good time and they wanted a short time or maybe they just wanted to get married and I didn't see Mitty—Mitty again. I thought it was maybe a good tradeoff. She had the idea that

she may have been courting with me—Ice Restaurant—Iceland Restaurant. I still had part of my 500 dollars and everybody was happy. (all laugh)

[00:33:06]

Back home, lived for a while with my parents, that was—made sure I got enrolled at Duquesne—(chair creaking) was the place to be. I think a lot of the people, the expectations were high. One of those things that they did—had in the army, they used those temporary—

DeFries: The Quonset huts?

Calorie: The Quonset huts?

Murray: Quonset huts.

Calorie: Yeah, yeah.

Murray: Yeah, they had Quonset huts. I lived in them for a little while and then I was getting close to getting graduated, but housing was so difficult. I never thought that—it'd be so important to have people free to do certain things. Like, Neville Island, I never thought they'd have a plant that would build airplane propellers. Who would have thought of that? Who needed that many airplane propellers? United States Air Force did and maybe some of the British, I never thought. Your expectations are never met, besides it was nice and warm and they were cozy.

Calorie: In the Quonset huts, dad?

Murray: In the Quonset huts.

Calorie: I heard they were hot in summer and cold in the winter. (laughs)

Murray: Several Our Fathers would take care of that. (all laugh)

Calorie: Oh, really? I don't know.

[00:34:50]

Murray: I thought that—I thought there was a—I don't know whether I told Mary Beth this or not. On my way in, oh let's say in—I think we hadn't picked up an airplane already—there's a place called the Admiralties [Admiralty Islands] and I noticed men wore these white jackets with red sashes and bushy hairdos, and I thought, That's unusual. They were directing traffic, which was oxen. So I had a little restaurant that provided the housing, the government was going to pay the bill. Well when I got in it, they called them burry huts and they had grass tops. My burry hut—there was one of these people and he was off duty and after starting my sleep, something wonderful happened. I look up and there's a snake net, not only that, but there living—the snake was trying to live there. So, my friend came back in while I was screaming (laughs) and he said, "I'll take this snake," and he reached in and took the snake. (Calorie and DeFries laugh) He must've had a sudden charm and got it. And he—when I got ready to leave the next day I was gathering all this stuff and he came in and he just stood there and I said, "You

certainly were wonderful.” I handed him an Australian pound note and he said, “You’re a puckasibe-sibe.” [Language and translation unknown] (all laugh) I guess that meant you’re an okay guy. (all laugh)

Calorie: You hope, anyway. Yeah.

Murray: Puckasibe.

DeFries: That’s—

Murray: A friend of mine, I flew out with him, when I used to—we used to have that for each other, we wanted to see if—“Hello, are you a puckasibe? Are you a puckasibe?” (all laugh) That was—that was my introduction to the—to what other people did when they—their expectations were you certainly should give me something for getting a snake. (Calorie laughs)

DeFries: Right.

Murray: Wouldn’t you think?

Calorie: Yeah.

DeFries: Um-hm.

Murray: And he did too. Ah, yes.

DeFries: Before the fire alarm, you had started to tell me a little bit about Spiritans, and saying how they were kind of what drew you to Duquesne and how they related to the students—

Murray: Yeah.

DeFries: Could you tell me some more about that?

Murray: Yeah.

DeFries: About your feelings about that?

[00:37:50]

Murray: They—I think Duquesne doesn’t have too much courting or trouble finding students. The only thing is, like most every private college, they’re expensive. When I worked—not at Duquesne—they certainly had—we were building community colleges then in Beaver County, so I had the job of being the director of financial aid, which was very nice. (chair creaking) You get to see other people. You get to see people who are not like you. They appreciate money, even the kids; and a lot of the kids had to goose step from their barracks or home, (newspaper rustling) into a place where they had friends and didn’t have violence. So they had—you get a chance to talk to them and before this time, they worked in the steel mill, mainly Jones and Laughlin [Jones and Laughlin Steel Company]. Jones and Laughlin had 7,000 people who were working there and then suddenly, the United States started to find out we were working with foreign steel at a

