

DR. JAMES E. LUVALLE
1936 OLYMPIC GAMES
TRACK & FIELD



AN OLYMPIAN'S ORAL HISTORY
INTRODUCTION

Southern California has a long tradition of excellence in sports and leadership in the Olympic Movement. The Amateur Athletic Foundation is itself the legacy of the 1984 Olympic Games. The Foundation is dedicated to expanding the understanding of sport in our communities. As a part of our effort, we have joined with the Southern California Olympians, an organization of over 1,000 women and men who have participated on Olympic teams, to develop an oral history of these distinguished athletes.

Many Olympians who competed in the Games prior to World War II agreed to share their Olympic experiences in their own words. In the pages that follow, you will learn about these athletes, and their experiences in the Games and in life as a result of being a part of the Olympic Family.

The Amateur Athletic Foundation, its Board of Directors, and staff welcome you to use this document to enhance your understanding of sport in our community.

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AN OLYMPIAN'S ORAL HISTORY
METHODOLOGY

Interview subjects include Southern California Olympians who competed prior to World War II. Interviews were conducted between March 1987, and August 1988, and consisted of one to five sessions each. The interviewer conducted the sessions in a conversational style and recorded them on audio cassette, addressing the following major areas:

Family History

Date/place of birth; occupation of father/mother; siblings; family residence;

Education

Primary and secondary schools attended; college and post-collegiate education;

Sport-Specific Biographical Data

Subject's introduction to sport—age, event and setting of first formal competition; coaches/trainers/others who influenced athletic development; chronology of sports achievements; Olympic competition; post-Olympic involvement in sports;

General Biographical Data

Employment history; marital history; children; communities of residence; retirement;

General Observations

Reactions and reflections on Olympic experience; modernization of sport; attitudes on and involvement with the Olympic Movement; advice to youth and aspiring athletes.

Interview transcripts were edited and may include additional material based on subsequent conversations and/or subject's own editing.

DR. JAMES E. LUVALLE

1936 OLYMPIC GAMES - BERLIN

400-METERS

Bronze Medalist

INTERVIEWED:

June, 1988

Palo Alto, California

by George A. Hodak

DR. JAMES LUVALLE

Interviewer: George A. Hodak

Hodak: I'm in Palo Alto visiting with Dr. James LuValle, who earned a bronze medal in the 400-meter race at the Berlin Olympics in 1936. Before we get to competition in track and your subsequent pursuits, I'd like you to tell me some of your background, beginning with where and when you were born.

LuValle: Well, I was born November 10, 1912, in San Antonio, Texas. My mother fell down a flight of steps, so I was a premature baby. We lived there a short while and lived in Washington, D.C. a short while, then we moved to California. So, I grew up in California. I went through the last part of grammar school in Southern California; then McKinley Junior High School; L.A. Polytechnic High School; UCLA; and for my graduate work, Caltech.

As I went along I played in all sorts of noncompetitive athletics in junior high school. And I also worked after school, while I was at Poly, as a page in the Los Angeles Public Library, which meant that every day after school I went down and worked until ten o'clock at night in the library.

I got into track and field purely by accident. I was playing around one afternoon on the field before it was time to leave to go down to the library, and Eddie Leahy said, "Jimmy, I want you to run the 660 against"—I've forgotten the name of the chap but he was a very good half-miler. I said, "I don't know how to run a 660." And he said, "Just run it." Well, I ran it and I beat the guy. He said, "You're a quarter-miler." I said, "What do you mean, I'm a quarter-miler?" I knew nothing

about the quarter-mile. Well, Sinclair Lott, who by the way was a teammate of mine at UCLA and then later a very distinguished French horn player, was also to be a quarter-miler. I said, "How do I run this race, Eddie?" Eddie said, "Jimmy, get out and run as fast as you can as far as you can and then start sprinting." Well, both Sinclair and I were stupid enough to believe him. We tried to do this. Well, I barely beat Lott and we both staggered across the line after doing it. And Eddie said, "Now, that's not the way to run the quarter-mile, is it?" (laughter) That was my introduction to running.

Hodak: And were you competing in other sports at L.A. Poly?

LuValle: No, you see, my real problem was that I worked. It was even difficult for the track, but I was able to work that out so I could compete in track.

Hodak: And your work at the library, would this have nurtured your later academic pursuits?

LuValle: Well, I used the library from the time I was about five or six. As soon as I was old enough to walk my parents got me a library card. I wanted books to read, I went to the library and I got them. I think I had a library card in Los Angeles before I had entered public school.

Hodak: By your junior and senior years at L.A. Poly, had you developed into a fairly good quarter-miler?

LuValle: Well, I was good enough to be second to Carl Satterfield in the city meet. By my senior year I finished second in the state meet to John McCarthy by about one foot. That was in the 1931 state meet up in Visalia. However, you mentioned academics. I'd like to go back a little and point out that in my first year in junior high I wasn't a very good student. I was

much more interested in having a good time. However, a young girl, I call her a snotty-nosed girl, looked down her nose at me one day and said, "You know, you're dumb like all the other fellows. I'm much brighter than any of you." I spent the next two-and-a-half years proving to her that I could beat her in every subject, and that's how I became a student. It was purely because I was challenged. So by the time I went to high school I had excellent study habits and I was accustomed to studying. I certainly could not have carried the scholastic load I carried at L.A. Poly, competed in athletics, and worked until ten o'clock at night otherwise. I also worked on weekends. But, if I hadn't worked Remember, this was the '30s and we needed every penny we could get.

