

Hart Interview (Edited Final Version 20100920)

Conversation with Mr. John B. Hart

Conducted by: Fr. Thomas Kennealy and Mr. Tim McCabe

Date: October 23, 2006

Place: Mr. Hart's residence (on the Xavier University campus)

Also in attendance: Dr. Raymond Miller and Mr. Hart's wife,
Verna Gibson-Hart.

Note: This transcription is the best effort of the Xavier University Archives staff to faithfully record the interview as represented on the audiocassette tape. Some participants in this interview spoke "off mike." Therefore their comments were oftentimes faint and at times not intelligible. The transcript makes note of those instances where dialogue cannot be properly understood. Where it is uncertain who is speaking in the background the transcription is marked "Background Voice." Spelling of proper names is as accurate as possible but some errors may occur.

Hart: ...we are. Shall I start?

McCabe: Well, John, what about...um... you were, you were here fifty years. Long, long time...um....tell us about your...early days, like about your family, your early education. Are you from Cincinnati?

Hart: Hamilton.

McCabe: Hamilton?

Hart: Hamilton, Ohio.

McCabe: Okay.

Hart: Yes.

McCabe: When were you born?

Hart: Well, I am 82 years old right now. I was born in 1924 and (clears throat) um...I might just mention for your record there that we're in our group here in my house with Dr. Ray Miller and Father Kennealy and Tim McCabe, who is the historian...or no. What is your...?

McCabe: I'm a...a librarian.

Hart: Librarian.

McCabe: Mmm.

Hart: And in the archives...too.

McCabe: Right, mmm.

Hart: And so it is an honor for me to have them come here and interview me. So I'll start...uh...I guess I was born in Hamilton, Ohio in 1924 and uh...I went to Saint Xavier High School which meant a big trip from Hamilton to Cincinnati downtown and the bus...uh...hour every way --each way-- and in the senior year of the high school...it was during World War II in 192...(interrupted background noise)

Verna Gibson-Hart: [Remarks too faint, unintelligible]

Hart: ...okay, turn it off.

Background voices: [Faint and unintelligible. The recorder is turned off]

Hart: What?

McCabe: So it was an hour each way on the bus?

Hart: (clears throat) We're not on it right now? Oh we are? Oh, okay. But in 1943 I was a senior at Saint Xavier High School and they uh...made provisions that certain people from the senior class could go to Xavier University.

McCabe: Mmmm.

Hart: And get one semester before they got drafted or got taken into the military somehow or another (clears throat). So I went to Xavier in the Fall of 1943, I believe it was, and there I finished the semester successfully. I had Father Vollmayer teaching physics and Bill Marcaccio was there then too. And so uh...I passed the semester; therefore they gave me a high school diploma. If I hadn't passed the semester, I wouldn't have gotten a high school diploma, and

so I would have forever been GED or something like that (laughs). So okay...so anyway, in 1943 being at Xavier, I was on the football team with Father Ben Urmston. He was the other guy that we were tackling (laughs)...and so uh at that time having one semester of college enabled me to take a Midshipman's School Test for the Navy, and I passed that and so I was able to go to Midshipman's School and uh...from there...I was into the regular Navy for about four years, three and a half to four years, out in the Pacific Ocean. And uh...I'm...thank God that I did not have any battles or anything real terrible too. The nearest thing was...when we pulled up to Wake Island, which was known as the "Alamo of the Pacific," actually, the captain said, "Hart, get into that uh...Jeep...go across the island to the other side of the island and see if the Japanese really did surrender." So I...(laughter). So I put on a gun and got in the Jeep and I drove over the roads, which later, when the Army came in, I found out that they were mined, but they were corroded because of the sea water and they had been there for a long time. So anyway, the Japanese had surrendered and we took all their guns and put them on our ship and...just thousands of guns, and then we had transports to take the Japanese to some...you know, prisoner camp of some sort.

Okay, so then when the war ended, I came back here to Xavier and they counted my Midshipman's School credit and various things that I had, so I was able to graduate...um...in 1948 with a Bachelor's degree in physics, or mathematics maybe it was. I know it was physics. And then I hung on to get a Master's degree in mathematics because we were only giving Master's in mathematics at that time. That was under Father Victor Stechschulte who was a tremendous Jesuit and he...um...(laughs) was famous for his seismology work. In

fact, there's a big institution out in California, some of it's devoted to him and his seismology work (clears throat). So then...um...I finally...I, well I started graduate school at the University of Cincinnati, at the same time I was teaching physics here at Xavier. And over there uh...in the meantime I was...oh, I also got married in 1948...when we graduated. And we lived (laughs)...in those metal huts, the Quonset huts.

