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Interview with Mrs. J. Fenton (Edna) Daugherty, widow of former physics professor and dean of men at the University of Delaware, June 1, 1973, by Rebecca Button.

Q This is an interview with Edna Daugherty whose husband J. Fenton Daugherty served on the Delaware College and University faculty for nearly forty years. Edna, when did you first come to Delaware?

A We came to Delaware in 1929, mainly to put two little girls in the grade school. We were at Sewanee, which is a men's college, and there was nothing there for little girls. And my husband felt like he couldn't teach all day and then come home and teach two little girls, or send them away to a boarding school at that tender age. And we arrived in Newark in 1929. The background of his arriving here, he was at Sewanee and he was sent to Chattanooga for an educational meeting. His dinner partner was Dr. Hullihen. And that was just his opening, and he said to Dr. Hullihen, "Do you happen to have anything in your Physics Department for me, because I have this problem." And he had been at Sewanee all those years and he also had two little girls and had the same problem. And he said, "Daugherty, yes we do. We have a job open," and he said, "Send me your credentials and you'll hear from me." In the meantime he went to Europe and it seemed like months before he ever answered the application. But it finally came through and he was hired. And the very interesting thing about his being hired was he said, "Daugherty your credentials are all right and everything. I'm satisfied but I can't give you the final O.K. 'til Miss Robinson okays you--sees if you're all right to teach her girls." I thought that was a kind of interesting thing.

We arrived in Newark in the fall of '29. And they had no housing in Newark, so Dr. Hullihen decided that he would put our goods in the basement of the Engineering Building--I can't imagine that happening today. Well, in the meantime, something did open up on West Main Street, the house that Dr. Mencher is in now, and I have always wondered what that house looked like, because it is half of the house next door. We took a decrease in salary to come here because it was so urgent to get these girls in school.

Q Was he a physics instructor at Sewanee?

A He was head of the Physics Department at Dewanee, so he came here as head of the Physics Department. And no sooner than we had gotten here when Dr. Hullihen called his staff together and he said, "The state is in terrible financial condition," which it still is, and he said, "I think it'd be nice if you men would voluntarily give 6% of your salary to this project." And he thought that the legislature might think that would be a magnanimous gift from the university. In the meantime, they gave us the whole of 10% and we were many years getting that back.

Q Well, for what project did he mean--what did he mean by giving it to the project? You mean just helping the state out?

A The dual highway, the DuPont Highway was in very bad shape. And as I said it was many years getting that back.

He taught a class a men's college and in five minutes he had to run down to the other end of the campus. And he had room down there but no

apparatus, and up at the men's college he had apparatus and no room, 'cause he taught in that little building behind the Red Station Hall. And I was always amused at that funny little building. And the previous instructor, where the students would lean against the wall, he had a big black place painted. And I always thought that was so funny. And he carried his apparatus under his arm down to the women's college. And he taught practically the same kind of course depending whether it was--up in men's college it was medical students and what not, engineers and what not. But there was a course that was in the curriculum at the women's college for many years called "Household Physics," and they were taught how to wire lamps and fix the gadgets in their house. And many times I've wished it in these last few months.

All went smoothly for a few years and the war came along and our enrollment dropped tragically. And at one time I can remember when there were only about 29 students in Brown Hall--and much to the sorrow of the girls at the women's college. In the meantime, they were put on an accelerated basis, a three-year course. And he had no help. Dr. Wilson was his instructor and he had moved to Philadelphia and his wife's mother was ill and she had to be cared for. As I said, their enrollment was low because of the war. And my husband went down to Dr. HULLIHEN and tried to enlist in the navy, and he said, "Daugherty, you're gonna have the biggest job you ever had in your life." And sure enough, the next day he had 300 A.S.T.P. students, and they were chosen from all over the United States and were a very able bunch of boys. They stayed here until six weeks before graduation and they were sent to Colorado to camp and went overseas with the 104th and many of them did not come back. The day that they left, nobody in Newark knew where they were leaving from--Col. Ashbridge was the commandant and he'd gone over to Ft. DuPont and chosen all their food that would go from here to Denver with them. And that morning they left; I can still hear that tramping down Main Street, and he had a train come in at the Newark Lumber Company. And that's where they left. The day that they came into town, Mrs. HULLIHEN got all the girls in Newark and had a tea party for them. And my girls came home and said, "Mother, we talked to a little kid up there, and he's just stuffing us we know. He said he's gonna meet his wife on the train from Cincinnati." And sure enough when we came home from church Monday they were banging at the door for a room for her. Well, she was a very nice little girl and this boy had never been off the farm, but he was smart as he could be. And the girls said, "Mother, let's take her." And I thought my girls might be stranded, so we had her for the duration. And I always remember the morning that he went overseas and she went back to Ohio, and we've lost track of them in the last four or five years.