I'm going to go ahead a little now. When I entered UCLA, I entered as a resident of the state. Then I got called into the attorney's office a few weeks later and was told I was going to have to pay out-of-state tuition. I asked why. "Well, your mother and father are separated and not divorced. Therefore, your residence is with your father." I said, "Well, I'll have to drop out of school." And he said, "Well, it can't be helped." I was starting to walk out of the office and I said, "Now wait a minute. I think I can prove to you that I'm a resident of the state." He said, "I don't believe it, but try." So I said, "I worked for the city of Los Angeles in the public library. To work for the city of Los Angeles in the public library, I had to be a civil servant. A civil servant is a resident of the city, a resident of the county and a resident of the state, independent of where his mother or father live." He said, "Can you prove it?" And I said, "Sure, pick up the phone." So he called and agreed that I was a resident of the state.

Hodak; Prior to your decision to go to UCLA, were there other schools that you considered attending?

LuValle: Yes, I was offered a scholarship to go to Notre Dame to play

football. I was offered a scholarship to USC to play football and to run track. I was all set—I thought that was great. However, I entered the hospital in either late-June or July of 1931, right after I got out of high school, with a ruptured appendix. Peritonitis had set in and before we got through we had a little gangrene. I was in and out of the hospital for the next six months. I was in a coma for almost a month. You have to remember that in those days appendicitis and peritonitis were very, very dangerous. There were no antibiotics. All they could do was flush my insides out each day with chlorine-water. (laughter) In any case, while I was there I did two things. I thought about what did I want; and I decided what I wanted was an education and that I wasn't going to get much of an education at either Notre Dame or USC. I knew that I had the grades to go to Caltech as an undergraduate and I knew I didn't have enough money to go there. When I did get out of the hospital I went over to Caltech and talked to them and they said, "Why don't you go to UCLA for a year or so and transfer?"

So I entered UCLA unbeknownst to the athletic department. Nobody expected me to go there. They all figured with the offers I had—everybody knew I had offers to go elsewhere—that I wouldn't be going there. There were actually no athletic scholarships available for track in those days at UCLA. However, by the end of my first semester at UCLA, I had done very well in school, I was an all-A student. I got a job working in the chemistry department and worked there from that time on. I did work for the athletic department a couple of summers but my main job was always in the chemistry department.

Hodak: So did you compete as a freshman?

LuValle: No, I didn't compete as a freshman. That is another thing. I went around and I asked Dean Cromwell what would he do if I

came to USC and he said, "Well, we'd get you out and run you on the track." And I asked Harry Trotter, the track coach at UCLA, what he would do and he said, "Well, what do you think you should do?" I said, "I don't think I will try to run for a year. I think I ought to build myself up slowly." And Harry said, "If that's what you want to do, that's what you'll do." I had no pressure put on me at any time. I didn't speak to Trotter until after I was in school, but I had no pressure put on me to compete during my freshman year, and I didn't compete.

Hodak: And you feel at other schools you might have received a bit more pressure?

LuValle: Well, if I had accepted an athletic scholarship I would have received a lot of pressure. But remember, I had no athletic scholarship. I hadn't come there with any promises from the athletic department of any kind, and I had also, by the end of my first semester, earned a regents scholarship. The regents scholarship plus the job in chemistry made me totally independent of the athletic department.

Hodak: Now, as you entered your sophomore, junior and senior years you were competing in—

LuValle: Well, I competed in my sophomore year and we did very well in the track meets there. We went East and I won the ICAAAA [Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America] in 16.3 in the 400 meters. So you see, out of the blue, I had shown up out of nowhere and won that. I also competed in the Princeton Invitational that year and I think I got first or second. I went home then and didn't compete in the NCAA that year or the national AAU meet because I was working.

Hodak: You also ran in the indoor meets?

LuValle: No, I never ran in indoor meets. In my junior year, the AAU tried to force me East to run in the indoor meets. They made some threat about declaring me ineligible if I didn't run. I went in to see Dr. [Robert Cordon] Sproul, the president of the university, and told him about it, and he said, "We'll stop that." He made a phone call and I never heard anything more. I didn't want to go East. To run in the spring, I had to take a heavy course load in the fall. I usually also figured on taking courses in the summer. So I would go light in the spring so I could be away and compete. Remember, at this time athletics was purely a sideline. The main thing was I was trying to get an education in the sciences. I had a combined major in chemistry, physics and math. It kept me busy.

Hodak: You also had a job. So how were you able to combine your scholastic load, your work and your track?

LuValle: Working for the chemistry department, I was able to do it.

Hodak: How often would you practice during the week?

LuValle: My schedule was such that "Ducky" [Elvin C. Drake] or Harry would wait for me every night until I could get out.

Hodak: And this was possibly after the rest of the track team was finished?

LuValle: Frequently after the other track members had left, or they'd hold them late when we needed to work together on something. But the deal was that I would get out there when I could, which meant that I seldom got out before four-thirty or five o'clock. Because of laboratories and other such things, I seldom got out . . . some nights I might get out early but not every night. There was no way I could possibly get out to the track and be there at two or three o'clock in the afternoon.

Hodak: Who were some of your teammates on the UCLA track team?

LuValle: Sinclair Lott, Jimmy Miller, Ray Vejar and Bob Young. They were the closest because we ran the one-mile relay. The five of us made up the one-mile relay team for about three years at UCLA. As one guy graduated, another one replaced him. In fact, Lott, Young, Vejar and I always have a table at each class reunion. At our 50th reunion we had a table with Ducky.

Hodak: You did pretty well in the Drake Relays.

LuValle: That's right, we set a record back there. Bill Ackerman, the graduate manager, went with us. We didn't have enough money for the coaches to go too. So he was the coach.

Hodak: At UCLA, how did you square off against Stanford or USC in various Pacific Coast meets?

LuValle: In those days, we made as many points as we could but we seldom won the meet. For instance, I remember one meet up in Berkeley where I ran the 100, the 200, the 440, threw the javelin, broad jumped, ran the relay, and I think I ran the hurdles that day too. Anyhow, I staggered onto the train to go home. But this was the sort of thing that we did. We were not the track power that they have become since. Well, we could offer very little for people to come to school. Most of the people who were coming there were like me; we went to UCLA because it was close to home and it was very cheap. In those days it was 35 dollars a semester.

