

Wisconsin Veterans Museum
Research Center

Transcript of an
Oral History Interview with
DORIN S. DANIELS
Pharmacists Mate, Navy, World War II.

1996

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Daniels, Dorin S., (1927-). Oral History Interview, 1996.

User Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 60 min.), analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Master Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 60 min.), analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Abstract

Born and raised in Madison (Wisconsin), Dorin Daniels discusses his service in the United States Navy Hospital Corps during World War II, subsequent college education financed by the GI Bill, and studying the effects of atomic bomb blasts in the Pacific before going on to medical school. Daniels talks about his thoughts after Pearl Harbor was attacked, his accelerated graduation from high school, and moving to Chicago where his father was working on the atomic bomb. He talks about volunteering for the Navy, boot camp at the Great Lakes, the patriotic feelings and cultural differences among people at boot camp. He touches upon being switched from a radar technology program to the Hospital Corps. Dorin discusses his training in San Diego, the events and atmosphere of VJ Day, his transfer to Newport Naval Hospital in Rhode Island and his service there and the use and effects of penicillin. Daniels relates his decision not to reenlist, prevalent feelings in the military that the U.S. would soon be at war with Russia, postwar crowding at college, shortages in housing, and getting a job at Oakridge (Tennessee) doing biological research. He vividly describes seeing atomic bomb blasts while researching their effects in the Pacific. He also mentions his use of a VA loan to buy his first house, how he got into the University of Chicago medical school and his subsequent general practice in Oregon.

Biographical Sketch

Dorin (1927-) volunteered for the Navy in 1945 and served as a Naval Corpsman in San Diego until discharge in July, 1946. He attended Oberlin College (Ohio) and worked as a technician for biological research conducted for radiation resulting from atomic blasts on Enewetak (Marshall Islands) and at Oak Ridge (Tennessee). Dorin completed Medical School at the University of Chicago before moving to Oregon to start his general practice.

Interviewed by Mark Van Ells, 1996

Transcribed by Rose Polachek, 2004.

Transcription edited by John McNally, 2006.

Interview Transcript

MARK: Today's date is July 2, 1996, this Mark Van Ells, Archivist, Wisconsin Veteran's Museum, doing an oral history interview this afternoon with Doctor Dorin Daniels, presently of Florida, and originally of Madison, Wisconsin

DORIN: Presently of Oregon.

MARK: Oregon, I'm sorry, where did I get Florida from? Sorry, Oregon, Ontario Oregon and a veteran of the Second World War. Good afternoon, and thanks for taking the time out of your day to chat with me a bit.

DORIN: No problem.

MARK: Why don't we start by having you tell me a little bit about where you were born and raised and what you were doing prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941?

DORIN: Okay. I was born in Madison, Wisconsin, September 23, 1927. Brought up there, my father was a professor at the University. I went to Nakoma Grade School, I don't know if that still exists anymore.

MARK: I think it does, actually.

DORIN: I went to Wisconsin High School which doesn't exist anymore. I went through a wartime accelerated 3-year high school with some summer school and then I took a summer school at the University of Wisconsin while I was still sixteen.

MARK: That's pretty young to be in college? So when the attack on Pearl Harbor came, you were, gee, how old about fifteen or so? Still pretty young, maybe even younger than that?

DORIN: Thirteen or fourteen. Well I'm not real fast on math. Born in '27 so I wasn't old enough to go to war yet anyhow.

MARK: Did you think though when we got involved in WW II that it eventually was going to involve you or as someone that young, did you think that, did you think in those terms really?

DORIN: Well, really it seemed pretty far away. I think I probably was two or three years away from the earliest entry age and I don't think we dreamed it would last that long when it started. But I remember I was washing the family car when we got the word and like everybody, where is Pearl Harbor?

MARK: You mentioned there was an accelerated program in your high school? Is that correct?

DORIN: Right.