[Tape stops here, starts in mid-sentence as follows] . . . the 300 students and who was going to teach these boys. So he got all the engineers who weren't working because there were no classes to be taught, and all the mathematics--he had to tutor that bunch to let 'em know what the government wanted these students--what courses they wanted to have. He had to tutor the students and then teach his own classes. So that went on for a while. And in the meantime, on his desk was the university calendar. He was chairman of the social committee, chairman of the athletic committee, along with all of this. Dr. Seiffert [sp] was president at that time and he called

him in and asked him if he would consider being dean of men. At that time we were on our way to New York for a day or two rest and he took a bunch of papers to grade--he always graded his own papers. And then the veterans started to come back, and that was a worse heartache than having this big corps of young men. These were older boys and they were ready to work. There was no housing for 'em and they were arriving with families and children. Well, he was working about 18 hours a day and then finally he had to stop. And he went over to Dr.--to the doctor and he told him that he was so tired that the oxygen wasn't getting to his brain. So he went over and resigned. And Doctor said, "No, you're not going to resign. What's wrong?" And he told him that he was sick and he gave him a couple of weeks, and we went to Florida. And I didn't know whether to take him into another university situation. We went to North Carolina and visited because we had gone there when we were married, and there were still people there. And the dean of men there had his problems. And he went down to Florida, and Dean Beatty said, "Daugherty," he said, "when I went to the doctor, he put me in the hospital." So after a few weeks of golf and sunshine he was ready to come back to work. [Tape stops, picks up in mid-sentence as follows] . . . back then, after the vacation and they took the committee work out of his office and he continued to be dean of men until Dr. Perkins came and he then was on the new plan of a dean of students.

Q When did Dr. Perkins come? Was that in 1950?

A Approximately 1950. And he went back to teaching a full course in the Physics Department, which he did until he retired. He was never so unhappy as the time that he met 200 students, because it was always his plan to know 'em all by their first names and do his own grading. But of course that was impossible. And that happened until he retired.

Q What was the year of his retirement?

A I think 1969. Another interesting thing about Newark when we came--it was only 4500 people in Newark. And as we came into Newark, our girls said, "4504." And it was so small that I could call up the operator who was Miss Cragg, and by the way, her office was in that cleaning establishment this side of the Methodist church. I could call up and say, "I'm playing bridge up the street, will you transfer my calls."

Q That is unbelievable. How long could you do that? Do you have any idea? Was it one or two years or longer?

A It was longer than one or two years. And we were in that house on Main Street three years, then we went down on Delaware Avenue at 52, across from Barrel King's. We were there about three years. Then we went down back of Sharp Hall in one of the houses--it was moved from the Mitchell Hall site.

Q Were those houses at Mitchell Hall--do you remember how they were used before they were moved?