Hodak: But you didn't suffer scholastically by attending UCLA?

LuValle: By the time I graduated they had introduced the master's program, but when we entered there they didn't even have the master's program. So the profs took their bright undergraduates and made them research assistants by the time

they had been in school a year. So we got to work directly with our professors. I knew all of my professors intimately. There was no such thing as going to a huge class and never knowing the professor. I argued with them, fought with them and I worked with them.

Hodak: There were some notable professors.

LuValle: Some of them have become notable. Saul Winstein, who was a student at that time, was ahead of me. Another person who was a student was Glenn Seaborg, the Nobel Prize winner. Glenn was my teaching assistant in quant. Saul Winstein was my teaching assistant in organic chemistry. Saul would have won the Nobel Prize too if he hadn't died early. But Glenn and I are good friends to this day. We see each other frequently. But UCLA turned out quite a few people who did extremely well in those days. One of the reasons was that we had such close contact with our professors. We had the best of everything. For instance, when I came back from the Olympics, I had a telegram waiting in New York from my mother saying I had a graduate assistantship at UCLA. So I was able to go on for my master's. Then I applied to several schools—Harvard and Wisconsin—to go for a PhD and didn't get anything from Wisconsin but got a half a scholarship from Harvard. Then Bill Young and [Vern] Knudsen from physics, and [William] Whyburn from math, all went over the Caltech and talked to Linus Pauling and I got a graduate assistantship there. So I went over to Caltech for my PhD.

Hodak: Let's get back to the track. Had you graduated by the time of the 1936 Olympics?

LuValle: No. I should have graduated in February of 1936, but I decided to stay an extra semester because there were some courses I wanted to take and hadn't had time to take. So I didn't graduate until June of that year. I had to debate what I

was going to do. I didn't really decide to try for the Olympics until that spring.

Hodak: Did you have a routine you used to prepare for a race?

LuValle Before a race I tended to get very nervous, so I tried to get away from everyone and concentrate. In fact, before the Olympic tryouts in New York I virtually ran my father out of the dressing room.

Hodak: How was the financing? How were you able to attend the tryouts at Randall's Island?

LuValle UCLA dug money up for me. Two things happened. The Princeton Invitational invited me to run, which was a few weeks before the tryouts at Randall's Island. UCLA dug the money up for me to stay there—staying at Princeton at that time was really very cheap—until the tryouts at Randall's Island. So I didn't go up to New York. In fact, a lot of us who ran in the Princeton meet stayed right there until the Randall's Island meet.

Now, the Randall's Island meet should never have been held there. It was hot and humid. I don't think a single athlete who participated in that meet lost less than ten pounds. I know I lost almost 15 pounds. I think that Ben Eastman lost almost 20 pounds, and I think that's why he failed to make the Olympics. That also was why we spent a lot of time eating on the *Manhattan* on the way over, trying to catch our weight up. In fact, on the trip over we had to make an unscheduled stop at Plymouth, England, to get more food. (laughter) Of course, most of this was due to Lou Zamperini. He was a big eater.

In any case, as usual, the athletes were in what we called steerage and the Olympic Committee was up in first-class. We

weren't allowed up in first-class. Sometimes you tried to sneak up to go to the movies in first-class, but as soon as a steward saw you they chased you out. We resented it very much. But we didn't resent it enough to mutiny, although we were very angry when Eleanor Holm was kicked off the team by a bunch of people who felt they were greater than God. They said she got drunk. However, what never came out was the fact that the Olympic Committee wanted to show her off and asked her to come up and spend that evening in first-class. They were showing her off to everybody there: "Look who we have with us on the Olympic team." Of course, she accepted a drink and had one too many. So then they wouldn't let her compete. This, I thought, was outrageous. I talked to her right after that. She said she had begged them not to make her go up there.

Hodak: There are so many different descriptions of what happened, I don't think many people really have a sense of that.

LuValle: Of course, the description the Olympic Committee put out was not the true description by any means. I always felt they did her dirty.

But we arrived eventually in Hamburg and disembarked. They took us up to the *rathaus* [town hall] and served us each a small glass of 25-year-old port. Up to that time I had never realized how delightful a good wine could taste. This was excellent wine.

We got on the train to go to Berlin, and when we arrived in Berlin there was this mob of young people—a lot of girls—yelling, "*Wo ist Jesse? Wo ist Jesse?*" [Where is Jesse?] Remember, Jesse had set four world records here in the United States that year, so they wanted to see him. Well, Jesse got off the train and these teenage girls had scissors and they started snipping off his clothes. (laughter) I'm not kidding.

it was wonderful.

Hodak: How did Jesse respond to this?

LuValle: Jesse got back on the train as fast as he could. (laughter) In fact, to be perfectly frank, if Jesse left the Village, he usually had to go out with some soldiers to protect him. Not that they were trying to harm him, but these people just thought he was wonderful. Nobody else would go out with him as a result.

Hodak: Do you think this was hard on Jesse?

LuValle: I think it was a little hard on him but I think he loved it. After all, it was quite a bit of adulation.

Johnny Lyman, who was one of the premier shot putters of that time, had been in Germany studying and he had wanted to try out for the Olympic team at the German tryouts and have his distance taken. But the Olympic Committee refused to do it so Johnny wasn't on the team, but he was there as an interpreter. This was another mistake the Olympic Committee made.

But we were placed in the Olympic Village. The Olympic Village ultimately became the German West Point.

Hodak: Could you see evidence of that at the time you were there?