Background Voice: The old barracks.

Hart: The old barracks...you know where Schott Hall is now. And so here I was uh...studying for a Master's degree uh...at Xavier taking well...actually I was teaching a course in atomic physics at the University of Cincinnati to their senior engineers. This was...huge amount of time. So I finally, I graduated with a Master's in math from Xavier, and Father Stechschulte wanted to keep me on, so I stayed on forever and ever and ever and went over to UC and took PhD courses, and I finished all the PhD courses, and I was starting my PhD thesis when we had the new the department head over there. The one I worked with for a couple of years was, Dr. D.A. Wells, and he just retired, and he had a brand new guy from Harvard University, a real young guy from Harvard, made chairman of the department and...he called me into his office and he said, "Well, I see you are finished. But," he said, "you've never had solid state," and they were just starting solid state physics. It was a brand new subject. He said, "I want you to take one year of solid state before you go on." I walked out of his office and never came back. And the irony of it was that we had hired Dr. D.A. Wells, my thesis advisor, over here at Xavier. He taught here. He has written some really high class books on Lagrange and dynamics. And then we also got Rick Werner, Dr. Rick Werner, who worked with Niels Bohr (laughter). Well, he

worked with Neils Bohr over in Copenhagen, the father of the atom you know um...Neils Bohr. He was living in a carriage house, I think, over there, with Neils Bohr. And then we also got Dr. Podolsky. I attracted him over here. He was a professor at Xavier. And Podolsky is very, very famous for the Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen effect in physics. And that's still going strong today, right now. And as a consequence of that connection, I was asked to manage and organize a conference on the foundations of quantum mechanics. And so I wrote around to famous physicists and then of course using Podolsky's name, they were ready to come...here. I wasn't for me, but it was for Podolsky. And so we had several very top leading physicists, Nobel Prize winners. We had Eugene Wigner, who sometimes referred to as the Father of the Atom Bomb. We had Aharonov. And we had...um...well Podolsky obviously. We had P.A.M. Dirac, who was one of the most famous of all physicists at that time. So, they were here at Xavier for a whole week, and I have a...a...CD of the whole meeting and everything that I can give you for your archives.

McCabe: Who was that guy?

Hart: Um...well, if you can stop that thing I'll look it up real quick.

McCabe: Or you can get it later.

Hart: No.

[The recorder is turned off.]

Hart: Okay, the Conference on the Foundations of Quantum Mechanics was held in...um...what year is that... Verna?

Verna Gibson-Hart: [Response faint and unintelligible]

Hart: No that was the...it was 1962. We had these famous people here and if you shut that off a minute I'll go get my glasses.

[The recorder is turned off.]

Hart: So, the Conference on the Foundations of Quantum Mechanics was held at Xavier University in uh...1962. It commemorated the fortieth anniversary of 1962. Okay, and the participants, main ones, were Yakir Aharonov, Boris Podolsky, P.A.M. Dirac, N. Rosen. Rosen is the guy famous with Podolsky because it was the Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen effect in physics. So we got Rosen from Israel to come over here. And then we had Furey, who at the time was the head of the Harvard physics department and E. Wigner...Eugene Wigner...who was a very famous guy...and a brother-in-law of P.A.M. Dirac, accidentally (laughter). And so the meeting was very successful. It was written up. We've got the CD --this in the archives of the center of physics for the whole nation. Physics Society and in where, Washington or something?...College Park. Is that? Now about that time, I flew to...um...lets see...where, what city were you in...? When I flew out there...where...

Miller: That was in Baltimore.

Hart: I flew to Baltimore...and we were sitting there with Ray Miller. He was just ready to get his doctor's degree in physics from Johns Hopkins University. So I pleaded with him. I said, "Ray, you got to come and become part of our physics department." I said, "You'll become head of the department eventually." (laughs) So he was a former undergraduate student of mine. In fact, I taught him and all six of...your children??...and all of his children got doctors' degrees of one form or another. And so the only one I hadn't taught was his wife (laughs). So anyway, Ray did decide to come and uh...in the department was D.A. Wells here at that time or not...I wonder? He came later, or was that...?

Miller: I think he was before that.

Hart: Before that. He what? Oh, okay. But anyways....so Wells was there and Podolsky was there. Do you remember that or not?

Miller: He taught, I think he just taught evenings when I was there.

Hart: Oh okay, right

Miller: [faint and unintelligible]

Hart: Mmmm, mmmm. Just as a matter of history, it is very interesting that when Podolsky and Rosen, at the Institute of Advanced Studies at Princeton invented, so to speak their effect, the Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen effect. They had published it, and they didn't tell Einstein about it, and when they told Einstein, Einstein got angry because he didn't want them to do that, so it is extremely famous today. But at Einstein's (laughs)...expense in a sense. Okay, (clears throat)...so now we got Ray there...and was Terry Toepker there also...?