cheaper price and instead of being able to tolerate that, well, it was a thing we encouraged. And [inaudible], particularly Black Americans could go into community college, which they did. Not all of them made it. They had such a bad education through the [Beaver] Valley and they, too, counted on the—just stepping right into a job at Jones and Laughlin. That job was gone. So we did see some things that were changing and certainly, I lightened it a little bit, coming home, and it wasn't just the Black Americans. The kids who didn't really realize now what was on the other side. (laughs) They were pretty certain before that they had made the [inaudible] and things like that, being occupied, but they were suffering. Now, I guess, you need a number of people to work at those mills, be about 400 versus 7,000.

DeFries: When you—when you went to Duquesne, were you able to use the GI Bill to—to go there? Is that how you went—because you were saying how Duquesne was expensive, so were you able to use the GI Bill to go to Duquesne?

[00:41:09]

Murray: My beloved Bebe was a—she encouraged me and I went to graduate school at Pitt and then we'd go out at night and she said, "I can take care of the children and you can go to Pitt with your background." And she was very generous because taking care of children is not easy. That's the end of that line. (all laugh)

Calorie: But—

Murray: What it—what it—what it was—was there was also my mentor at Pitt—was a woman, a Jewish lady, and I used to go in on Saturday and I'd meet Martha, I think I remember, and we'd take the work that I had—they didn't have the electronic age, the things that they do now. So it was about big bundles of work that you did. I went in and she said to me, "You're going to stay here and go through this stuff," and I said, "No," and I grabbed some of the stuff, threw it on the floor. She said—she didn't say a word. (laughs) She just said, "I think it's time for you to pick that stuff up," and so that's how I learned to—she wasn't a religious, but she had a lot of religious (laughs) patience with this guy. (Calorie and DeFries laugh) As we do, I reveal my inability to think about [inaudible]. I got my PhD from Pitt, knowing her. It's funny how you meet people, you know, that you never see in your wife or your husband, except at different times how they—they relate to you and you to them and sometimes strangers or sometimes, just the work that you do, relates you to other people. Don't you think?

DeFries: I think so, yeah. (laughs)

Murray: Not always happy endings, but at least it's an adventure there.

Calorie: There's—there's a picture of you graduating from Duquesne, dad and we couldn't find it. We think that you might have sent it to—to Mark and Donna a number of years ago, where you're holding Mark as an infant.

Murray: Oh yeah.

[00:44:06]

Calorie: So, you—you got married and had a child and you were a student at Duquesne, that (Murray laughs) had to be—talk about having—you know, when you talk about mom watching the kids, (Murray laughs) you know, watching us when you did your PhD, that had to be a time of transition—

Murray: (speaking at the same time) Yeah, right.

Calorie: —when you were talking about transition—

Murray: It was.

Calorie: —yeah.

Murray: We had our Mark and then we didn't have another child for ten years. Then we had two girls. We were really lucky.

Calorie: Aw.

Murray: I said to (chair creaking) Bebe, “You have a lucky—being at home, you already had ten years in between. Aren't you lucky?” (Calorie and DeFries laugh)

DeFries: So you were a busy student, (Murray laughs) you married Betty Lou in 1947, and you had a child—

Murray: Yeah.

DeFries: —shortly thereafter?

Calorie: 1948.

DeFries: Okay. And you were studying business?

Murray: Yeah.

DeFries: At Duquesne. Wow. So you—you had a busy life—(laughs)

Murray: Yeah.

DeFries: —at the time.

[00:45:08]

Murray: Yeah. And that's when one or two of the classes were downtown—

DeFries: Okay.

Murray: —at one of the buildings down there. So if you had a double enrollment like one up at Duquesne, one downtown, one back up to the (Calorie laughs) Bluff.

DeFries: Was it the Fitz—Fitzsimons Building or the Fitzsimmons Building, is that—



Murray: It was—

DeFries: —where it was?

Murray: —teaching pre—not medical students, but pharmacy students.

DeFries: Um-hm.