LuValle: The way the so-called dormitories were made out—they were dormitories with straw mattresses and so on—it was quite clear that this was a permanent set-up. The dining halls, the swimming set-up, everything said this was going to be permanent, and it was. At one point, the German colonel in charge—it was run by the army—blew his top. He said, "What's the matter with you Americans? You ask questions all the time. German boys don't." Well, Johnny said, "Yeah, that's the difference "

We worked out there at the Village and tried to get ready for the Games. We had brought a lot of food with us and our cooks. As a result, many of the other teams were visiting us, especially because we had lots of fresh fruit. We had brought, literally carloads of fresh fruit with us from the States. So the American dining room was always being visited by others. It was very pleasant. You worked out and met these various people from various countries and talked to them.

On the opening day of the Games we were bused down Unter den Linden to the Maifeld, which is just in front of the coliseum in Berlin, the Berlin stadium. When we got to Unter den Linden we saw people on each side. And in front of these people were at least a double row of brownshirts, all in full battle regalia, and in front of those a row of blackshirts, also in full battle regalia. In fact, watching them I felt that that day they could have marched to war right then and there. So we got off our buses at the Maifeld and lined up. There was a grandstand, you could go up to the top of the grandstand and look back down at Unter den Linden. I went up there and on one side I had 55 nations who were there to see who could run the fastest, who could jump the highest, who could dive with most beauty, and so on. On the other side of that, we had over 50,000 ready to go to war that day. It was quite a contrast.

We marched into the stadium after the 55 nations that were there had all assembled. As you know, the head of state can only say, "I declare this Olympiad open." Those are the only words he may utter for the whole Olympics. He's not allowed to give a speech or say anything else. After Hitler said that, 5,000 German voices sang the "Hallelujah Chorus" and they released carrier pigeons to go all over the world to tell them the Olympics were open. That was a very thrilling moment. If you can imagine standing on that field and hearing those voices singing that great music. That's how the Olympics were opened

in 1936.

Of course, after the opening day you tended not to go to the Games until your event came up. Then, of course, after your event you went every day. So how much you saw of the Games depended on how soon you got to compete. In my case, for a couple of days there I was getting ready to run. Then we had to run five races in two days to get to the finals.

Hodak: Was that particularly grueling or was it something you were accustomed to in other meets?

LuValle: No. In the States you never ran more than one race in any given day, and there would only be two days of it. But you see, this was because you had so many competitors. So for the 400 meters, it worked out that we had to run five races in two days. Well, Archie [Williams] and I got through all our four races, winning each one. And we came to the final race and there were six English-speaking people in the final race. There was Williams from Cal, USA; [Arthur G.] Brown and [Godfrey] Rampling from England; a chap from Australia; and one from New Zealand. I drew the inside lane and the race started. We were all going along and we came around to the final 100 yards and we started our race. At that point I believe I was in the lead but I made a couple of mistakes around there, those cost me the race. In any case, we finished the race—Archie was first. Brown was second, I was third, and Rampling was fourth. You could have covered us all with a small blanket because we were right on top of each other. You could describe the finish of that race as though we had been running on smooth ground and in the last 100 yards, all of a sudden, we were going up a vertical cliff and people were dropping rocks on us. (laughter)

Hodak: You say you made a few mistakes?

LuValle: Two mistakes: I looked around, which is *verboden*; and I started my sprint too soon. But those are things that happen to you sometimes.

Afterwards, as you know, [Avery] Brundage and [Dean] Cromwell managed to do things so that They had brought four fellows over to run in the 4x100 relay plus Jesse [Owens], Ralph Metcalfe, and I've forgotten the third man, for the open 100. Well, Cromwell and Brundage decided to have trials again. And they had trials and then they decided to put [Ralph] Metcalfe, Jesse Owens, [Frank] Wykoff, and [Foy] Draper in the 4x100. The two other fellows, [Marty] Glickman and [Sam] Stoller, who had come over to run that race, were told they couldn't run. Well, those boys were heartbroken. We felt that Brundage and Cromwell were totally out of line in doing this. It was quite obvious that Cromwell had done it to make sure his two boys would get into the race. It was also quite obvious it had not been done fairly. I don't believe Jesse wanted to run, but somehow they forced him to.

Well, the same nonsense came up on the 4x400. They wanted to displace three of the fellows and have [Glenn] "Slats" Hardin and Archie and I run to be absolutely sure they could win it. I had a teammate. Bob Young, on that relay. And Slats also had a very close friend who was there to run the relay, "short-stride" Harold Cagle from Oklahoma. Well, Archie was with us and we all decided there was no way we would run on the 4x400 relay. The fellows ran and they all got a silver medal and I still feel it was the right thing. It was much more important that they get to run than they necessarily win. You have to remember that in 1936 certainly none of us on the track team expected to continue in track unless we became coaches afterwards. All of us were going on into other fields afterwards; some very soon afterwards and some had another year of college or so. But none of us expected to or did become professional athletes. Our attitudes, therefore, were

quite different. Also, we were there for the fun of it. We weren't gladiators, at least we didn't feel we were gladiators. I think that some of those Olympic Committee people and Cromwell and some of the others had the wrong attitude entirely about things in those days.

Hodak: So were they surprised when you, Archie Williams and Slats Hardin rejected this plan?

LuValle: I think they were surprised, but since the three of us were there and we stood together there was not too much they could do about it. If they had tried to force me, I could have told them what they could do. (laughter)

Hodak: That certainly illustrates quite a bit about the organization of sport and the Olympics at that time.

LuValle: Well, unfortunately the American Olympic Committee seemed to feel that they owned the athletes, which they didn't. I think it was no better in previous Olympics. That attitude was very prevalent.

But, we ran in several meets after that. In fact, we ran in Germany, in Cologne, in England and France before we came home. Some of the other fellows made open trips around into the Scandinavian countries. Different groups of us went to different places. We all ran in England and France.

Hodak: Do you remember hearing of Jesse Owens' refusal to go to Stockholm?