Miller: He came a year later.

Hart: Okay, Terry

Background voices: [faint and unintelligible]

Hart: Okay and then what about...who was the president at that time?

Background Voice: Father O'Connor.

Hart: Oh, Father O'Connor, yeah...uh, Paul O'Connor was the president. And then after...and we were in Albers Hall uh...the Physics Department was in Albers Hall...no! It was over in uh...

Miller: Alumni? They just moved into Alumni.

Hart: Oh, okay...but it wasn't biology department...in Albers...over there.

Miller: We shared Albers at one point.

Hart: We were on the second floor, and then we went over to Alumni Hall.

Miller: It was just a year before I came.

Hart: Okay, and then after that we moved over to...well you...Ray is the one who really designed the physics building. Ray and...with the help of Dennis Tierney. And it's the only building on campus that's sensible. The chemistry (laughing)...well the chemistry building and the biology building people they hired the architects and the architects looked at what other universities were doing and they...they helped out but Ray designed every little receptacle...everything...make a comment on that please. (laughter)

Miller: That is sufficient.

Kennealy: And it's called the Lindner Building.

Hart: It's called the Lindner Family Building...I guess. Yeah. Okay, so then...what...where are we now...we're at the...

Miller: We just moved into the Lindner Building and that would have been in the time of Father DiUlio.

Hart: Yes that's right...DiUlio. Yeah. And who was the next president uh...

Kennealy: Mulligan.

Hart: Mulligan, that's right. (clears throat)

Kennealy: Mulligan was before DiUlio.

Hart: Oh he was? Okay.

Kennealy: Mulligan was the um...70's and the 80's, the early 80's, would have been DiUlio. Or I guess, Currie.

Hart: Oh, Currie.

Kennealy: And DiUlio in the late 80's.

Hart: Currie was a physical chemist, and we thought physics would bloom as a result, but it was just the opposite because he didn't want to show any preference for the physics, so we got the last stuff usually. So that he could

prove to everybody that he was not prejudice for science so...(laughter) and then...okay...so about...well about that time Father Stechschulte uh...became ill and...uh...Father Poetker, Albert Poetker, was appointed chairman of the physics department and Father Poetker was previously the president of the University of Detroit. So he came down and his degree was from Johns Hopkins also, in infrared spectroscopy. I think it was, really [unintelligible works] infrared. So anyway...uh...then eventually Poetker became ill and he had very poor eyesight and he just couldn't continue on with that, and so I was appointed the chairman of the physics department and one of the very few that...didn't have a PhD degree and so...it was an interesting story when Father Poetker found out I was appointed, he went around the university and tore down all the signs that made my appointment to the physics department (laughter). Yeah, he did. He...he was irritated at that... and I didn't want the job either!! (laughter). Fine -- take it!! (laughter). Okay so...well then so we had D.A. Wells and Podolsky and Werner...um...oh,

Miller: Marcaccio and Vollmayer.

Hart: and Bill Marcaccio...yes, he used to teach at the high school...physics then when the military came, because during the war years we had only about a hundred civilian students, but the rest were air cadets...air force...or air cadets and Bill was brought out to teach physics there, and Father Vollmayer who was teaching physics until he was about 93 or something like that, I forget...when that was...

Kennealy: Well into his 90's. I know that.

Hart: He did go into the 90's...yes...so what can you think of Ray?

Miller: You just mentioned...Vollmayer, I think he was one of the most remarkable people we have ever had. Um...not so much as a physicist but as a person.

Hart: Oh yeah, he was great.

Miller: [faint and unintelligible remarks]... All his little stories and jokes and uh...he was one of the most holy men I've ever met uh...yeah he was. [Faint and unintelligible remarks]... Vollmayer always came to my mind.

Background voice: Vollmayer.

Miller: Oh yeah! ...And then, of course, Jim O'Brien.

Hart: Oh, Jim O'Brien!

(laughter)

Kennealy: Jim O'Brien.

Hart: You know, the astronomer.

Miller: Yes.

Hart: That's right. He was great.

Miller: He had a doctorate from Georgetown

Kennealy: Yes. Oh, yes.

Miller: Doctorate from Georgetown.

Hart: Okay. That's right.

Miller: He was so low key...

Hart: Oh, he was great.

Miller: And he'd come in with his old navy cap on...[unintelligible words]...work clothes you know...all of time...navy work clothes (laughter)...those blue jeans he used to come in and he worked so long [unintelligible words]...I think all of them

really went to him when they had problems and talked to him...[unintelligible words].