Murray: And—

Calorie: It was on Fourth Avenue, wasn't it dad? Did you tell me that? Were the classrooms on Fourth Avenue in town? So you had classes in town and then up on the Bluff?

Murray: Yes.

Calorie: Was it Fourth Avenue? Do you remember?

Murray: Yes, it was.

Calorie: Yeah, uh-huh.

Murray: There was another—there was another person that was attending below.

Calorie: (laughs) Oh really?

Murray: They couldn't—they couldn't get enough for—particularly the service people coming back that would enroll because at the beginning they were trying to find—there was no jobs. It's either back someplace that was living in a boarding house or some unpleasant place, but it's hard to assess where you were. And—

Calorie: How did you decide on Duquesne, dad? Because Uncle Don went to Pitt.

Murray: Yeah.

Calorie: Right. How did—what made you decide on Duquesne? I never asked you that.

[00:46:53]

Murray: I liked the way—I liked the way the—the people seemed to have a caring for you and a patience—a patience that was there. I found that out. Probably it was the philosophy of the university. I don't think that Pitt had difficulty getting the money [inaudible] at Duquesne, but people manage, I don't know how—

Calorie: Yeah.

Murray: —but they do.

Calorie: But you—because you had the GI Bill, (chair creaking) that wasn't as much—

Murray: Yeah, I—

Calorie: —of an issue for you.

Murray: The GI Bill—

Calorie: Yeah.

Murray: (chair creaking) —and thought it was—that was a great fortune.

Calorie: You worked for it, (all laugh) awfully hard.

DeFries: Yes. You earned it.

Calorie: A lot of sacrifice there. So—

DeFries: Why did you decide on business? Why did you decide to study business?

[00:47:53]

Murray: I don't know—I don't think I was suited for it. (Calorie laughs) I think the community college gave me a different goal. I think it was more of a positive—build—build with me and I'll help you. And that was [what] a lot of people do, they kind of enroll your help. I think either that and marriage, that if you help me through this thing, I'll always remember it, you know. I think that the enrollments—thinking life and your marriage, you had the idea of—that the—the things—you have to compromise a little bit. It'll come back, but you have to be patient. And that was for us, we weren't at all patient. We expected to graduate Duquesne two days after we got in the place because (Calorie laughs) they taught you to be overbearing, you know, in flying and things that happened.

[00:49:21]

I think Mary Beth and Mike can remember this—I was coming back—we were in a place called Morotai [Island, Indonesia] and I was coming back with the mail, with my mail, and I heard bang-bang and this kid, private, comes up and he says, “Lieutenant, one of your gunners shot the other one,” and I ran up there. There was Connors and Menter, [ed. note: Kenshaw in first interview] and Menter [ed. note: Connors in first interview] was—had been a circus clown. Now he's very well-built physically and he's holding his hand and there was blood coming out of it and there was the other guy, he had the gun. And people had gathered by that time and he put the gun down. So we pressed on the blood, the flow of blood was stopped. This thing could be a court martial. What had happened, they got a bottle of gin or Australian rum, and the one guy, who had been overseas for a while, said, “Your wife is, no doubt, being besot by other men,” and that's when Connors shot the other guy, but when the—as I said, it would be a court martial offense. So the colonel said to me and he said, “You think that this is (air conditioner noise) a thing done out of anger?” I said, “Yes sir, I do,” and he said, “How would you like to know that it was—that Connors was cleaning his gun and the gun went off.” I said, “You're kidding?” He said, “No. That's what's going to go on the report. We got a hospital statement, but the true story was mine or you'll be on a plane bound to the States for a court martial,” and I said, “Listen you heroes, when it comes to (laughs) the grand idea, you're going to say only one thing. The colonel is going to be listening. You'll go back to duty as soon as that wound heals.” They both agreed to that. I never saw Connors after that. I think we—he thought I was indifferent. After all, he

had taught me to swim. I was not a good swimmer. Connors the clown taught me that. You always have something to thank somebody with, even after they do awful things. He would say to me—the colonel, not me—the colonel had a lot more to lose. Well, was that a lie, that he was cleaning his pistol? Is that a lie? Oh yes, it was. You can deal with it the way you want to, I would impose, if I were you. You're going to have an untidy time and things like that happened and people got killed that way. These two guys were so drunk that they had a stand down, which interpreted would—a bad thing—the rain was pouring, it was part of the—part of the monsoons and we had to stand down and all planes had canvas covers on them, and it was the typical setup to some drama that did take place, as most people lose their temper over a period of time. (clock chimes) Those two got drunk.