- MARK: They were trying to graduate young men quicker?
- DORIN: Yeah. This was an optional, but people were speeding up their graduation and going into the service.
- MARK: And so you eventually did go into the service?
- DORIN: Right.
- MARK: In 1945?
- DORIN: Right, I volunteered in January, 1945, I guess I would have been just seventeen.
- MARK: Yeah, I suppose at seventeen you have to get your parent's permission at that point?
- DORIN: Right, right. You know by that time my dad was living in Chicago working with the metallurgical lab on the atomic bomb in Chicago so I, after one semester, one summer school at Wisconsin, I moved to Chicago and sort of twiddled my thumbs and took a typing course and didn't get a lot done until I went into the Navy. I entered at the, in a program which in retrospect really was for radar technology and at that time, radar was a very well-kept secret.
- MARK: Yeah, I was going to ask you why you chose the Navy. There were several services to choose from, what was it about the Navy in particular. Was it a particular program that when you eventually entered, or interested in naval affairs or what exactly was it?
- DORIN: Well I had a hard time figuring, maybe it's because I could get in younger. [Chuckling] I just happened to take a test to qualify for this course and they put me in as a Seaman First Class, which was a big jump from the usual starting point. I'd passed the test but it turned out that this particular course was heavy on math which was certainly not my forte and so it wasn't long before the Navy and I both realized that wasn't the program I should be in. I transferred to Hospital Corps and I'd always had a desire to be a doctor. Ever since I was a little kid, I always sort of looked up to my family doctors as a role model and so it was an easy transfer into the hospital corp.
- MARK: I see. So you went off to basic training, seventeen years old in 1945, why don't you just walk me through the steps of your induction. Where did you go, who'd you see and what sort of training did you do?
- DORIN: Well at that time, of course at that time I was in Chicago, so I enlisted in Chicago. They sent me all the way to Great Lakes which was [laughter] 30 miles up the road and basic training was the old seaman ship with the old Olson's mates and

learning to tie the knots, held a gun, I don't think we did much more than fight through it. We had a little training in basic gunnery, basic seamanship, but it was like six weeks. Everything was accelerated, everything was "grind'em out."

MARK: In terms of military discipline, did you have any trouble adopting yourself to that sort of environment?

DORIN: Not really, I was surprised. Because I had been brought up in a quite liberal academic atmosphere, and the gradual orientation, but really by this time there were several years of war going, and it was sort of the thing to do was to go into the service and defend your country. There was a lot of patriotism around then.

MARK: One of the stereotypes I guess of basic training is a drill sergeant, or I don't know what it is in the navy, I was in the Air Force myself, was abusive language and a lot of screaming and yelling and that sort of thing, but that wasn't the case for everyone. What was your personal take there?

DORIN: No, it was, there was some strictness and there was some differences in personality, but basically, it was "gung ho" and you know everybody was wanting to do it. It wasn't as though we were in there against our will.

MARK: Basic training often brings together people from different cultures and different parts of the country and that sort of thing, was that your experience?

DORIN: Oh yeah, yeah, this was an eye-opener for me because I had been quite sheltered. Frankly, I didn't know what some of these guys were talking about when they were talking about some of their female conquests and stuff. It just was different language and they, different culture, but it was a melting pot situation.

MARK: Any sort of like regional tensions, of southerners still fighting the Civil War or anything like that?

DORIN: No, not that I recall.

MARK: I see. So after basic training, you must have gone off to pharmacy training or something.

DORIN: Right, I went from basic training into this radar, what they call Radiotech School. I didn't get far enough along with the, actually it was an accelerated electrical engineering course, and while I knew how to use a slide-rule, we didn't have computers in those days, I had come through the tests with high scores. I really bogged down in the electronic math so when I sort of washed out on that program that's when I went into the Hospital Corps. They sent me to San Diego and that was an experience, probably worth note. Balboa Park, which is, I don't know if you are familiar with San Diego?

MARK: A little bit.

DORIN: Balboa Park is normally a park in a zoo-type setting and that stuff and they put huge barracks in that park and took it over, and took the civilians out and made it into a trading place. I think there was something like 900 people in the barracks that I was in. [Chuckling] No partitions, you know, just a great big stadium type thing. That's where I had the hospital corps training and it was pretty good training. They had to train people sort of like EMTs now only more rudimentary, but some of these people had to go on ships and they were the only medical personnel around. There weren't always doctors on all these ships.

MARK: Now I happen to know your brother was a doctor by this time, if I am not mistaken?

DORIN: Right, right.

MARK: Did you two discuss any of this at all?

DORIN: Oh yeah,--

MARK: I know you were separated by distance and all—but –

DORIN: Yeah, we wrote letters back and forth and if anybody in America gets a hold of them, they are going to be totally confused because I would, we would each write to the other, "Dear Slug," and we'd sign it "Butch" [laughter] so unless you could read the handwriting and know which was his and which was mine, it was rather confusing. But we did compare notes, he was a doctor at that time and he was in the Battle of the Bulge, as far as getting the results with that, he was trained as an internist and wound up on neurosurgical wards. Service didn't always put people where they were best trained. I was in the hospital corps and was in actually I was there in San Diego when VJ day came.