Kennealy: He was Hoosier. He was from Indiana, had a simple...

Miller: I think raised on a farm if I'm not mistaken. He was!

Kennealy: Just had the simple ways of a farmer.

Hart: Mmmm...

Kennealy: Died very young; died of a heart attack.

Hart: He did. Yeah that was a shame (agreement by all).

Miller: And then [unintelligible words] Werner. God, the stories about him. Oh, yeah.

Hart: You could write many books about Werner.

Kennealy: Wasn't he the one who owned the Porsche?

Hart: Yes.

Kennealy: He drove a Porsche on campus one time.

Hart: Yeah it was, there was only about six of them made. Hitler had one and Gehring had one and, and you could do 70 miles an hour in reverse, because if the Nazi high command got caught in an alley they could just put it in reverse and go 70 miles an hour in reverse (laughter).

Miller: Werner had such influence on his, on his students. It was just unbelievable what he could make them do.

Kennealy: How did you get him here?

Hart: Well he was a student of Podolsky's and that's when I was working on my PhD over there and finished everything, so I got...I attracted Podolsky. I attracted Werner. I attracted the former head of the physics department at UC, Dr. Wells, and they all came to Xavier, and we had a great time. But...um...Werner

would get these ballistic missile computers from the government and he'd have these students working on them and making them into regular, big computers for Xavier. And he spent so much of his money, he did have quite a bit of money but he spent almost everything for the benefit of the students. He would take them to physics conferences and meet Nobel Prize Winners and famous people. And he even had John Wheeler come here one time I think and give a talk. We could sit here weeks and bring in other students and they could talk fantastic stories about Werner.

Miller: We had a timeshare. That was before we had all these computers, so he had this teletype in his office that would get on long distance to Dartmouth. So, uh, and of course the students would come in and do all these programmings and but that meant a long distance phone bill. And when, I was chair at that time, I'd pay all the phone bills through his, you know, account basically. A separate account with his money in it, but I would pay the bills through it. His phone bills in some months were sometimes more than what I made. (group laughter)

Hart: That was just to help the students. It was only to help the students.

Kennealy: Yes. Yes.

Hart: Oh yeah. And we've had fantastic students like Barry Neyer-- was a guy that was working with him I think, you know on the computer. And uh, when I was just teaching before I got my master's degree I taught, Father Stechschulte had me teaching a graduate course in functions of a complex variable by Churchill. And who was in my class but Jim Cramer [spelling??]. Jim Cramer [spelling??] ended up as head of the future flight for the whole NASA with billions of dollars. And then another one of our famous students you might

know was, ended up as the president of IBM...the president of IBM. I mean there's so much, we've got so many famous students...uh, it's been amazing. Van Flandern is a famous astronomer, and oh there's heads of departments of physics all over. And who was the guy that was the provost up at Wright State University?

Miller: Tom Listerman.

Hart: Tom Listerman. And then he was a head of the physics then he became the provost at Wright State University. And uh...it's been fantastic productivity of people. And more people should know about it so that we'd have more people come here and get such an education. **[General Note: There was a great deal of background noise at this point]**

Miller: What was the fella's name that you'd been working with from Michigan?

Hart: Ted Annis. O god yeah. He was head of a big computer company, retired, and then he became CEO of NanoBio...uh Company, that was an expert in anthrax. And so when we had the anthrax thing in Washington, he met with the...uh..Postmaster General...the generals there, General Powell and everybody about the anthrax thing. And Verna and I went up to his place several months ago, and ,my god, he spent one to two million dollars just on his rock garden. And his house is enormous. We applied to be his servants so we could live in his servants' quarters (laughter) because it was so fantastic!! And there's a big long story there its incredible, bought Cataline [spelling? ; unintelligible meaning]. But I won't go into that (laughter). Oh but its...it's a big long story. Now he's into free energy, making a machine that you don't need to use gasoline. He really wants to get to Ford Motor Company to put these things in their cars so that they never use gasoline or anything. It just this self-powered, by itself. And so...I

don't know if it's gonna work but some people claim it is. And then Ray mentioned that I used to teach hypnosis. Well, I taught physicians and dentists hypnosis out in Los Angeles and San Francisco a couple of times at seminars. And uh...so I was into that. And a little funny story: I had been taking self defense and Father Vollmayer was interested (laughter), and so he asked me...He asked me to show him something and I was very gentle. I mean honest to God, I didn't, I mean I was real slow motion and "pop" he ended up on the floor (laughter) and had he died I'd have committed suicide or something because I would have been despondent, you know. Do you remember that?