DeFries: Things happen sometimes. (laughs)

Calorie: That's true. (laughs) So coming back to the classroom, when you were at Duquesne, it must have been kind of boring (laughs) after—I said after what you lived for those years, coming back—

Murray: Yeah.

Calorie: —to college in a classroom had to be kind of boring, yes?

[00:54:12]

Murray: (speaking at the same time) Well, I think that's it. I think that was the need for like, my friend, the woman who guided me through the throw down.

Calorie: Right, the—the doctoral program.

Murray: She knew that that was the wrong thing to do.

Calorie: Right. Uh-huh.

Murray: She just turned it around and in her Jewish way, said to me, "I think you need to pick this up." (laughs) I—yes.

Calorie: She wasn't going to tolerate your tantrum. (laughs)

Murray: Yeah.

DeFries: Right. (laughs)

Murray: She was wonderful.

Calorie: Did she remind you of those nuns that taught you at Saint Philip's? What were they—they were the [Sisters of] Charity nuns, right? (speaking at the same time) I think, yeah.

Murray: (speaking at the same time) Yeah, I think that—what was the word from—she always had the Jewish word for something. I used to remember some of them (Calorie laughs) and I'd see her on Saturday morning.

DeFries: So, you ended up graduating in 1949 from Duquesne, right?

Murray: Yeah.

DeFries: And then after that, were you in the Air Reserves for a period of time?

[00:55:32]

Murray: Well, after I went into the community college, a friend of mine, Auggie Torak, had the—his wife was a—was a secretary at Duquesne. She was a secretary and Auggie and his wife—his wife was a lovely person, (clears throat) they had seven children and Auggie worked the job with me down in the valley, Beaver Valley, and we worked together for a while. And then we—like many times, he separated—was separated from me and worked in another branch of the community college. Different—a community college started out difficult, talking—community college—a four-year college like Geneva [College], Slippery Rock [University], they, at first, didn't want that kind of stuff. Two year, no matter how efficient it was, they could see some encroachment in their college, which would be a four-year college. Little by little, (clears throat) as they saw the enrollments sharpen up, at least a decent—some part of these young people would make it through the two-year college and they didn't feel so threatened after a while because they would transfer, some of them—we knew there was a generation coming in, nothing like today. I don't know—how many community colleges do they have today? How many courses at night?

Calorie: Yeah, there's—there's—

Murray: We had—

Calorie: —quite an expanse of it.

Murray: Well, we had electric technology, welding with—RN [registered nurse] nursing. We had [inaudible]. We were giving them a base to work with and the money. I could designate the money, nothing like today. Nothing like costs today, but then you had better financing from the state, federal government, not all loan money. That's the key today. You can find the money, but it's almost all loan money.

DeFries: What were you teaching? What were you teaching at the community college?

Murray: (speaking at the same time) I was the director of financial aid.

DeFries: You were the director of financial aid, I'm sorry if you said that and I missed it. (laughs) Okay.

Murray: So a lot of—a lot of paper passing, not like today. The computer instrument—go through it. It would take me (laughs) four hours to go through something. (Calorie and DeFries laugh) Isn't that something?

DeFries: Um-hm. Yes.

[00:59:00]

Murray: I—I think I got the patience from the fathers.

DeFries: From the Spiritans?

Murray: Yes, the Spiritans.

Calorie: Spiritans.

DeFries: Okay.

Murray: Yeah.

Calorie: Did you have many Spiritans teach you, dad, at Duquesne? Were there many Spiritans that taught?

