

RAYMOND "BEN" BASS
1932 OLYMPIC GAMES
GYMNASTICS



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.

RAYMOND "BEN" BASS

1932 OLYMPIC GAMES - LOS ANGELES

ROPE CLIMB

Gold Medalist

INTERVIEWED:

February, 1988

Glendale, California

by George A. Hodak

RAYMOND "BEN" BASS

Interviewer: George A. Hodak

Hodak: I'm in Glendale today interviewing Raymond Bass, an Olympian who competed in the 1932 Olympics and won a gold medal in the rope climb competition. Mr. Bass, tell me when and where you were born and tell me a bit about your family background.

Bass: I was born in Arkansas, on March 15, 1910. I was the oldest of three sons in our family. When I was six I lost my father. I grew up with my grandparents and my mother, in my grandparents' house, at least for a few years. Being the oldest son, in some ways they treated me like a youth but in other ways like I was quite a bit older than I was from the very beginning, which might have had some effect on my life. I had a very happy childhood. We lived on a little farm for a few years. Then my mother got involved with keeping hotels for companies. She kept a hotel for several years for a lumber company in a little town named Calion, Arkansas, near El Dorado.

I went to the Thornton schools in Thornton, Arkansas, up until about 1924 when we moved to Calion. There I attended the Calion schools. They were not very famous for athletics. I'd say they were normal in practically every way in connection with school athletics.

Hodak: So you attended high school in Calion?

Bass: I attended grammar school in Thornton and high school, what there was of it, in Calion. Actually, I finished up my high school education in the Naval Academy Preparatory class at Norfolk, Virginia.

Hodak: What brought that about?

Bass: Well, I enlisted in the Navy and pretty soon I had fought my way into the Naval Academy prep class, which was at the naval base at Norfolk, Virginia. That was an enlisted class and we took our competitive exams and that's how I passed my way into the Academy, as a "white hat" in the Navy.

Hodak: Were you able to compete in any sort of athletics in Arkansas or in the Naval Prep School?

Bass: It was not a formal competitive situation at the prep school. There was the usual sports in the Thornton Schools and then at the Calion Schools. Nobody ever even thought about the rope climbing business in those schools. I got started in that after I got to the Naval Academy, with the class of 1931, in the summer of 1927.

I was a healthy young guy but I only weighed about 126 pounds or so. I was only about five-foot-six, so I was not going to be playing basketball or football. (laughter) I did a number of things in sports there. I was on the edge of the cross-country team. My legs weren't long enough to keep me in the competing part of that group. But I found myself very comfortable with the wrestling people. I participated in wrestling as an undergrad. But my situation was that I had at least one and I think maybe there were two classmates in my own weight that were better than I in wrestling. So I was not going to get in the wrestling with those people on the squad. But I did a lot of work on the ropes up in the top of the wrestling loft. I was building shoulders—I had pretty good shoulders to start with—and I used to climb the rope with the idea of strengthening my shoulders and upper arms. That rope up there was only about 11 feet high, I would guess. The gymnasts at the Academy, the "silk-pants boys," had a 20-foot competitive rope, which was used in intercollegiate competition.

Hodak: So the rope climb was part of national competition.

Bass: Yes, it was part of the gymnastics competition on the East Coast at that time.

Hodak: So how did you move towards becoming a gymnast?

Bass: I wasn't really inclined toward gymnastics to start with. I used to tease my classmates as they would go by with their silk pants on down there while I was on my way up to the wrestling loft with the smelly togs of a wrestler. But as I would go by that long rope down there on the floor of the gymnasium, I would take a standing start and climb that high rope. I did that for quite a number of months, maybe even years, and the coach of the gym squad asked me to stand and take a good start on that thing so he could see how fast I could go. So I did what he asked and when I came back down he asked me how I was doing in wrestling. I told him about these two classmates that were beating me and he said, "Well, if you'll come down here and join the squad, I'll make you a champion rope climber in a very few weeks." So I turned in my smelly wrestling togs that day and got myself some white silk pants and I became a gymnast.

Coach Lou Mang was a very unusual coach. He was a very strong athlete in the first place and he was a good track man and a very good track coach. He believed in all the fundamentals of good running. He taught the rope climbers how to get more rhythm and roll into their climb than we'd ever had before. As far as climbing the rope was concerned, it was not like drawing water out of a well to him. It was a matter of getting a lot of rhythm and roll into the climb, holding the feet up high in front of your face as you climb the rope and rolling yourself up that rope using the whole body as a climbing mechanism, not just the arms and shoulders.