Miller: Oh yes. John was giving a lecture on something and anybody that was interested and Father Vollmayer came (laughter) and then after the lecture he came up and he said "John show me that move" (laughter). So, he's starting to show him the move and somehow their legs got tangled up.

Hart: It was in slow motion.

Miller: He must have been 80...in his 80's.

Hart: Oh yeah.

Miller: And he's flat on his back. He gets up and he says: "Gosh, John, that was a good move."(laughter). And soon as he hit him...he went: "Oh my God, he's down." (laughter). That is typical of Father Vollmayer. That's, that's a wonderful story.

Hart: Oh yes. It's true.

Background voice: Can't you see him dusting himself off and getting up and saying: That was a...(laughter).

Hart: Yeah. He had his lab coat on I think.

Miller: All through his 80's, you know he lived up on one of the higher floors of Schott...and he'd always walk the steps because he said it kept him in shape...and he would take, apparently for good circulation, he would always take real hot baths all the time to keep his blood moving and everything you know, so he would you know way up into his 80's. He was running all over the place. I don't know if it helped him or not but it...(laughter). Uh, geez. Yeah he was something.

Kennealy: John, well you mentioned a number of memorable people...Father Stechschulte, Father Poetker, Father Jim O'Brien, Father Vollmayer...any other individuals, presidents, deans , vice presidents, or colleagues that stand out in your memory as people that uh...?

Hart: Well I always liked Father O'Callaghan

Kennealy: Jeremiah

Hart: ...who was the dean at that time. Yes. And uh...who else...

Miller: I remember going in his office once...and...for a requisition or something I don't know, everything went to O'Callaghan. He took care of everything. And uh...I asked him about what form should I fill out and he said: "We have a form for everything. Just ask the secretary." I walked out and I asked her and I didn't realize what he meant at the time but what he meant was there was *one* form and that covered *everything* (laughter). It didn't matter what the expense was (labor or personal), that was that same form and you remember that little form you thought he meant (laughter) he meant to pick up *the* form...and now of course its 24 [laughter followed by unintelligible words].

Kennealy: How long were you chair then?

Hart: Oh God. Ray I need your help. Fifteen years...sixteen years...a long, long time.

Kennealy: And then you handed the baton over to Ray Miller?

Hart: Yes, Ray Miller...and then Terry [Toepker] another former student of mine. Yeah, and uh...so well my uh, let me just mention something about my latest activity. Uh and Ray...can confirm some of these things. But I've been working with a genius over in Wales, and he has claimed that he has a...a theory that has finally achieved what Albert Einstein wanted to achieve in his whole lifetime and the theory is such that in special cases, you get all of present day physics out of it. But in addition you get new phenomena. In fact, there's a book on a new type of evolution based on this theory. It was by Paul Pinter, and the book is called *What is Life* without a question mark. And he uses the theory, Ray, as a basis of all of evolution and the emergence of life on earth and uh, in the universe. And uh, we have uh...some famous people in it. One of the guys who's been a co-author with me on some of our papers...uh...is on, or was on, the nominating committee for Nobel Prize in physics over in Stockholm. And two books have already been published. I think I showed you those books. Didn't I Ray? And the third volume is coming out soon and I was supposed to be a co-author of another one but I reneged on that, declined that offer. And uh...who knows, it could really be the greatest thing that's ever happened on earth as far as the theory is concerned because...uh, the theory claims that gravity and electromagnetism can be interchanged with each other. No one ever had that idea before, but all these comes from generalizing Einstein's stuff and uh...you could make things weightless, for example, and there was even a...well that's just a rumor that the stealth bomber is using some of these things to make it

just a little bit weightless to save on fuel and stuff. I don't think that's right...I just heard that. I'm not sure, but at least there are cases where they claim they have a certain weightless things, but uh...it's very interesting...I, uh....well books have been written, now there's a guy in Germany, with the Siemens [spelling ?] Company and he's written the nicest summary of this whole thing and one of his reference papers that he gives in his summary, I'm a co-author of one of those particular papers, and its that big sign that you might have seen on that building out there. That's it. It's the Alpha Institute of Advanced Studies. See, Einstein was in the Princeton Institute of Advanced Studies and then there was a Schrodinger [spelling?] Institute of Advanced Studies and this genius has planned this institute of advanced studies to be based on Schrodinger's [spelling?] in Germany and its called Alpha in sense of Alpha eight where the best of all of the institutes of advanced studies (laughter) and uh...it's registered in Bucharest actually. But the guy is uh, he's uh an eccentric like Newton. Like a lot of these people ,you know, they are hard to get along with. Newton was impossible to live with and everything. But he uh....he proclaimed me as "Father of the House" of the whole thing...worldwide. And then he probably got sorry when I got into an argument with him about gravity because Tom Van Flandern, a former student at Xavier here, convinced me that gravity has to be 10 to 26 times the speed of light and I had a big debate, I moderated a debate with a genius for about twenty-six weeks on this and he got so tired and aggravated that he said "stop the debate." And then he really almost fired me from the whole organization because I was insisting that. There's a guy that is the head of the department of energy in Argentina he just wrote to the guy and said "Myron, gravity just is." And he got kicked out of the organization for saying that

because anyway, I don't know where I stand (laughter). When the third volume comes out I think I'm still going to have some papers in that thing.