Murray: Well, I—they had—as I think I went in to the second semester, but I didn't have as many as the first semester. People coming and going.

Calorie: Yeah. Probably because they—

Murray: Yeah.

Calorie: —you moved into the business courses in your second year, so—

Murray: (speaking at the same time) Yeah. Yeah.

Calorie: Yeah. So, where did you—where did you and mom live after you were married? Since you were a student still.

[00:59:51]

Murray: Oh, we lived in Crafton [Pennsylvania].

Calorie: Oh, did you live on Belvidere?

Murray: (speaking at the same time) Belvidere Street.

Calorie: (speaking at the same time) Okay. I didn't know—

DeFries: So you were a commuter student? You were a commuter from Crafton?

Murray: I—we could walk to the church. I think the—I can remember the pastor I—she did, but I didn't.

Calorie: Oh, Father Kelty? Father Kelty?

Murray: Father Kelty.

Calorie: Yeah, yeah.

Murray: Stories from Father Kelty, who had come from New Jersey and was an Irishman. There was another priest that shared the same house—place with him as an assistant. Can you imagine today, having an assistant? While they were having dinner one night and it was cold in the dining room and Father [inaudible] said to Father [Kelty], “Father, don’t you think it’s cold in here?” and Father Kelty said, “Yes, it is cold. You came here with an overcoat.” Poor Father fell into this trap. (laughs) He said, “Yes, well put it on the next time we have dinner together.” (DeFries laughs)

Calorie: (speaking at the same time) And this was the pastor of Saint Philip’s.

Murray: (speaking at the same time) This is the—yeah.

Calorie: So not the Spiritans. This is the pastor of Saint Philip’s.

DeFries: (speaking at the same time) Oh okay, right. Is that your local church—

Calorie: That was the local church.

DeFries: —in Crafton?

Calorie: Right.

DeFries: Okay.

Calorie: Exactly, yeah.

DeFries: When you were a—when you were coming from Crafton to go to Duquesne, did you have a lot of trouble with parking on campus? Because I’ve heard it was very difficult. (laughs)

[01:01:36]

Murray: (speaking at the same time) No, because there were a lot of classes I could make—I finally got a job with the United States Insurance Company, which is—it was global and I could go to classes because I had a job in the claims department.

Calorie: Oh, okay.

Murray: And then this community college job opened up and that’s—that was the break. And still I look on people—I think we, I think we had the right philosophy because we were willing to wait—I think that students taught us how to wait better because there weren’t too many options. You wanted to have the best jobs. Now comes the children, and they have to have certain things. Try as you may to be frugal and—and caring of the other person, staying married and in love for a long time, because people are a little fast today, (laughs) in my opinion, they’re a little fast. Say one naughty word and the whole thing—I wonder how I ever—who lives with him as long as I did? (Calorie and DeFries laugh)

DeFries: So did—did your job with the community college influence what you chose to study at Pitt for your masters and your PhD program?

[01:03:19]

Murray: I think—I think I began to enjoy college more. I liked the comradery. I liked the straight of—straight of—influence of discipline, which I had had when I was in the military. If you had somebody who was—had your rank, they were all right. If there were other people at attention, then you immediately go like that [salutes] because somebody on deck—somebody was about to tell you something. I think—I think I had a place of—I was getting a better understanding of authority and willing to listen and didn't like that obnoxious feeling that I was the big man, but I had the—I think to fly, that was the other part. You have to believe that you're the number one person, but that's to save the life—up in an airplane like we had to save the lives of people and as long as that is something you can think about. But I—I think—I think Duquesne fitted me and I fitted Duquesne. I had some things to bring to Duquesne and found out with Betty, my wife, and we came—it's like Mary Beth said, we can't find that picture, (papers rustling) where I was holding Mark now—that was—that was (paper ripping) a different thing.

DeFries: What do you—what do you think you were able to bring to Duquesne (paper rustling)?