MARK: Still in training?

DORIN: Still in training.

MARK: Why don't you describe the scene for me.

DORIN: Gee, it was berserk. We had leave, but everybody sort of turned loose on the town and they, there was so much pent-up emotion from years of this and of course San Diego was, saw people come and go during those years, --

MARK: Yeah, it's a big military town.

DORIN: Big military town. The streets were just filled with service men and they expressed some of their relief in general hostility by, they pulled the electric cable

cars off the busses and they kicked in the sides of the shore patrol cars and they were in fights, and they were kissing women. I don't think there was a lot of serious damage, but there was certainly some pretty wild rivalry and you'd see a girl go in one end of the crowd and come out the other end having been kissed and somewhat disrobed by several hundred sailors. It was chaos.

MARK: And I suppose once the war was over a lot of people wanted to get out and you were still in training.

DORIN: I was still in training, right. I was in the program, I can't remember the exact term, it was something like D6, so it was Victory plus six months in the active reserve, I wasn't in as a four-year type person, I was in for the duration plus, was in basic training, when the war was over in Europe, and that was in, I was in the Great Lakes then.

MARK: So how long was it till you eventually got to Newport?

DORIN: As soon as I finished my training in San Diego, I went to Newport, Rhode Island.

MARK: Which was in the summer of 1945 sometime, yeh?

DORIN: Yeah, and worked there.

MARK: Now in the medical field, perhaps you understand better than most when peace is declared there are still, the casualties of war, the problems need to be addressed. What, after the war was over, what was it like at Newport Naval Hospital in terms of patient load and that sort of thing?

DORIN: Well we had a lot of war casualties that we'd been, that had been coming in all the time and we had medical problems. It was rather interesting because we had this new drug called penicillin that civilians couldn't get and we were using it on things like pneumonia. It wasn't always a miracle but we were using doses that were infinitesimally small compared to what the standard is now. It would work, you know, there wasn't a lot of resistance to bugs in those days but we still had things. I can still recall one fellow that had lung abscesses, you know, just a wretched individual in agony, and watched him gradually die in spite of penicillin and so forth. The war casualties were still there.

MARK: So, as a pharmacist's mate, how much contact with the patients did you actually have? What were you, in the lab somewhere, or were you on the wards?

DORIN: No, we were the front liners. We were I suppose, well the nurses were in charge of the floors, but the corps men did the work. The nurses were more administrators, some hands on and some on the medication, but corps men did the bed pans and the bed making and most of the medication administration, a lot of the treatments.

MARK: So, a typical day of duty for you would involve what?

DORIN: Well in the, of course you had different assignments, but initially it was just ward duty, like a nurses aide and as the corpsmen got more experienced and increased rank, why they'd be in charge of dispensaries and that sort of thing. So they would hold clinics even when there weren't doctors. For some reason, of course I had a little jump in rank when I went in, but I had been at Newport I don't know for how many months, when I saw a notice on the board that there was an exam coming up for pharmacist's mate classification. Without any real preparation I took the exam and got that. That was a promotion. Then probably as I look back, one of the most interesting things was that I wound up being night Master of Arms of that hospital.

MARK: What does that mean?

DORIN: Well, I was essentially hospital administrator for the night force, and the responsibility of that as I look back on it, who the hell would give that to a seventeen year old kid? [Laughing] I mean I had to make decisions on sending ambulances out, and calling doctors out and just the general run of the hospital. All the administrative stuff that happened at night was mine.

MARK: Pretty heavy stuff for a 17 year old, huh? How much – [Unintelligible]

DORIN: Well let's see I went in January 45 and came out in July of 46, born in 27, so---

MARK: Now, I want to go back to the patients for a minute, those patients who were wounded and disabled from war more often had a harder time readjusting to civilian life more than other soldiers and sailors do. From your advantage point, in the wards with the patients, could you get a sense of what some of the major problems some of these sailors were going to have readjusting, for example, did you notice psychological problems, loss of identities. What sort of readjustment problems could you see from your advantage point?

DORIN: Well I was probably too inexperienced to really evaluate it. At that point in time I think that was just sort of one of those things that happened. These poor souls were had given their everything for fighting for their country and we really weren't thinking too much about the future at that point. After several years of wartime mentality, life is cheapened and I don't think the long-term things really sunk in.