Kennealy: Good!

Hart: And so I don't know whether it's really going to take and change the whole world really drastically like $E=mc^2$ changed the whole world (cough). This could I think, but I wouldn't bet on it. So that's my latest activity and that's what I'm involved in. Also, let me congratulate Joe Miller, Ray's son, for forming this. I've only got that printed out. Just forget about that thing. Would you just explain that to people.

Miller: Oh it's uh...He uh...I don't know how he got involved with that. I guess he uh...well some of us retired, you and I retired, I guess. The students and uh...[unintelligible words]

Hart: So the students took up a collection to form this uh...distinguished uh....physics....what is it called the Distinguished Physics Professor Scholarship, scholarship. Yeah, so....

Kennealy: Do you remember uh....Father O'Connor was here? , a D.J. O'Connor? Oh sure he was president when I came. Yeah, for just a year or so. Oh I, yes...

Hart: You know he was on the Missouri when they signed the Japanese peace treaty.

Kennealy: That's right!

Hart: Yeah, yeah, he was the chaplain.

Kennealy: He was. He was the chaplain there. He was in Tokyo at the time. Yes that's right. He was an amazing fellow.

Miller: Yes. One of the most down to earth people (laughter). I can remember one time, when I 'd just come here, and I don't even remember the reason but...I

was talking to him about something and he says: Oh we ought to talk about that over lunch. We're going to lunch this afternoon. Uh...I'll pick you up at what time? And I...we ended up going out to the, one of the country clubs that he'd joined Maketewah. And I was sitting there at dinner, lunch with O'Connor, Hailstones, and McCoy and I've only been there a few weeks or something. I don't know. And my god...(laughter) it was a little threatening.

Miller: That's the way he wanted it. That was one of his gifts.

Miller: And you know...I thought we were going out to talk about something important. He fooled me. (laughter) [unintelligible words here]

Kennealy: Well you knew Tom Hailstones and Ray McCoy very well. What were they like?

Hart: Well wonderful people and I was really surprised to learn, much later in life, that Tom Hailstone's wife was in the army air corps, transporting airplanes back and forth to the army during World War II. So they would be delivered say like from the manufacturer to the army base or what not. And so...she would do that. And Tom used to always give seminars out in Hawaii and different places on economics. They were really very nice and uh...McCoy, as I remember, was actually a CIA agent before, it wasn't called CIA I think it was...uh what was the name before CIA, I can't think of that right now, but they were always very good people and they really improved the university tremendously.

Kennealy: The University is very much in debt to them.

Hart: Yeah they really are. Yeah. And Irv Beumer comes to mind too. Boy, he's done an awful lot for the University.

Kennealy: You served on the academic council for a number of years. I've seen your picture. And the academic council was rather influential. It was set up right

after the Second World War to really oversee the academic policies of the University. Do you remember your work with that committee at all? Can you think of the president that presided?

Hart: Uh...right now I really can't remember much about that other than that...when...uh...Vitas Bieliauskas came from where...Lithuania? And actually he was president of the Lithuanian Association and met with President Ford in the United States. But he applied here to Xavier for a job and I was called into the office with the little committee, you know, to hire him and Father O'Connor and whoever else was in there they were talking about this because Vitas applied in Latin. He didn't know too much English. So they were talking Latin and I said to Father O'Connor, I said: "Father," I said, "if you want to do this let's talk in mathematics. I understand that." And so then we finally got to talking English (laughter). But I was on one of the committees that actually voted for him...but I...yeah.

Kennealy: Very good choice.

Hart: (laughs) Yeah, so...what else? Help me Ray.

Miller: I don't know?

[Words unintelligible here]

Hart: Oh Charlie Wheeler was good. You know we met with him all the time uh...but I just am limited pretty much to the physics business...and one of our contributors to physics was Fred Hauck.

Kennealy: That's a name we should remember.

Hart: Who was a great philanthropist in Cincinnati.

Kennealy: That's right.