[01:05:33]

Murray: I think I was able to—(paper rustling) I think I was able to feel reasonably comfortable in class when I was—when something would be brought up, (paper rustling) like I was willing to make a few trips to the library. I loved to read after that because overseas (chime in background) I could read a book. We get a stand down, I'd read through one of these books where something nice could happen. One of the most exciting things to happen was that we had a stand down again, part of the monsoon and I went to the mailroom and came back. I had a sack, but there was a particular sack with a—a loaf of bread. And my sister Rita, who used to write me regularly, she said, "I hope you enjoy this." I open it and it doesn't feel like a sack of—did I tell you this before?

DeFries: I think we did hear this story last time. It was a great story though. (laughs)

Calorie: (speaking at the same time) Yeah, yeah.

Murray: My loaf of bread and—

Calorie: Um-hm.

Murray: So—but I think I was able to bring to Duquesne feelings that you had to move forward—sometimes you had to move forward in contrast to what was there and very stable, but yet you turned—turned another page of your life there. You evaluated things. You were not losing people and finding (piano playing in background) life to be nothing but a positive feeling.

DeFries: Um-hm.

Murray: And I think your way—you felt like—other people began to (beeping in background) associate that same feeling with—that you had. So I think with the comradery that you naturally found people that you liked. People you might not have liked, (all laugh) but isn't that life?

DeFries: That's life.

[01:08:17]

Murray: Disappointments, how you take your disappointment—a better grade. Before I had a very—stormed around and didn't feel very nice, wasn't very polite. I was always polite. (laughs) I learned that in the military. (all laugh) Be polite or you'll regret it. The last thing I found out, how you need to feel positive. I got to another area called Samar and my commanding officer, who happened to be a lieutenant colonel, I knew he didn't like me. He thought I was a fresh first lieutenant and so he sent me off on a military thing, to another base that I flew with to get some information that he would use in bombing and when I got there, I brought it back and he said, "I didn't order this kind of stuff," and I said, "Well, Colonel, you didn't—you have to—" yeah, "You have to make the decision because you're my superior officer." That was the wrong thing to say because he—then any bad job he had was mine. It's funny to be honest. I met a squadron mate who said to me, "Murray, I thought you were killed." I said, "Not this time," you know, to be casual. I wasn't casual at all. (DeFries laughs) He said, "Did you hear about Colonel Hampton?" And I said "No." He said, "He flew a B-24 into a volcano." Right away, I could see these ten kids, you know. I tried to toss that off, you know. I'd say, Oh really? Yeah.

[01:10:56]

That's what was—but you were bringing that kind of stuff home with you. And I thought—I thought the Spiritans knew—didn't know exactly how they did this, nor did I—they were transforming my value system. The value system that you need. The patience that you need. The world doesn't belong to you. (piano playing in background) And when you—when you fly, the world is yours. I was the best. I was the best flier that the air force ever had, you know, (Calorie and DeFries laugh) except Lindbergh. (all laugh) And I—I think that's—that relationship strengthened. I thought that it did strengthen. To meet new friends—new friends that kind of extend that idea of there's something valuable going on here. Don't mislay it. Don't put it away. Don't be too bashful to ask a girl for a dance, (Calorie and Murray laugh) though I'm sure she thought I was wearing the wrong kind of shoes, (all laugh) but I think those are the values. When you were overseas, there were straight lines. If you do something, you're going to get hurt, just like the colonel did. But how it happened, I'm not fair to judge. But I think so many things were woven into that education that gave me the strength, particularly disappointment. I got it first when Betty and I got married; we found out that I got different kind of jobs, nice jobs like loading boxcars. Instead of her getting maybe a new dress or something, she'd say—at dinnertime, she would say, "Are you still loading boxcars?" And I would put my head down, "You know I am," (all laugh) and feed the baby.

Calorie: So were you doing that, dad, while you were a student at Duquesne? Did you load boxcars while you were a student at Duquesne?

Murray: What did— (chair creaking)

Calorie: Were you loading the boxcars while you were still a student at Duquesne? Did you do—

Murray: No, I got a job in between jobs.

Calorie: Oh, okay, okay. (Murray laughs) Yeah, yeah.