LuValle: He was dead tired as I heard. Then they said if he didn't go they would declare him a professional or something to force him to go. Fortunately, us lesser people didn't get into that problem. In fact, I was in charge of the squads that went from England to France. I was in charge of the trip over there

and getting them into the hotel. I've forgotten what happened, but the coaches were going to go someplace else and so on. We got into the hotel and, of course, being in charge I got the only room by myself. (laughter) But we had a very nice time on those trips. The people of those countries were very nice to us.

Hodak: How would you characterize the Germans and their receptiveness to the Olympics and the athletes?

LuValle: They were very receptive. You heard all this rigmarole about Hitler, but certainly the German people were as nice as they could be. I had a German colonel invite me out to his home for dinner one night. I had dinner with him and his two daughters and his wife. It was very pleasant. Two or three of us went along. That was happening all along.

Hodak: Yes, others have remarked of similar invitations.

LuValle: We saw no sign of any intolerance of any type among the people. Now among the Nazis, I don't know. I had very little to do with them. (laughter)

Hodak: What other events were you able to take in at the Olympics?

LuValle: I took in a lot of track and field from then on. I saw John Woodruff give the race away and then go take it back again. (laughter) By the way, he's living in Sacramento, unless he's moved. He was trying to sell his house and move back East again, but he was living in Sacramento for two or three years. He was at the reunion held at Ohio State in 1986.

Hodak: What about some of the personalities or characters on the American team that you remember?

LuValle: Well, Jack Torrance, the shot putter, weighed about 300 pounds

and he had the appetite of a small bird. He virtually ate nothing. Lou Zamperini weighed about 105 pounds and he'd eat two steaks and anything else he could get every night for dinner. In fact, I think I remember he used to sit next to Jack because he got all of Jack's food as well as his own. (laughter) [Forrest] "Spec" Towns, he was a character in himself, and he still is. Spec was determined that nobody was going to say that a Southerner on that team was prejudiced in any way toward a black on that team. Spec did all sorts of things to make sure that people realized that. But, Spec was a great character. He was a real gentleman. If you want to meet a Southern gentleman, that was Spec Towns. Slats Hardin was another one. He was from Louisiana. You couldn't ask to meet nicer people.

Hodak: Do you stay in touch with them?

LuValle: I did. Slats is dead. I saw Spec in 1986, that's the last time I saw him. You see, I didn't stay as close in touch as I might have because I was through with college athletics. When I came home, I spent a year at UCLA for my master's and then went on to Caltech and spent three years getting my doctorate. Then I spent some 20-odd years in the East working at various companies before I returned out here and eventually ended up at Stanford.

So, when I did finish at Caltech I taught for a year at Fisk University, a black university in Nashville, Tennessee. I had several run-ins with the president, the dean and the chairman of my department about attitudes towards the kids. Most of these students coming in really weren't prepared for college. They had about one year less than they should have had in high school because of the way the high schools ran at that time. They certainly weren't prepared for what we claimed we were going to teach them. They also had the attitude that there was no hope for them except if they went into medicine.

law, dentistry, teaching or preaching. I, being from the West and having quite a different attitude about things, was somewhat incensed about this. Near the end of the year, in one of my sessions with them, they said, "Well, you know after about five years you'll be with us. You know you can't do anything about it." So I didn't sign my contract and I went up to St. Louis where the national American Chemists Society meeting was held, and got myself a job with Eastman Kodak.

Hodak: And you had graduated from Caltech with a doctorate in chemistry?

LuValle: Chemistry and mathematics.

Hodak: What determined that orientation as opposed to physics?

LuVaile: I was accepted for graduate work in the chemistry department. I took a degree in what was physical chemistry. I did my actual degree in electron and x-ray diffraction. In those days, that was primarily physics. In fact, I was classified as a physicist for many years after that. (laughter) I never left the borderland. I was always in the borderland between the two groups.

But anyhow, I went to Kodak where I worked for ten years in Rochester, New York. There I met my wife. I had gone to a dance one night and met a cute blonde who introduced me to my future wife. We saw each other for a couple of years there before we were married in 1946.

Hodak: What were some of the things you were working on in the lab in Rochester?

LuValle: I was doing research. The first year I was in the photo-micrographic department. We were actually the people that had to take each emulsion made and determine the

distribution of particle sizes and such things. This took a lot of girls at microscopes constantly working. I was also carrying on a side project on determining the surface area and density of fine quartz particles.

Hodak: How does the application of this research translate for laymen?

LuValle: Actually, the size and distribution of particles in emulsion determines its sensitivity. So this varied closely. This was closely tied to production at that point. The work on the quartz particles was the fact that people had claimed that small particles had less density than bulk material. We were trying to determine if this was true or not.

After that first year, I went to Chicago and worked for OSRD, the Office of Scientific and Research Development, during World War II. I was working in chemical and biological warfare. In fact, we did the first biological warfare tests there. Our lab was blown up by an accident one night. Then we had another accident and I became sensitized to many of the things we were working with. So I left there and went back to Caltech and worked there on another problem.

Then I had an opportunity to return to Kodak, so I returned to Kodak at that time. I worked for Arnold Weissburger for five years on stability of the developing agents that were used in color formation. During that time, I developed techniques for making extremely pure developers and they found out that when extremely pure developing materials were used, instead of the somewhat impure materials they had been using, control of the color process was far more accurate than before. So this had a direct impact on our processes. Then I transferred into the so-called theoretical group at Kodak, who reported directly to the assistant director of research. There I started to work on the mechanism by which dye formation took place in the photographic emulsion.

Hodak: And these were things that your studies at Caltech prepared you for?