Hart: And he gave me several hundred thousand dollars. We had the Hauck Courtyard uh... where Verna and I got married in with Bishop Patton the Hauck Courtyard there and then...he's actually, the University Department gets fifty thousand a year now don't they...in fact the other departments got a little jealous of that because I've gotten this money and they still get fifty thousand a year from the Hauck Foundation.

Background Voice: [unintelligible words]

Hart: Well...that's when I was chairman of that...and I think I was chairman...yeah. And so...that was a really big thing. Now there's a book about Hauck's life. And he...he was a fantastic guy. I met with him downtown...well, I would meet with him downtown for lunch and stuff like that.

Kennealy: And he lived to a ripe old age too didn't he?

Hart: I attended his 100th birthday. And he was spry. He got up there and talked...and uh...I remember Vince Beckman was there. Vince was Hauck's attorney. Vince was another Xavier graduate.

Miller: Xavier's attorney.

Hart: Oh, he was Xavier's attorney that's right.

Miller: [unintelligible words]

Miller: I remember at that party at the bus company, and so the bus company gave Hauck a life-time pass to the bus.

Hart: Yeah when he was a hundred years old (laughter). They said "We present you with a life time pass!" (laughter).

Miller: For many years he took the bus everyday to work.

Hart: He did.

Miller: He lived in Walnut Hills. He lived over there in Walnut Hills?

Hart: Well actually he lived uh...on Grandin Road. He had a big beautiful house there...and uh...he uh...his first wife died. And he married a second wife who was a very dear friend of...President...Jimmy Carter actually. And she got ill and so she had to go to a nursing home. I think it was St. Margaret's Hall nursing home, on Madison Road. So he moved in over there with her. He had an apartment separate from her. And so then he gave up the house at that time. But he would then take the bus you know to St. Margaret's Hall and stuff like that. So here's this multi-millionaire, you know, going around...(laughs).

Kennealy: John, well maybe one final question.

Hart: Okay.

Kennealy: How would you like to be remembered...for your years at Xavier. (laughter) If someone was going to write an article about John Hart and his contributions and...what would you...?

Miller: A very good and inspiring teacher.

Kennealy: An inspiring teacher...I bet that's true.

Miller: When I came to Xavier as an undergraduate, I came as a pre-engineer student [unintelligible words]... I'm thinking of quotes from John...[unintelligible words]...

Kennealy: I bet you brought a lot of enthusiasm to your class.

Hart: What? A lot of what?

Kennealy: A lot of enthusiasm.

Hart: I believe so...like Ted Annis. He was actually at St. Aloysius Orphanage at the time he was a student. And he complimented me, he said, you know, he said he was converted to physics and...no I think I have been very honest with everybody and I have not tried to flunk them out. We've had people already in

the department whose sole criteria was...they had to be a genius in physics or they'd flunk them out...and I never had that philosophy. And some of the people that I helped graduate turned out to have the highest positions and some of the top jobs around the country...and so I've never regretted that-- always helping the person rather than trying to...you know, knock them down. We've had one or two people in the department that always tried to do the opposite (laughter).

Miller: We've had quite a few students who come in at Xavier average at best.

Hart: Oh. Yeah and they turned out...

Miller: They've done tremendous work. Gotten their PhD and...

Hart: Oh yeah!

Hart: Well...now you see here's the other thing, I used to write a newsletter all the time to all of our physics graduates, and it really had the latest history. Now if you would want those, maybe Steve Herbert has those. I think when Terry...when I left the department I gave those to somebody. Now if they would take all of those newsletters it would be a tremendous history of what the students have done and where they've gone...and um...I think, I hope Steve Herbert has those. Terry Toepker would know maybe what happened to those.

McCabe: We need to look that up.

Hart: Oh and then Bob Johnson had great news writers for the chemistry department all the time.

Miller: I've seen those.

Hart: Yeah, and those would be great...you know...historical links.

Kennealy: Well John, thanks very much! Anything further to add?

Background voices: [unintelligible words and laughter]

McCabe: John if you could give a bit of advice to a young...physics student...just starting out. What would that advice be?

Hart: (laughter) Oh Tim...I don't know. Be patient...and study hard...and make sure you've got a teacher that's not egotistic and too demanding that's going to kill you...I don't know. That's not too prophetic, I'm sorry. Uh...

McCabe: That's good advice.

Kennealy: Find a John Hart is what your saying! (laughter).

Hart: Okay right. That's right!

Miller: I mean, that's exactly what it means!!