[01:14:04]

Murray: (piano playing in background) And she'd say, "Well, we can go to the theatre tonight," you know, the movie. I said, "The movies?" "Yeah, that's what I said," and that night, we got a sitter and went to the movies. Yeah.

Calorie: Yes, yeah.

Murray: Very persuasive woman. (all laugh)

Calorie: She was that's true. Lofty goals—

Murray: Yeah.

Calorie: —she had, like the movies. (laughs)

Murray: I—(chair creaking) I think marriage is—I think marriage was woven [in] a little bit at Duquesne, more than a little bit. I think the waiting for another child—was ten years—that's the reason Mark was always kind of a (laughs) post-listening, post—when he was ten years old, you came along Mary Beth. (Calorie laughs)

Calorie: Ruined his life (Calorie and DeFries laugh).

Murray: Yeah.

Calorie: Ruined his life. (laughs)

Murray: I particularly liked your thrift. Cindy, our other daughter, would—if she got an Easter egg, she would have it half eaten and Mary Beth, if she got an Easter egg for Christmas [sic, Easter]—for—(chair creaking) she would store it under her bed. (Calorie and DeFries laugh)

Calorie: (speaking at the same time) For a little later.

DeFries: (speaking at the same time) Hold onto it.

Murray: (speaking at the same time) The differences in thrifty, being thrifty (Calorie laughs) and Mary Beth was waiting for that rainy day. (all laugh) Cindy would take no, no prisoners.

Calorie: Right.

Murray: Gobble gobble.

DeFries: She would seize the moment.

Calorie: She—she was, yes, definitely. (speaking at the same time) Plus she knew where I hid my chocolate. (Calorie and DeFries laugh)

Murray: (speaking at the same time) Isn't that—aren't you glad you find those differences in your children?

Calorie: Um-hm.

DeFries: Oh yeah.

[01:16:24]

Murray: It'd be so—I guess then—then [inaudible] they taught me to be—to be religious or go in the military or go into education and how structured. I think—I think when mother [his wife] and I went to Oxford [University]—the English can be very generous—after World War II, they would take you as an American, do any reasonable test, and you could go to Oxford. They would pay most of the time. And that's kind of a romantic place, in addition to one of the old places. I thought—I think they taught the arts—I thought I liked poetry (chair creaking) and poetry—although I don't think the—I don't think the English get along with the Irish or get along too well with the Scots. I had a Scottish grandmother and she was born in a little fishing village on Dundee, which is Eastern Scotland and I think there was a—you'd probably find this hard to believe, but the various churches that my father belonged to, that—the Saint James Church, he was—he was there as a child. My mother belonged to a German church, they taught you the Our Father in German. (DeFries and Murray laugh) They taught my mother how to play the piano, excellent teachers. Some of that German discipline came out. My—my idea of different sorts [inaudible] to overcome being raised in a Catholic family that was a German family, so my mother and dad had to go Ohio because they got turned down at Saint James and Saint Martin's because they couldn't agree—not them, the people wouldn't stand for them inside. You have to go to Ohio to get married. (laughs)

DeFries: Oh my. (laughs)

Calorie: Yeah.

Murray: It's almost impossible to believe, isn't it?

DeFries: Um-hm.

Murray: Religion would not budge. Yeah, after all, that was only church. Even if a—even if a [marriage] was blessed, I don't think God would want people to say—to say, “Well, we'll get married,” marry, and then how will we do this, you know. And people won't attend at the very staunch Irish and then you've got the very, kind of, militaristic German. They—and it's kind of hard to tell. One side never had a gift given. In Ohio, they had a beautiful wedding.

Calorie: That's part of the journey of being a Catholic pre-Vatican II and post-Vatican II.

Murray: (speaking at the same time) Yeah.

Calorie: (speaking at the same time) Because you've lived in both.

DeFries: Right.

Calorie: Yeah. So pre-Vatican II, that—if you were in the German Roman Rite or the Irish Roman Rite, it didn't matter, you were still in the Roman Rite, but there was a German

and an Irish church and they wouldn't marry people (piano playing in background) of different ethnic backgrounds.