MARK: I suppose for a 17 year old as well, huh, probably young to be so philosophical?

DORIN: Right.

MARK: So when did you eventually leave Newport there?

DORIN: When I was discharged. I was discharged from there in July of 46.

MARK: Did they give you an opportunity to re-enlist?

DORIN: Oh yes.

MARK: And you decided not to apparently.

DORIN: Yeah, I had, I knew I wanted to go on to college. I knew I wanted to be a doctor. Its sort of interesting though I was totally shocked at the, when they were, in all the formalities of separation, I think they sent us to Providence or something for that. One of the arguments they used to try to get us to reenlist was that we'll be at war with Russia within three months. I couldn't believe it, which we weren't. But I didn't realize how much of that prevailed in the military at that point.

MARK: So you got discharged and it was time to get on with the rest of your life. You mentioned you wanted to go to college. Did you use the GI bill to finance that?

DORIN: Yeah, well I sure did. I started off at Oberlin College that fall.

MARK: Now, where's that?

DORIN: That's in Ohio.

MARK: Oh, Oberlin, I know where that's at.

DORIN: Yeah, Oberlin, its out to Cleveland. I went there for two years but this was a rather interesting experience too because all that compressed number of people who would normally have been going to college every where that had been held out by the war, they all sort of headed in a big wave instead of little waves, and for a small college to absorb that, is very difficult to get the courses you wanted. In a premed course, I just couldn't work the schedule around without taking an extra year or two.

MARK: I would imagine it was very competitive as well.

DORIN: Extremely and I was not that good a student. Oberlin had a good record, reputation. It had a high percentage of their pre-meds in the medical school, but terribly competitive particularly at that time. I transferred back to Wisconsin. My dad, my folks were back in Wisconsin then and I had little more flexibility of the courses I took.

MARK: Right. How would you compare those two schools in terms of your veteran experience and the use of the GI bill and services for veterans and that sort of thing?

- DORIN: Very different, both were dealing with overload problems. In spite of the overload at Oberlin they still tried to keep the professional tutorial staff in the teaching room. In Wisconsin they delegated far more of it to the instructors who were terribly green, so the experienced teachers were not as available in Wisconsin. It was the guy who just finished last year was now teaching it. In Oberlin, they did keep the professors closer to the students.
- MARK: The teaching assistants and that sort of thing, you didn't have so many of those at Oberlin?
- DORIN: Not as many, no.
- MARK: Perhaps you can't remember this in detail but I'm also interested in the GI bill in financing your education. I would imagine Oberlin cost a lot more money?
- DORIN: Yeah.
- MARK: I was wondering if it had been more of a crunch economically there than it was at the UW or was the GI bill generous enough to offset that sort of thing?
- DORIN: I think it was pretty generous in the college. I think they bent a little bit to not make it too hard on them and of course it wasn't as expensive then as it has become since.
- MARK: In terms of housing in school, I want to talk about housing once you finished school too, but while you were in college, did you have trouble finding a place to live and that sort of thing?
- DORIN: Well this was sort of like the barracks at San Diego. They converted gyms into places with triple-decker beds.
- MARK: Now this was at both schools, or are you thinking of one in particular?
- DORIN: Well, this was the way it started in Oberlin, was in a converted gym with bunkbeds and minimal partitions, your footlockers. [Laughing] While they were building extra housing and all the colleges started building pretty fast about that time. And within, before my first year was up, I think I moved into some newer housing.
- MARK: You eventually did finish your undergraduate education and you went on to medical school. Did the GI bill follow you into medical school?
- DORIN: Right, but I think I had worn it out by then. I think I had some left over but actually I had an interim between college and medical school. I finished at Wisconsin and then went to work at Oakridge, Tennessee, doing biologic research

down there. That's where I met my wife. I worked there in cytogenetics studying chromosome breakage in cases of cancer to the plants.

MARK: How did you get this job?

DORIN: Well, I don't want to say its all influence, but my dad had run the, had been the director of the metallurgic lab in Chicago and had known a lot of people in the atomic energy field. Dr. Hollander who ran the biologic division at Oakridge, knew my dad. I don't know what conversation there was but what it amounted to was that they needed a male technician to go to the Enewetak (Marshall Islands) bomb test for some biologic studies. I applied for the job and got it.

MARK: So you went to the Pacific then?

DORIN: The Pacific.

MARK: What did you see there?

DORIN: About four bomb blasts.