Background voices: [unintelligible words]

Hart: Another interesting thing is...that...in those days when I was chairman, I would hire good people that were really good teachers. That was my criteria, nowadays its research. You can write the dumbest, not dumbest, but you can write really good research papers and be the worst possible teacher and you get hired. That I'm against. I think we should concentrate on good teachers and not worry about the research thing. That's just my feeling.

Miller: The university has changed a lot, hasn't it John?

Background voices: [unintelligible words]

Hart: Oh God yeah!

Kennealy: Oh it sure has.

Background voices: [unintelligible words]

Hart: Well...I would never be hired over here now because I technically don't have a PhD, although I finished everything for that and uh...I just got angry at that young whippersnapper that just graduated from Harvard University (laughs) that became chairman. His name was Bill Riley [unclear pronunciation,

possibly "Wright"?]. He attended my conference (laughs)...yeah the physics conference. Oh well, so...well thank you very much Tim.

McCabe: Thank you John.

Hart: Tim for coming and Father Kennealy.

Kennealy: It was our pleasure.

Hart: If we have any more may we communicate with you on some of these things?

Kennealy: Sure!

McCabe: That would be great!

Kennealy: By all means, by all means.

Miller: [unintelligible words]...invaluable.

Hart: Well you may have this for your archives or what not. If you put that on your computer...oh I'll show it to you. Well here. I did have this. Now I've been wondering what to do with this...if we've got time on the tape. Oh by the way, here's another picture of the group. Now by the way, oh...did you turn it on? Ok. Father Bradley...he is a wonderful guy...who was our seismologist. And he had a seismology station out at the Milford Jesuit Novitiate and then Pat Eberly designed the system to send the signal from Milford to an antennae on the top of Schott Hall. And then he could then have his seismograph records in Alumni Hall.

Miller: [unintelligible words]

Hart: Oh is that, yes when he was at, yeah. And Pat Eberly is a CEO of a fantastic company here...another former student. No but he was very good. He [i.e. Fr. Bradley] was, he was actually written up in the National Geographic and they had pictures of him down in the Antarctica.

Kennealy: He [i.e. Fr. Bradley] and Father Birkenhauer went together, from John Carroll. Yes.

Hart: Okay yeah. Well and they had some really beautiful pictures of the Antarctic.

Kennealy: [unintelligible words]...I think a year.

Hart: Yeah it was the year, the year of what...the year of something the government had and I remember one time they had a plane that took him down there. And he and maybe Father Birkenhauer, I'm not sure, got out of the plane and they were down there and the storm came up and the plane couldn't come back and they were stranded for awhile down there in the middle of nothing (laughs) in the Antarctic and unfortunately he did a good job teaching, but then when he had this accident...the guy that he was with was not severely hurt. I can see his picture in my mind.

Kennealy: Father William Topmoeller.

Hart: Topmoeller! Absolutely! Right! I could see his picture in my mind. He was not injured. And they just turned, I think, across the highway and a car ran into them. And so Father Bradley had some mental problems after that. And uh...he would give lectures on his Antarctic. He had beautiful slides. Boy, if you had those slides in the library. I don't know what happened to those but those should be in there.

Miller: Now one of your students was named Bob Herrman.

Hart: Oh...

Miller: Bob worked with Father Bradley for oh, maybe two, three years. I believe at least three or four years while he was getting his undergraduate. And now he's a professor of seismology at the University of ... [unintelligible words]

Hart: That's right!

Kennealy: What was his name?

Miller: Bob Herrman. H...E...R...R...M...A...N.

Hart: Yeah H...E...R...R...Rob, Robert, Herrman. And he may be at St. Louis. But he is tops. I mean, he's one of the guys for earthquakes and finding out where the nuclear bombs go off and stuff like that.

Miller: [unintelligible words. Some sort of discussion about the Madrid Fault]

Kennealy: ... [unintelligible words]...Mississippi River there.

Hart: That's the one that can, that changed the whole course of the Mississippi River and it could happen any day now too.

McCabe: Father Bradley he loved his garden out in front of Schott. I still remember him out there.

Hart: I don't, didn't, know that.

McCabe: Oh yeah. O yeah he loved gardens.

Hart: (laughs) Okay Tim, well that's a good...that's a good point.

Kennealy: Who was the fellow that [unintelligible words]... had the garden.

Hart: Father Hetherington?

Kennealy: Hetherington. Hetherington.

(laughs)

Hart: Hetherington.

(laughs)

Miller: He has that beautiful garden remember on the point out there. And Werner one day couldn't find a spot for his automobile to park it so he pulled into Father Hetherington's garden (laughs) and you talk about two people who knew how to clash!! (laughs)...Oh, that was classic...funny!

[laughs and unintelligible words]

McCabe: Well John we sure appreciate it.

[Audio recording fades out]

THE END

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