LuValle: Well, part of these things you had to learn to do. But you have to remember, at Caltech the idea is to train you to be a research scientist; not in a very narrow field, but to train you in such a way that you have a very good general background in the whole area in which you were specializing. So if you were asked to take on a problem in some area other than that which you're familiar with, you could sit down and in not too long a time become familiar enough with it so you could undertake the research that was necessary. And this is the way Caltech was founded. When [Robert A.] Millikan and [Arthur A.] Noyes and [George E.] Hale founded Caltech, they founded it on the basis of training research scientists, not engineers.

I worked for [Don M.] Yost my first year at Caltech on a problem which we agreed that if at the end of the year I didn't feel we were making progress with it, I would then be able to transfer over to work for Linus Pauling. Pauling had told me he wanted me to spend a year in direct experimental work before I went to work for him. So I worked on a problem to try to determine the heat capacity at constant volume of a gas. This meant that no matter how much pressure I put the gas in, the calorimeter containing the gas was going to have a much higher heat capacity than the gas. So to find out what the heat capacity of the gas was, I was going to have to subtract a couple of large quantities to get one small quantity. We tried to build a very, very thin calorimeter of silver, with the result that I never got one built without making holes in it. I learned to do a lot of mechanical spinning during that time. At the same time, [Kenneth S.] Pitzer up at Berkeley was trying to build a calorimeter for the same thing. He tried to build two identical ones. But the only problem was, when he got them built they weren't identical. He couldn't work with one in a

vacuum, one containing the gas, subtract the heat capacity of the vacuum one and get the heat capacity of the gas. It might be now—remember, that was in the '30s—that maybe one could do it. But at that time, it was impossible . . . or improbable. Nothing's impossible, only improbable.

I worked then for two years with Linus Pauling in electron diffraction and those were marvelous years. Linus used to come down and visit us almost every night. Certainly he'd see us two or three times a week to find out what we were doing. He always knew what we were doing; knew more about it than we did. (laughter) I worked with a small group there. I worked with Dave Stevenson and Verner Shoemaker, both of whom became quite well-known in their fields. They were postdocs when I was a predoc. So frequently at night I had to go home and study like mad and try to figure out what the two of them had been talking about that day. But the years I spent with Linus were absolutely marvelous years for me.

In 1987 I received the Alumni Distinguished Service Award from California Institute of Technology for outstanding achievement in my chosen field. This is the only award that Caltech gives. It gives no degree awards at all. It gives this to a few alumni each year. They get a certificate and a medal with the motto of Caltech, "The truth shall make you free." I was amazed that I got this award and I feel very, very honored in getting it from Caltech.

The same year that I received the award from Caltech, I received the Professional Achievement Award from the Alumni Association at UCLA. As you know, two or three years previous to this UCLA had dedicated a commons in my name. That's a story in itself. The director of the Associated Students of UCLA, Jason Reed, came up to see me for information about the Graduate Student Council, which I had been one of the founders of and the first president at UCLA

back when I was a graduate student. We talked for several hours there, and I had him for dinner at the Faculty Club. Then he said, "You know what I really came up here for? We want to name a building for you." I said, "You're crazy." Anyhow, that's how I learned about the fact that the commons was going to be built for me.

Each year the chancellor greets all the incoming graduate students at a reception, and I went down to that, at which they announced that the commons was going to be built in my name as a graduate students commons. Then, when the building was finished, we had a dedication and Tom Bradley gave the principal speech there. Tom, at that time, said that if it hadn't been for me he wouldn't have gone to college, that I persuaded him to go to college instead of taking a job when he got out of high school. I didn't recall that.

Hodak: He also competed in track at UCLA.

LuValle: Yes, he did. So things get tied together that you'd never expect to. But I do feel that both UCLA and Caltech have been very wonderful to me.

I worked at Kodak for ten years and during that time I got married. We had a son and a daughter. Then I was approached to join a small company that was just getting started in Massachusetts, Technical Operations. I decided to go with them. I went there as head of their chemistry department and was there six years. During that time we lived on government contracts. Sometimes we did very well and sometimes we didn't. Although, during that period I never had a problem getting decent work. We also had another son during that time.

Then I was approached by Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation to come down and set up a photographic research

laboratory for them in New York out on Long Island, at Syossett. I demurred and I debated and eventually I decided to go. For one reason, they agreed to buy the equipment that I felt was really needed to do what I wanted to do, which I didn't think we would ever get at Technical Operations. So I went there as head of their photographic research and director of physical and chemical research, and set up a program which went on for about ten years. I had about 50 people working for me by that time. Then our contracts began to disappear. This was also at the time at which they cut back tremendously on the research out here on the West Coast in the semiconductor outfit. But because times were bad, they decided to cut way down on the research in New York. So I left them and went to SCM, Smith Corona Marchant, as technical director of their research laboratory out in Skokie, Illinois. This was a laboratory doing work on zerographic-type materials. We were there a year, at which time they decided to set up a laboratory out here on the West Coast and I was asked to come out here as director of that laboratory. So I came out here, but after a few years they decided to close the laboratory and move a few of us back East and I had no desire to return to the East. I, at that time, in the '70s, fortunately was able to join the chemistry department at Stanford. And I was there until I retired. I still have an office at Stanford and am still carrying out some theoretical research. But that covers, more or less, the professional career that I followed.

Of course, as far as I was concerned, the day I got off the boat in New York Harbor when we returned from the Olympics, I was finished with track. It might have been that if the Olympics had been held in 1940, that I might have decided to make a stab at it, I don't know. But in 1940 there were no Olympics, and in 1944 there were no Olympics, and by 1948 I certainly wasn't even interested in whether there were Olympics or not, at least as far as I was concerned in competition.

The work I did during those years was all in chemistry or solid-state physics. These are the areas of research which I worked in. A lot of it was in reaction kinetics. Sometimes there was a great deal of work spent on getting people to work on techniques for purification of materials. So by that time we had three children.

Hodak: What lines of work have your children taken up?