MARK: Why don't you describe them to me?

DORIN: Well, they are pretty incredible.

MARK: Beyond words perhaps.

DORIN: Yeah, let's see if I can give you a little verbal picture here. We were on a little island on the South Pacific called Japan which wasn't as badly blown up from the war as the island of Enewetak, and it still had some vegetation on it, But we were, I think, don't quote me but I think it was about 16 miles from the island that had the bomb site and we went out the day ahead of the bomb blast and put out our biologic material on little landing craft type ships and came back. And then those of us who were in the scientific higher-ups enough that we were in on the know on a lot of things were issued glasses. Now those glasses were so dark that if you looked directly at the sun with those glasses on, you could just barely see a faint outline of the sun. That's dark. When the bomb went off, it was painfully bright vision through those glasses and then when it took probably several minutes, I didn't time it, it was so awesome, you know you just see this flash building and building and going all through the sky and you begin to think, gee I wonder if those guys thought the whole atmosphere will go on a chain reaction. But then as it would fade down to where you could just barely see again, you take your glasses off and it was extremely bright again. This occurred right at just about sun break time so that you would have all day to work. So it was impressive.

[End of Side A, Tape 1]

- MARK: I imagine quite a shock wave as well.
- DORIN: Yeah, but by the time it went the 16 miles it was just more of a big thunder boom. We didn't get enough of a shock wave to be too concerned about that.
- MARK: Now today of course, when you think of nuclear bombs, you think of the radiation and that sort of thing. What sort of understanding did you have at the time? I mean I assume you were aware that there was such a thing as radiation.
- DORIN: Oh yeah, that's what we were studying. The director of our medical program out there was Dr. George Leroy and he had been near Japan with the invasion forces when Hiroshima and Nagasaki came about. He was in the team of medical people who first went in to do the first assessment of the bomb effects on the people.
- MARK: Now, without divulging anything classified, what sorts of effects did you find?
- DORIN: Oh, this is not classified now, because this is well written up. Course the findings that they had in Japan were well written up too. The things we studied were the actual direct chromosome effects, that was my particular project, of actually under the microscope, seeing the broken chromosomes. And of course, we had things at different distances from ground zero so we could calibrate, and we were doing biologic dosymmetry compared to the physical dosymmetry. That may sound a little technical, but we were just trying to confirm that the physical ways of measuring radiation correlated with the biologic effects and they did. Dose and distance relationships were pretty well confirmed. Other parts of that project included the use of dogs. They were using purebred hound dogs and of course that was the biggest problem of keeping that secret because of a group of activist people. Back then the Hearst newspapers and stuff would have just raised hell. Also used pigs for thermal burn because their skin is very similar to human skin and they were exposed in various ways to check the thermal burns. There were guinea pigs and rats and a whole bunch of scientific stuff.
- MARK: Did you have any concern for your own health, I guess you could say?
- DORIN: No, we were pretty knowledgeable about it and we wore protective gear that was removed and burned and we wore dosage badges and we checked those all the time. When we went in, as soon as the bomb settled down and we started on our little trips to go, it took a few hours to get there, we could see the physical damage as well as the scientific stuff we were studying. We had tanks, and buildings and stuff like that around to see what effect would be on those too.
- MARK: Really devastating I would imagine?
- DORIN: Yeah, we look back and we were taught in the Hiroshima/Nagasaki type kiloton basis, not the megaton. We were still on the atomic bomb not the hydrogen

bomb. You put a magnitude, multiple magnitudes on what we saw, it would have been very uncomfortable where I was.

MARK: So how long did you work in the Pacific, with the Oak Ridge for that matter?

DORIN: I was in Oak Ridge, let me ask my wife, how long was I in Oak Ridge? [WIFE TALKING] September, 1949 to September of 1952. And then I was in the Pacific about three months I believe. We were doing similar studies at the lab on various animals and plants.

MARK: So you left that position eventually and went on to medical school?

DORIN: Went to medical school right.

MARK: Now, is, as you got on in life and it came time to establish your home and your family, and that sort of thing, without prying into your finances, I'm interested to know what other sort of veterans benefits you may have used, for example a home loan or anything like that?

DORIN: I am going to ask my wife on that one, [asks wife] "Did we ever use a GI loan to buy a house?" ----- WIFE RESPONDING ----- I think, we are both coming to the same recollection. The first house we bought in the first town I set up practice, we used a GI loan. I'd forgotten that. It was cheaper, there was no doubt about that. And I, my dad helped me some in medical school and my wife and I had both worked at Oakridge and we set aside one of our incomes so we had some reserve built up.