Hodak: So he gave you a little more finesse in your approach.

Bass: Yes, he did. In that way, we were leaders on the East Coast.

Hodak: The Naval Academy rope climbers?

Bass: The Naval Academy rope climbers were in the lead in this, with Lou Mang, the great coach. [William] Jack Galbraith was a couple of years ahead of me and Tom Connelly was a couple of years behind me. Both of those gentlemen were in the Olympics with me and they were training with me, pushing me, and setting the pace every day that we worked on preparation for the Games.

Hodak: So how did you blend in with the other guys in the silk pants as you would travel to various meets?

Bass: [Laughter] Very soon I quit teasing them about the silk pants and got with them completely. I really loved those guys. But I was a one-event gymnast. I never made any attempt to become an all-round gymnast. I devoted my efforts to that one single event.

Going back for a moment, during my youth I did some things in the summers and one of those was delivering ice. In those days, a lot of people had iceboxes and they could take about 50 pounds of ice in the top of those iceboxes and that would keep the food cold until the next day. My job was to lift the 50-pound chunks of ice out of the trap to the top of that icebox. I've always thought that that had something to do with getting a good set of shoulders and arms. That may have given me the advantage I needed to win in rope climbing.

I've told a lot of stories about the grapevines down in Arkansas. The roads weren't very good down there in those days and there were not very many bridges. As the story goes, we would have to cross those creeks on the grapevines. So I've always had an unfair advantage with my competition because I had to climb those grapevines in order to get across those rivers down in Arkansas.

Back to the Naval Academy. By the time I had left the Academy—by the end of May, first of June, 1931—I had climbed the

rope there and had left a record of 4.3 seconds, which at that time was a record. I won the intercollegiate championship on the East Coast. I went on out to the fleet and was aboard a big airplane carrier, the *Lexington*, which at that time was based in San Pedro or Long Beach. I'd been there from about July until about January when the coach called me and asked me if I would like to participate in the training at the Naval Academy of the gym squad for the Olympics coming up in Los Angeles in '32. The Depression was near its bottom and competition in the Navy was pretty intense. I was making 143 dollars a month as an ensign in the Navy after graduation. It was quite a decision to get away from the Navy for maybe six to eight months to devote my efforts all to the Olympics. I was not sure I could justify it but I did it on the basis that if I could win the Olympics, it would be worthwhile. But if I would just fool around and not win, it would be a waste of six months of my professional life. So on that basis, I decided I'd go back to the Academy and give the best I could to see if I could win the Olympics.

Hodak: Had you heard much of the Olympics before then? Was it something that you had geared yourself toward in any way?

Bass: I'd say the answer to that essentially is no. I was really only in gymnastics the last couple of years at the Academy. It was pretty much trying to get the letters and win the championships.

Hodak: So you returned to the East Coast then?

Bass: I went back to the Academy and started training there every morning and every afternoon with coach Lou Mang. We had Jack Galbraith and midshipman Tom Connelly there, and both of them were very professional people. As a matter of fact. Jack Galbraith beat me in the tryouts in Los Angeles. They were tough competitors and I had to keep up with them and beat them. I don't think I would have done it without their being there.

Hodak: It helps to have some teammates prod you?

Bass: Yes, they were pacing me and pushing and prodding me all the time. That's just the way it was. Lou Mang was such a skillful coach. I take pleasure in telling people how he must have felt at the Olympics themselves to see the gold, silver and bronze winners all from the Naval Academy, all coached by him and all standing up there side by side while they played "The Star-Spangled Banner." So we can see who really won the Olympics—the coach.

Hodak: Few coaches have that rare privilege.

Bass: That's right. So at that drop of a hat I can pay tribute to a wonderful coach.

Hodak: Did Mr. Mang have any sort of extra regimen that helped you develop conditioning or was the Naval Academy in itself enough of a conditioning experience?

Bass: Well, we had the training table and we had individual coaching as well as group coaching. He coached a lot of people but he took time to help the rope climbers make the most of what they could do. Sure, we worked on strengthening our shoulders, arms and bodies, but he pushed on technique, and it's a combination of both of those things. He could teach people to compete but he also helped give people the will to win . . . but a lot of that has to come from inside. The will to win has to come from inside.

Hodak: So you arrived in Los Angeles for the tryouts. Did the Olympic Committee pay your way to Los Angeles?