- A Faculty lived in them, and I don't know just who. But we lived there maybe 15 years until we decided it was time we found something of our own and we built a little house on Manns Avenue.
- Q Well, who was the twin who lived in the house next to you there on Delaware Avenue?
- A The twin? Dr. Waggaman lived there until he died. And then the Cobbs moved in there for a month and she couldn't stand the bigness of the house and went back up on Main Street where they lived next to Dean Dutton's house.
- Q You mentioned once that you and Mike had gone to a fraternity dance or a college dance for 20 years on Saturday night. Talk a little bit about the fraternities, maybe you had a favorite one or some student you might remember that you and Mike enjoyed.
- A Well those Friday, Saturday night dances were really--they were held in Old College and I can remember one very interesting one. There were some art students--or the Rogers boys from New Castle, they had made an igloo out of Old College and you had to go in the igloo to get in. And of course all the walls were snow and ice and what not. And another one was an underwater one, and it was about the time that cellophane had come in and of course that made a very beautiful thing. And then the other fascinating one was a terribly snowy night and was in the Hotel DuPont. It was when I think Dean Crawford was here at that time. And the last thing my husband did was put a shovel--we were in tails at that time, very formal--and put a shovel in the car. And sure enough we had to shovel our way two or three times to Wilmington. And we got home and some of the students chose to come through Christiana purposely probably in hope they'd get stuck, and they did. And Mr. Grobb [sp] was business manager then and his office called Mike and one of my girls said, "Well, he's sound asleep; I couldn't wake him." So Mr. Grobb had to send a truck after him. And we had made up our minds if there was ever a snowy night we would announce at the Gold Ballroom, "We'll all come home the Capitol Trail." But there was never another snowy night.
- Q You started out by saying that Dr. HULLIHEN wondered about Miss Robinson and whether Mike could teach her girls. Could you talk a little bit about the women's college and Mike teaching there and Miss Robinson and maybe Pop Harrington, too.
- Q Well he and Miss Robinson were very good friends and with carrying all this apparatus down South College Avenue and five minutes to do it, he decided he'd get roller skates. And he was very afraid that she would not approve. And he got down there, she said, "Oh, I think that's a wonderful idea. Our girls ought to have something like that."
- Q What was Miss Robinson like when you first came? What were your first impressions? What was your feeling about the women's college and the men's college in those early days?
- A In those early days we felt that it needed to be unified, but of course it was many years before. But I remember particularly one scare that the--of

course the faculty lived right there in Warner Hall, all a little family, and Dr. Margaret Mead was the speaker, and unannounced she arrived with this wee little baby, and what a tizzy that was. They didn't know what to do with the little baby. So the little baby stayed overnight and she went on her way. Another fascinating thing, when we were on Delaware Avenue, one of our--well, the Hullahens, when they were there, they took care of all the speakers, but later there were more speakers and we often had them overnight. One particular one which we loved was Carl Sandburg. And he came in with his heavy overcoat on and he said, "Girlie, will you fix me a poached egg; I don't want any dinner, I just want a poached egg and some hot chocolate. So I fixed it for him and he had that before Mitchell Hall, and he came home, it was a brisk night and he sat in my living room with his overcoat on, 'cause he didn't like to cool off too fast. And the next morning he went off to a school up in New York to talk, and he said, "Now, you're going to hear me in the morning doing my exercises," and sure enough he was up there apparently taking his [inaudible], jumping up and down on the--and the house was not too stable, and I was wondering what was gonna happen. At the moment, I think of another thing when we went in the house. Prof. Preston had been there many years and probably one of the few oil burners in Newark was bought for the president's house and was not large enough, so Preston, Dr. Preston bought it and we bought it from him, and when we left we owned the screens, we owned the storm windows and we owned the furnace. So we didn't know what to do with them when we left. The university didn't want them any longer, so we sold the furnace, the screens and the storm windows.