MARK: Okay. I just have one last area of questions that may or may not even apply to you and that involves veteran's organizations and reunions and that sort of thing. Have you ever joined any particular veteran's organizations?

DORIN: Not really.

MARK: Any particular reason?

DORIN: No, not really. I wasn't against them, I wasn't an overseas veteran and I just did what everybody else did and went on with my life.

MARK: As you got on, in your life, did you eventually join any groups?

DORIN: You mean veterans' groups?

MARK: Yeah.

DORIN: No, not really.

MARK: I see, okay. That's not, its exactly much more common than not actually. Well, those are pretty much all the questions that I have. Is there anything that you would like to add or anything you think we skipped over or anything?

DORIN: No. I think the, that pretty much covers it.

MARK: Well I thank you for taking some time out of your day.

DORIN: Okey dokey.

MARK: It was very interesting.

TAPE WENT BLANK, AND THEN PICKED UP WITH THIS CONVERSATION.

DORIN: The operation was called Operation Greenhouse. And I don't know how much has been written but I am sure you can find stuff about it.

MARK: Yeah, probably somewhere.

DORIN: But it was named Operation Greenhouse because my boss and I had a greenhouse to grow our plants in for these scientific studies so it was named for our little greenhouse, sort of a nondescript non-atomic sounding thing. But one of the ways they delivered mail was to drop mail packs into a little baseball diamond on our island from these little observer type aircraft? Little piper cub type thing, and one day, I heard a terrible noise. What had happened was this plane had gotten below the tree level and lost his wind and he couldn't power out and he crashed. He crashed right into the greenhouse, about five feet from where I was sitting.

MARK: Was he okay?

DORIN: Nope.

MARK: He died?

DORIN: He died later. He had multiple fractures and he was flown out to Hawaii or somewhere and died a few days later. Our greenhouse was sort of damaged and that was a little bit of, well, that got my attention. [Chuckling]

MARK: Yeah, five feet away, that would get my attention too!

DORIN: I was just inside the door of the building and the greenhouse was just outside the door. One of the officers was walking down the road towards it and he jumped so fast to get out of the way that he left his shoes right there and he jumped right out of his shoes.

MARK: Quite literally huh?

DORIN: Yeah, literally. That was, or one other human interest thing if you want it.

MARK: Oh sure.

DORIN: Doctor Leroy, as I said was the director of that biomedical program. He was working for the VA Hospital at Hyme, Illinois at that time. In the follow-up studies you know to button up the whole project and get the final reports out and so forth, he came by my office in Oakridge one day and propped his feet up on my desk. You know he's the boss of the whole thing and I'm just a little flunky, and he put his feet up on my desk and he says, "What are your plans? What are you going to do?" I said, "Well George, I know I've just got a Bachelors Degree and you don't go very far in the scientific research institution with just a Bachelors Degree. I've always wanted to go to medical school." He says, "Well, what's holding you back?" I said, "Well, I've been applying but I'm not the best student in the world." At that point, the competition was so severe that it was pretty much straight "A" students. I said, "George, I'm not a straight "A" student." He said, "Well, that doesn't mean everything." I said, "Well, yeah, but that's the way it is." And he says, "Have you tried, have you applied to the University of Chicago?" I said, "No, that's such a high-ranking school, I didn't think I would have a ghost of a chance." He says, "Ohhh, why don't you apply. Your dad was there, they know you there, you are from an academic family and besides that, I'll write you a letter of recommendation. Of course it won't mean anything. But, I'm transferring from the VA, I'm going to be Assistant Dean at the University of Chicago, medical school." [Laughter] So he wrote a letter to the Dean below him which says something like this, "I lived on a desert island for three months with this man. I think I can attest to his character," and went on from there. So I got into the University of Chicago.

MARK: Yeah, it all turned out well.

DORIN: Chicago was a place where they really emphasized academic and super specialty. And of course, they just couldn't believe that I wanted to be a general practitioner.

MARK: Why was that? Cause they wanted heart surgeons and neurosurgeons and the like?

DORIN: And professors, yeah, and research people. I'd come from a research family, an academic family, so they figured they would get me to finally see the light of day. Instead, I went into general practice and was the family doctor of the year in Oregon. So, I didn't follow their mold but I guess I turned out okay.

MARK: I would think so. Okay, well thanks for talking to me.