Bass: We were being paid the ensign's usual stipend by the Navy. We stayed at the YMCA not very far from the Los Angeles Athletic Club. We trained at the Los Angeles Athletic Club. That was for the tryouts up until we got to the Olympics. Then, after we had placed ourselves in the Olympics, then we went to the Olympic

Village like everyone else. I think everyone did that.

Hodak: Anything in particular stand out from the tryouts, other people you met or other gymnasts that impressed you?

Bass: There were some very beautiful gymnasts there in the Los Angeles Athletic Club. It was a superb place to work and they had a wonderful gym.

Hodak: Did Ben Price help you at all, as coach of the L.A. Athletic Club?

Bass: My recollection was that Lou Mang was coaching us during all of that preparation time. It was largely work and motivation. It was pretty serious business. In the tryouts, there were a lot of foreign athletes around and when they saw the times that we were turning in over there they began to back away from the rope climb event.

Hodak: You sort of scared off the competition before the actual Olympics?

Bass: They began to drop away, yes they did. So Lou Mang was head and shoulders above the crowds.

Hodak: So once you made the Olympic team, you were staying at the Olympic Village and you were still able to work out daily?

Bass: Yes, I'm sure we did. I can't remember exactly how that worked.

Hodak: What can you tell me about the Olympic Village? Who did you meet along the way?

Bass: We met all of the really great gymnasts of that year. We had [William H.] Denton, who was from the Naval Academy also. He was a ring man. I believe the records show that he came in third on the rings. At the Naval Academy, at the door to McDonough Hall, which was a gymnasium, there was the Olympic plaque. There was a pair of Olympic rings and a rope around those rings. That plaque

stayed there on the door of McDonough Hall until they renovated the gymnasium about 1984. I'm not sure whether that Olympic shield, the rope and the pair of rings is there now or not. That shield was there for nearly 50 years, which I thought was a very remarkable thing. Someday I'm going to find out whether they put it back after they renovated the gymnasium. They rebuilt the gymnasium about 1984, so that's why it was removed from the door.

One of the things that transpired at the Olympics was when we were having an Olympic ball near the conclusion of the Games in the Biltmore Hotel here in Los Angeles. I went in there with Jack Galbraith and Tom Connelly and a young man from New Zealand. We were going to a certain table that had been designated and as we were proceeding out across the floor to that table a young lady came out and grabbed the New Zealander by the arm and said, "I've lost all my guests for this evening because all the Italians have gone to the Garibaldi Club in San Francisco. I have several girls over here and I don't have any boys. Can you help me?" She was a very gorgeous young lady and I told this New Zealand boy, "I think we can help her, don't you?" So that was the evening I met Marjorie May Hart, and a couple years later she and I were married at the Naval Academy Chapel in Annapolis. At the time I met Marjorie she was going to UCLA. We were married in 1934 and we celebrated our 50th anniversary in 1984. We went back to the Naval Academy for the class reunion in 1986, which was the 55th anniversary of our graduation. And, the Lord willing, we'll go back to the 60th in 1991.

Hodak: Back to the Olympics, can you recreate the day of your competition? What sort of crowd was there? I know that gymnastics was not as central to the Olympics as it is today.

Bass: It was right on the floor of the Coliseum. They had built a scaffold, from which hung the rope. I know it was a hot summer day and I know the stands were not full of people. I think the record books show that my first climb was 6.7 seconds, the second

was was 6.8 and I think the last one was 6.9. So the 6.7 was the one that stood up and I believe that I won by a tenth of a second over Jack Galbraith who was second. Tom Connelly had climbed it, I believe, in seven seconds.

On a subsequent date, a couple of days later, they put the word out that we were going to have the medals awarded. My recollection is that is was not done immediately after the event. I have a picture of this event and the secretary of the Navy was the one who gave us the medals on that happy occasion as they played "The Star-Spangled Banner."

I have, in more recent years especially, used the beautiful music from "The Star-Spangled Banner" as a way of reminding myself of that happy occasion. When I hear "The Star-Spangled Banner" I always make a point of recalling that I did win a gold medal in the Olympics. I consider it my duty to continue to win gold medals wherever I'm working with people. I use "The Star-Spangled Banner" as a reminder to give it the extra effort that I need to do a superior job.

Hodak: It sounds as if your decision to take a six-month leave certainly worked out.

Bass: I think so. I think it was a good decision.

Hodak: It didn't curtail your career plans.