During the war we had three barracks on Academy Street and the housing got so tight that they wanted to use maybe two for girls and two for men and my husband thought, "Gee, that isn't a very good idea." But it worked out very well. Then the ATO fraternity was being founded and Jack Simons was a leader and he got one of the finest groups--Everett Chance is one of them. And to this day I think they are a very fine group. And they were in one of those barracks. And Jack Simons' people were contractors and they moved the partitions in the barracks and of course the powers that be were very upset. They were tearing the building down. So Jack says, "Doc, just don't worry. If I can't put it back like I found it, I'll get my family to." And that fraternity was organized there. Bob King is a member. And that fraternity was founded by one of the southern bishops, so it's always had good religious background. And I think to this day--I've lost contact with a lot of these boys, but they turned out a fine group of boys. It might be very interesting today with all the affluence of our society, my husband went to Dickinson College with enough clothes to last him for the year, and his godmother had given him \$150. And about the sophomore year, he was getting very short of money, so he went to the president and he loaned him \$60 out of his pocket, which he paid after he worked--he worked in a munitions plant in the summer. And then he enlisted in the navy at the end of his sophomore year. And after the navy he decided that he'd just try to get some work. So he went to Sharp and Dome and worked in the laboratory there and went to night school--made \$19 a week and we'd go out to supper Saturday night and spend half of that. So then we decided--one Sunday there was an excursion to Carlisle so I don't know why my mother ever let me go that far from home unescorted--I was escorted but without a chaperone.

Q Where were you born--where was your home?

A It was Reisterstown, Maryland. [Tape is stopped, starts in mid-sentence as follows] . . . through high school there and then I went to Alfred University and he went to Carlisle because he had his amount of money for education \$150. When he got through the four years, he worked in a flower shop for \$.15 an hour and in a little while he found he could go to the shoe factory and cut paper insoles for shoes for \$.20 an hour. And he made \$4.25 a week and his board was \$4.00, so he had \$.25 to have a big time. And you'd be surprised the fun we had on that \$.25 when I went back to a formal.

I spoke of the trip to Carlisle and we got up to the fraternity house--and this was after the war--and one of the boys said, "Doc, if you come back you can have my job waiting table in the fraternity boarding house. And that's all he needed was that much help, 'cause he'd saved a little bit of money, working in the chemical lab. And he went down and spoke to the old gentleman and his wife--they were both mutes--and he said, "You can have the job if you learn sign language." Well, that was difficult, so he learned to stir with his hands for stirred eggs, or scrambled eggs, or turn 'em over with his hands. They got along beautifully the rest of the three years, or the two and a half years. Then he was a chemistry major and on the way to commencement, there was a job as instructor in physics at the University of North Carolina, and that's how he happened to go to North Carolina. He carried a full instructor's load, transferred from chemistry to physics, did his graduate work at night, and it took eight years. And when we came to Delaware in September, his degree was granted in January. So he was an associate professor for that long and then was a full professor from then on.

When he went as an instructor--he was an instructor at the University of North Carolina and he came home one night and he had just a little while on his graduate work, and he said, "Can you move in two weeks?" And I said, "No, and I'm not going to either. You're not going to leave that graduate work." So it was a thousand more dollars--we were living on \$1750 a year. It was another thousand dollars, he said, Immediately I said, "We'll go."

Q Had Dr. Hullihen taught at Sewanee before he was made president and did Mike meet him for the first time when they were having dinner that time?

A Dr. Hullihen taught, I'm quite sure and he might have been one of the officers--I don't think he was president. The first time that he met Dr. Hullihen was at that dinner in Chattanooga. Then Dr. Hullihen came to Newark and brought Dr. Eastman with him. Eastman taught chemistry at Sewanee.

Q What was Dr. Hullihen's field?

A I really don't know what his field was. Dr. Hullihen was a very fine man. He was a very religious man and I can remember if he was in town, he was in church. If he was not in church that Sunday, he was out of town. And I don't know this for sure, but I've been told that his salary maximum was \$6,000. They did all the entertaining themselves. They may have had a little help on the dinner party he gave--we were all in the know--that's how large the faculty was, and he had it catered and we all looked forward

to that really delicious imperial crab that they always served. Both of the girls were married in Newark and the receptions were at the Knoll. And commencement, the president always had it on the lawn of the Knoll, and it was always really kind of a dress-up party. And I can remember, to get back to Mitchell Hall, when we arrived it was just being dedicated, and they thought they would never fill it. And I can very well remember, if the faculty wife did not show up at a lecture at Mitchell Hall, someone would say, "Where were you?" And today they don't even know we live in Newark.