LuValle: My oldest boy, John, worked for JPL [Jet Propulsion Laboratories] for quite a few years and now they contracted out that job so he went . . . I've forgotten who has the contract, but he's now working with them. He's on the group that does long baseline interferometry. He's also on the group that keeps contact with these various satellites when they are sent out to Jupiter and so on. My oldest son thus went into physics. He went to school at Williams College back East. He then took a job out here and has been here ever since.

My younger son, Mike, went to Pomona, where he was on both the swim team and the water polo team. I believe he was captain of both of those before he got through. He then went up here to one of the small state colleges and got a master's in math, and then went on to [UC] Davis and got his PhD in statistics and math. He taught at Kansas State for a year, then Bell Labs asked him to come with them. He's been with them now for the last four or five years. He's got a very interesting job there. He wishes he lived in California, but he has his PhD in statistics and is doing some very exciting work. In fact, that's why he's willing to stay at Bell, because of the work he's doing.

My daughter, Phyllis, dropped out of school when she was a freshman, went up to Tahoe, worked as a waitress, worked as a ski instructor, worked as a bartender. She came home one day almost three years later and said, "Daddy, I don't like the

class of people I meet." So I said, "What are you going to do?" She said, "I'm going back to school." I said, "Alright, we'll start paying your bills again." Well, she went on to [UC] Davis and got her bachelor's degree. She wanted to go to veterinarian school. She didn't get in right away so she decided to go on and get a master's degree in biology at Hayward State University, across the bay here. She didn't get in that year. She was very interested in biology by then, so she got a graduate fellowship to go to the University of Utah Medical School to work for a doctorate. She got that in molecular biology. Now she's back at Harvard University Medical School on a National Institute of Health postdoctorate in molecular biology. She'll be there for three years. Now, this is a young lady who, when she was a teenager, if you mentioned the word science would say, "Ugh." (laughter) So, I'm very proud of all of them and very proud of that daughter of mine too.

Hodak: Have you any grandchildren?

LuValle: Not yet. I hope. The boys are both married. My daughter's been married and divorced.

Hodak: Tell me of your wife's career.

LuValle: My wife had a degree in chemistry from the University of Massachusetts. She was working at Kodak in production control doing statistics when we met there. We eventually got married and she worked there until the children came, then she stopped work. When we were in Massachusetts she didn't work, but out on Long Island we lived in Stonybrook, where the State University at Stonybrook was founded, and they needed people in the library. So she went to work there part-time. When we came out here she got a job at Zeecon as a librarian and worked there for about 12 or 13 years. Two years ago she went over to Stanford University Library, in the main library.

and a year ago she went into the biology library, where she is now.

We had agreed when we got married that she wouldn't work until the kids were in junior high. We felt that we had to offer the children a place to come home, where somebody was at home. Nowadays, so many of the young people can't do that because of the cost of homes and everything else. It's unfortunate because I think it is much better that children can come home to somebody through the junior high school years; certainly through grammar school, that's very important. Of course, we went through all the fear of what might happen during the '60s, with all the dope and everything else that was going on. Certain friends of some of our kids actually were getting arrested for dealing these things, but somehow our kids managed to stay out of it.

There's one other thing that you may be interested in there. None of my children knew, until John was about 14, that I had been in athletics and been in the Olympics. This was deliberate on my part. I saw so many people push their kids into becoming athletes. "Be an athlete. Be this. Be like I was. Do this." I decided that under no circumstances were my kids ever going to feel any pressure from me to do anything athletically. John found out about it from somebody else one day and I told all the children about it. John did run cross-country. Mike got into water polo, swimming and judo. Phyllis could have been an Olympic, world-class athlete in almost anything. She's probably the most natural athlete you've ever met. However, every time she thought she was going to have to work so hard she was going to develop the wrong muscles, she'd quit. So I never pushed her. But she's a superb skier. When she was in prep school, she and one other boy were running for the best athlete in the class of seniors. She worked like heck to make sure she didn't get it. (laughter)

I was talking about the pressure on children, but there has been quite a change in the attitude of many athletes towards Olympics. When I grew up . . . I suppose swimmers thought about it early because swimmers have to start so early in life. But I know in my case, it certainly never entered my head as a sophomore in college that I was going to someday be in the Olympics. I don't think it entered my head as a junior. In my senior year, yes, I thought about it, and since I stayed that extra half a year I then had to make up my mind what to do. I finally decided to go for it. But it wasn't anything that I built on for years to try to become a superb athlete. And I'm really disturbed by the fact that I hear so many youngsters at very early ages say, "I'm going to train to make the Olympics." I think that if they do that their whole childhood and adolescence is going to be more or less ruined. Because instead of just having fun and enjoying life, or going out someday and lying in the field looking at the clouds, they're going to be so busy training to make the Olympics that they're going to miss out on many joys of doing things for the heck of it.

Then, with the situation now where these athletes, after college, can do these endorsements, have it put into a trust fund and draw on it as they need—effectively they can make a \$100,000 a year without becoming pros. This has made for a different situation. You actually have now, in many areas of athletics, professionals called amateurs that are competing. What they are doing, in some respects—and I think that in some respects this is unfair, but on the other hand, if they want to do it and can make money at it I guess they have the right to do it—is knocking out the chances of some of the youngsters coming along to even make the Olympics. Because of the endorsement thing

You can take the Slaney-Budd incident, where I'm sure part of Slaney's response at that time was the fact that she lost some

endorsements. She never uttered it but I'm sure it entered her head. It doesn't lead to the sense of being team members that it used to be. I think that right now, especially in track and field, it's every individual for himself and the hell with everybody else. I want to win it because I want to make all that money I can make. I can live like a king for quite a few years then. I don't know what they are going to do when they cease being athletes. I only hope that every one of them has enough sense to save 50 percent of their income every year so that eventually they will be able to make investments so they will have something to live on. You take the pro athletes in football and basketball; it is criminal that these kids aren't advised in college and given courses in money management. For a kid to come out of college at 20, get a contract for five million dollars over five years and know nothing about managing money, means that somebody is going to steal him dry. He's going to throw an awful lot of money away. I think that under these contracts . . . it's just unfortunate that half the money wouldn't have to be invested in things like CDs and government securities—things that couldn't possibly go wrong for them—so that when they get through with athletics, they would have an income from it. Sufficient money should be set aside so the taxes would be paid every year, and what's left they should have. It's crazy what has happened. When you read about these athletes having nothing when they quit because they didn't know how to manage money. They had a bunch of so-called friends, who all they did was take them for everything they had. The athlete who, when he gets through, has his money invested and knows he'll never have another worry, is fairly rare.