DeFries: So many families have stories like that, including my own, so—(laughs)

Calorie: Yeah, that's—Mike's parents [were] the same way. They were almost not married because his mom's Polish and dad Italian, so yeah, good thing Catholicism is moving, ever so slowly. (Calorie and DeFries laugh)

[01:20:59]

Murray: I like the way the—some of the nuns or priests would have an attachment for Shakespeare. And when Betty and I were lucky enough to go to England, we went to Avon, where Shakespeare lived with his wife. It was a better thing because Avon—Shakespeare's wife's father was a glove maker, which was very necessary with—I would imagine in the seventeenth century. We were talking about protocol; a lot of women wore dress gloves and working gloves, I guess, but always the idea that Shakespeare could be taught in—he would go to London and this talented guy, I wonder if he was a—fought with his wife because he might stay there six months, whether he was very truthful and true to his wife. To me, I don't think so. Even though he would have had that wonderful wife. Both the religious like to think [inaudible] to broaden the idea, some of the people didn't like this idea of Shakespeare as unfaithful, which he may or may not been. So again with the judgement that he was married and I think I still remember somebody—my mother having a—reciting Shakespeare and I think, Boy, in our family, I thought, just a bunch of bigwigs reciting. “Now is the winter of our discontent [made] glorious summer by this sun of York,” [*Richard III*] and I still remember parts of that, especially if it was Richard and he was a murderer. He wanted to murder the two princes on his ascension to the throne. [As] fate would have it, I think he was killed in battle, so the Lord's justice must have done his work, *Richard III*. You probably remember it when you were in school, (Calorie and DeFries laugh) Richard—Richard dislikes (laughs) anybody whose shadow falls.

DeFries: Well, as we're coming near the end of our time today, I wanted to know if there was anything from your time at Duquesne or anything else that you'd like to share, before we—

Murray: I think—

DeFries: —wrap up?

[01:24:34]

Murray: I think the—the world can be made better without life—the difficulties that that can bring on because if you think about it, the military—we have—we ourselves have something to think about again, about dropping the atom bomb. There are people in—in Japan who didn't subscribe to bushido, but suffered the consequences. I think, however, there will be a just God for those people and that they will be protected and in their sainthood. I think the—we need to relate ourselves to these things that we do—don't do very well. Violence is always there to find us. You don't have to go very far. I hope we have more to give to people who need it and the things that we need—food, shelter—things that we don't—somebody says, “But so-and-so doesn't really want it. They—they

would work for it.” Ah, that’s not what the Lord said, He’d say, “Go on, (air conditioner noise) pony up. Take care of these people, they don’t know how to take care—to take care,” (laughs) and that’s getting [inaudible], so we need to give what my mentor said, “You pick it up. That’s not the best thing to do, but you’ll like it after a while.” (all laugh) I guess that’s it from me. (all laugh)

DeFries: Thank you so much for sharing your memories and your time for the project and thank you for your service. It was wonderful meeting you. So thank you, it was an honor to hear your story.

Murray: I’m sorry, I’m sorry. What you said.

DeFries: Oh, (laughs) I was just thanking you for your time, thank you for sharing your memories for the project—

Murray: (speaking at the same time) Oh—oh thank you for stopping by. It’s a privilege to meet that time [referring to first time meeting DeFries at Duquesne]. I think you need—everybody needs a storage of memories, good or bad. (Calorie laughs) [inaudible] I think it’s a gift that you—both of you made here, to come here, it’s a gift. Like Mary Beth, I think what was interesting to see the chapel last—when did we go in to the chapel?

Calorie: (speaking at the same time) It was on your birthday, dad. We were there for your birthday when you first met Megan.

Murray: (speaking at the same time) Yeah, all those good things stored up. It was very good there.

DeFries: Thank you for letting us come to your home and as I said, it—thank you for letting us come to your home and it’s an honor to hear your story and it was an honor to meet you, so thank you.

Murray: Thank you.

DeFries: Thank you.

*end of interview*