Mrs. Hullihen was the head of the unit in Newark for the American Red Cross and she started a little group to make bandages to be sent overseas or to hospitals. And then we decided the group was too large and I helped organize a sewing unit in the Newark New Century Club. And that grew to be quite an event. And then Mrs. Hullihen was doing service to military families and she asked me if I would take that over. And I thought, well I didn't have boys in the service and maybe I can do some help for some serviceman's family. And that was 1938 and I am still active in that Red Cross and occasionally get to monitor the telephone for the whole state of Delaware, and it's a real thrill in the middle of the night to get a boy home because of illness in his family. The field directors at the posts are very fascinating men, and one time last winter with snow on the ground--I'm allowed to call anywhere in the United States, called the field director and he said, "How are your roads up there?" And I said, "Well, they're passable--they're better than they were." He said, "I didn't want that lad to leave tonight in a car, but he's gone."

The Knoll was a very interesting house. It was large, it was Victorian, had a porch across the front, and during the war--this is a very interesting thing about Mrs. Hullihen, she taught me to do my housework a little more efficiently. She had no help in that big house, so she carried her dust cloth up the stairs and in the morning she came down the rail and that was dusted.

Q What other kind of entertainments did the Hullihen have? Did she entertain women faculty for teas and what were the early faculty parties like, socializing among yourselves?

A Most of them were teas, were the social things for the faculty--teas and a lot of bridge, but enormous teas to the kind where you drew the shades and wore your long dresses and candles lighted everywhere. And if there was a tea anywhere, everybody in town almost went. And it was really a lot of fun that we look back on it now that there's very little going on in the way of teas. It's mostly small bridge parties. And Mrs. Hullihen was an avid bridge player. She had her own little bridge group that she played a lot with. Helen Houghton was one of her good friends and Mrs. Eastman and at the moment I can't think of others.

Q Mike was an avid Delaware football fan, wasn't he, Edna?

A Yes. When he first came to Newark in 1920, he played against Delaware. And Delaware had questioned the legality of one of Dickinson's players and he wasn't allowed to play and he was their after touchdown kicker. So the coach said, "Daugherty, get in there and kick those points." So he kicked

five points after touchdown, never kicked another one, and Delaware won that game, I think. But he was such a little country boy that he didn't realize--after the game he got enough money from the coach to get to Baltimore to see me. And then his mother gave him his fare back to Carlisle--something like \$2.00, and the roads were not paved in Newark then, and he didn't know--he walked clear to the Pennsylvania Station to get a train to Baltimore and he didn't know the B&O was right next to the football field. When the university played in the Cigar Bowl, we had a very old Chevrolet and we were silly to start in it, but we got to Florida and back, and we stopped in Gainesville to visit some friends, and we got down to Tampa and everybody said, "Where have you been?" And I never had such a wonderful four or five days in my life. The Shriners put it on and there was nothing left undone. There was something every minute. And then just last year, after 25 years, they invited all the members of that football team back, and what fine boys they turned out to be. And we went to--they had a lunch down at the athletic field and Tony Stinoni was captain of that team. I wish I could remember how many of that team they had back, the boys that did go to Tampa, but it was a big crowd and we had a picnic lunch in the stands down on the field and then we all went to the game.

- Q Did you and Mike get to almost every football game, every home game, and did you try to go to a lot of away games, too?
- A I don't imagine in those years we missed more than a dozen football games, away or--we always went home. But some of the faraway games we didn't get to go to.
- Q Could you talk a little bit about Bill Murray?
- A I can go back a little farther than--Lyle Clark was coach. Lyle Clark went from us to Ohio State and just died last year. We also knew Bill Murray very well and we have seen Bill four or five times and every time we went south we'd stop in to see them at Duke University. And he is still at Duke University and I think he's on the National Collegiate Athletic Association--I think he's probably like the executive secretary. Now Carolyn, when she left here, why she went back to school and took some education courses and taught for a while. And the girls are all married.

[END OF INTERVIEW]