Hodak: What thoughts do you have on the Olympic Movement?

LuValle: Well, I think that the Olympics can be a fine thing if it doesn't get into too much politics. I think that my point of view about the Olympics may change radically according to what happens in

Seoul this year. I hope that it will be a terrorist-free Games, and it will be a fun Games.

There are some times when I think that all team sports ought not be allowed in the Olympics. The team sports tend to create nationalistic rivalries which are unnecessary. And I think the media, if they would stop adding up the medals that each country gets and forget that, and just think of these people as individuals They have hurt the Olympics immensely by constantly saying, "The U.S. has two medals, Russia has three medals, but Czechoslovakia hasn't got anything." It doesn't matter. It isn't Russia that's competing in the Games, it's the kids that are competing. If you are going to have the team sports . . . I don't know how you could have it but, again, the way it is now, we already see it with basketball. The Europeans are getting better in basketball and maybe we won't win it this year. We'll find out who will win it; whoever won it deserves to win it because they were the best at that time. If you can win it, fine, but it shouldn't be a nationalistic thing constantly. It should be, "Let's see if we can't beat these guys just for the fun of it." I don't know what you can do to stop the media, but I think that the media has done more to damage the Olympic Movement than anything else.

For instance, I think the Olympics should be in Athens in 1996 for the 100th anniversary of the modern Olympics. I don't know that Athens could afford it. Now, they did have the European Games there a few years ago, so they have a new stadium. They must have some sort of dormitory complex, or maybe they don't now. But maybe they should just put them up in tents. (laughter)

Hodak: They do have a new stadium. I know that they are eager to get the Games in 1996.

LuValle: Well, personally I think—and this of course is unheard of—that

the United States Olympic Committee, the British Olympic Committee, the French Olympic Committee, the Japanese Olympic Committee, every one of them ought to try to raise a certain amount of money to give to the Greek Olympic Committee to help the Greeks in having the Olympics in Greece in 1996 so we can celebrate it properly where it should be celebrated. I think this would be the best thing that could happen. If every national Olympic committee would withdraw in favor of Athens and go out and say, "If Athens can't raise enough money we will help." It wouldn't cost that much if all the countries did it. They could say, "For 1996, we are withdrawing in favor of Athens." That's all that has to be done. That stops any competition between cities. This is not a function of the cities, it's the people. The national Olympic committees should have the guts to do something right. Sure, each country might have to raise a little extra money for it, but I don't think it would hurt them. I think they might raise the money for that easier than they raise the money for the teams. Then, if they do turn out to need the money, the national Olympic committees should say, "How much do you need? We'll try to split the load and help you."

One other thing, and I really feel strongly on this and it has nothing to do with anything we talked about before, but I feel it is criminal that the National Football League and the National Basketball Association use the colleges as a farm team without proper recompense. I personally feel that each professional team, anytime they draft a man from a school, should pay that school \$100,000. And if he makes the team, they should pay him \$100,000 each year he is on the team. I think this would be only fair to the schools, considering that they are the farm teams for it and are doing all of this work for which they get absolutely nothing. I think the money should go not to the athletic departments, but to the general scholarship fund for the university. Then the university can decide how much of it would go to the athletic department. But I don't think that it

should go into the athletic departments because I think the university is giving the athletic department room to run this. I think this would be the only fair way to do it because right now the National Football League and the National Basketball Association gives these . . . well, they don't do it even, it's Chevrolet and somebody else that gives this \$1,000 to the most valuable player. Heaven knows, they could afford to do this. Every one of these teams could afford to pay. This way, at least there would be money for the general scholarship fund, which would be a very useful thing. Maybe they should split it; 50 percent to the athletic department and 50 percent to the general scholarship fund for the university. I don't like this but anyhow, it would earn both leagues a lot of goodwill. But it also would be fair. They are getting away with spending absolutely nothing.

Also, under no circumstances should they take a player until he's finished college. I think that rule should be iron-clad; no hardship rules, no nothing. You finish college before we'll touch you.

The other thing I'd like to see there is the colleges be honest and stop taking people who haven't got a chance to get an education. I mean, those guys, if they haven't got a chance to get an education, shouldn't be put through the mill. They also are the ones who are going to manage their money least of all and end up with nothing when they are through in five years or three years. Remember, not many of them make it when you come right down to it. So they shouldn't take anybody in that they don't feel can get a college education. And they should work hard to make sure they get a college education. There should be no goof-off courses allowed. If that meant some years some of the men were ineligible, so what. I think that it is ridiculous that they came up with this business that a 700 SAT [Scholastic Aptitude Test] score was sufficient for an athlete to get into college. I think a 700 total SAT score is

insufficient for anyone to enter college. And they ought to be honest about it. I think the college presidents that griped about it ought to be honest with themselves too, and realize that they are not doing the kids or their schools the least bit of good.

Hodak: Well, Dr. LuValle, I thank you for sharing your forthright opinions on these matters, and also thank you for your time today and allowing me to visit you. And the Amateur Athletic Foundation appreciates your cooperation on the oral history project. It's been a real pleasure to meet and talk with you.

LuValle: Well, thank you George.