Paul Mellon (1907-99) inherited a great fortune from his father, Andrew Mellon, whose banking and industrial wealth placed him among America’s wealthiest individuals. Paul was a “great amateur” in the worlds of art, scholarship, and horse-racing.

Kingman Brewster (1919-88) was president of Yale from 1963 to 1977. One of the last university presidents to project himself as a national leader, Brewster was said to aspire to become the first U.S. president appointed without the bother of an election.

Richard C. Lee (1916-2003) was mayor of New Haven from 1954 to 1970. He had served as Yale’s press secretary early in his career, and he was parodied by his critics as “Little Boy Blue” for his connections to Yale. During the 1960s he was widely regarded as the most powerful mayor in the country, mainly because of his vast program of urban renewal.

Arthur Barbieri (1916-98) grew up in working-class New Haven, attended Yale College briefly, and became the major power broker of the Democratic Town Committee, which he chaired from the mid 1950s until 1975, and again from 1988 to 1992. He was quoted as saying that he could make anyone mayor, and he proved that boast with the election of Bart Guida.

Bart Guida was mayor of New Haven from 1970 to 1976. A blue-collar Democrat, he expressed class resentment of Yale and her patrician leaders.

John McGuerty ran the New Haven City Plan department from the 1970s into the 1990s. He harbored strong opinions, few of them friendly to Yale.

Jonathan Fanton was special assistant to Brewster, later president of the New School for Social Research in New York and of the MacArthur Foundation in Chicago.