Bass: No, it didn't. All during my career in the Navy it followed me around that I was a gold medal winner. It was good humor and fun. Occasionally, at a smoker where the Navy would have people competing in boxing—maybe a boxing ring in the hangar-deck of an airplane carrier . . . on one occasion, to my amazement, they dropped the rope from the overhead right into the boxing ring. I was sitting in the audience in a khaki uniform, and one way or another they got me up into the ring and caused me to climb that

rope there—which I was able to do. I was able to get up that rope pretty fast. I always kept my weight under good control and kept in good physical shape so I was able to climb that rope anytime that I needed to.

Hodak: What other things stand out about the 1932 Olympics, in addition to your own competition? Was there anything that left a big impression on you about the general atmosphere?

Bass: It was an enormous event. It was extremely impressive. There were some very famous names in the Olympics, of course. You've mentioned a few yourself already. There was [Mildred] Babe Didrikson, who was really a stark personality. There was Eleanor Holm, and on and on. It was an event that Los Angeles is famous for, and rightfully so. It was a happy day during the '84 Olympics when we attended a reunion of the gold medal winners in the Exposition building right by the stadium. We saw a few people from Texas, from the East and so forth that we hadn't seen since the 1932 Olympics. The people in the Olympic organization were very kind indeed to all the former Olympians. They invited us to a great many of the events, the dinners and the parties. It was wonderful to think that they would remember some of us who'd been around 50 years or so before, and that they hadn't left us out completely.

Hodak: What are your thoughts as you look at the Olympics, gymnastics in particular?

Bass: In gymnastics, the magnificence of the all-round performance that they are doing these days is great. The thing that happened in particular in the '84 Olympics here was that it gave gymnastics a tremendous boost in the United States. They had a little cell of excellence at UCLA. Those people who did all those things were a great credit to the country and especially to UCLA, and we're all very proud of them.

Anyway, the Olympic stories are endless and there are lots of

details. I'll just touch on one story about a coach of mine who pushed on us pretty hard to be good starters. The event is such a short event that if you don't get off to a good start you might as well not have started in the first place. So he pushed on us to start fast. At a certain time we were perhaps on the edge and jumping the gun. This story is probably not true, but I still tell the story. After one of these training events where we were so touchy we were jumping the gun, maybe on a Friday before the big meet on Saturday, and he said, "Now I don't want to see you around this rope anymore until just before the big match." But at ten o'clock on Saturday morning I couldn't stand it any longer so I had to go back over and just take a couple of starts. The coach caught me, after having told me not to be there at all until just before the match. Then he said to me, "Benny, I wish you'd go out in town and see your girl or do something. But don't fool around in this gym anymore until just before you sit down there to climb this rope. I don't want you to jump the gun and lose the match here this afternoon." So here I am, edgy and jumping the gun, and I went out to town and my girl was surprised to see me. I told her that I was there to relax and take a walk and that I was supposed to ease up a little bit. She said, "Well, fine. We'll just walk around the block." And as we went down the steps I observed that her shoe was untied so I stooped down to tie her shoe just at the same time as her brother in the yard lit off a firecracker. (laughter)

We had rubdowns after our workouts in the gym. We were rubbed down with smelly liniment. We always had a lot of fun at the training table. We had a happy group of characters on the gym squad. They loved the coach and they loved what they were doing. It's been an exceedingly happy thing to recall as years have gone by. At the slightest provocation I'll tell everybody about the influence that coach Lou Mang had on me, and the winning of the rope climbing event of '32.

Hodak: Maybe you can talk a bit about your career in the Navy following the Olympics.

Bass: Everything I ever did in the Navy I loved. I had a very happy time in the Navy. Early in my naval career I became in touch to submarines. In 1933 I went to submarine school and I was in submarines all the time from 1933 up through 1938. When the war broke out in Europe I left postgraduate school at Annapolis and went to the fleet and in a few weeks I was executive officer of another submarine. By the time the war broke out I had been ordered to command an old 1918 submarine known as the *USS 02*. At the beginning of the war I had had the ideal training as a young officer in preparation for command of a submarine. Then when the war broke out I was already newly in command of a sub. So I felt that I was ideally prepared to command a submarine during the war. And I did have command of the submarine *Plunger* for a long time. It was a very fortunate ship, a lucky ship, a happy ship and a very successful ship. It had a wonderful crew. It was a wonderful ship before I got command of it and by the time the ship finally was taken out of commission and sent back to New London, Connecticut, it was a legend. It had done a lot of wonderful things.

There's a lot of things we could talk about on that. We got a 65-hour running battle with a convoy. We were in and out of the Sea of Japan, beyond the empire of Japan, in between Japan and Korea and Siberia. We were in and out of the Sea of Japan on two occasions, and as far as I know no other submarine in our Navy ever went out of the Sea of Japan successfully twice. After I had command of the *Plunger*, I was sent back to the United States to do a speaking tour around the States, recruiting submariners. We were anxious to continue to recruit people. I went to our training activities and talked to officers and "white hats" to encourage them to get into the submarine part of the Navy. I then went to the prospective commanding officers school in New London and spent about a dozen weeks there talking to the new prospective commanding officers about successful combat submarining. We had been very successful for hits and we practiced every day with fire control when we're out in the war zones. We did have a good ship that was getting a lot of hits.

Then the Navy ordered me to set out and command the brand new submarine, the SS 476 it was called. That was quite late in the war. The secretary of the Navy invited my wife to christen, or break the bottle of champagne on the bow of my own submarine, and I believe there was only one other occasion where a submarine commander had his wife christen his own submarine. Usually the honor of christening a submarine is given to the secretary of defense's wife, the president's wife and other such notables. That was a beautiful new submarine which I trained and brought through the canal out to the Pacific. We were on our second patrol when we were told not to go into the Sea of Japan for a third time but to wait and go into Tokyo Bay for the big ceremony. It was my good fortune at that time to be the senior submariner among the 12 submarines that were going to be ordered into Tokyo Bay for the V-J Day ceremonies. Being the senior skipper, that made me the little task group commander of the 12 submarines, as well as being the skipper of my own submarine, the *Plunger*. The official title of that group of submarines that went into Tokyo Bay for the V-J Day ceremonies was Benny's Peacemakers. We were there for that famous occasion.

Then, after the war, I was division commander of six submarines followed by about two years as an operations officer for a submarine force commander in the Atlantic Fleet, Admiral James Fife. We operated as a staff officer of all the submarines in the Atlantic Ocean. I later had command of a squadron of submarines, which is 12 submarines and a submarine rescue vessel. That occurred at New London, Connecticut, in 1951 or '52.

I was always known as a lucky skipper. I have always been lucky. I worked my head off. I am a natural competitor. I'm perfectly happy to compete with people in almost anything, including poker. I can win from most of the people that I meet at poker games, although not all of them—maybe five or ten percent can beat me.

Hodak: You ultimately became an Admiral?

Bass: I am an Admiral on the retired list of the Navy.

Hodak: How long were you actively involved in the Navy?

Bass: I retired from the Navy on November 1, 1959, after about 34 years in the Navy, including my enlisted time and my time at the Naval Academy.

Hodak: Now, you didn't retire from work altogether, did you?

Bass: No, I decided I would get out of the Navy in 1959 and make a million dollars in the industrial world. I didn't make the million dollars, but I placed myself with the Bendix Corporation in North Hollywood and Sylmar, where I served as staff assistant to a group executive for over 13 years. We settled in Glendale in 1960 and have lived in the same house since Thanksgiving, 1960. I was lucky that I had the opportunity to work with a very distinguished gentleman, Dick Fuller, who was the group executive for the Bendix Corporation. Bendix was involved with anti-submarine warfare, torpedoes and guidance systems. It was my pleasure to work with some very wonderful men for those 13 years.

Then I got myself into the real estate business, where I had a lot of successes. I've been a broker, not just a salesperson but a broker, for over 12 years. I've usually been in the top five or ten percent of the crowd in that field ever since I got into it.

Hodak: I think that's a consistent thread running throughout your life.

Bass: I think so. I've always thought that if anybody else could do it, I could probably do it too.

Hodak: Maybe even better.

Bass: Maybe even better, yes. And I attempt to motivate people to do better and whenever anyone is about to back away and give up in a

field, I have been known to say to them . . . if it's a lady I simply say, "Look at all these other girls who have made it in the real estate business. If all of them can do it, don't you know you can do it too?" Something similar for the men in the business who think that they are going to have to back away from it. I say, "Look at all those guys out there that have made it. If they all can do it, you can do it better."

Hodak: Are there further remarks in the way of advice that you would offer to people in general, or athletes specifically?

Bass: Well, I just think that there is definitely a link between successful athletic competition and success in other matters. The same people that can compete in these events, can compete wherever they find themselves. I'll mention one very happy occasion. A few years ago Resorts International made a gallant effort to get as many gold medal winners as they could to Atlantic City. We were invited to come back there with our spouses. We did have a long weekend back there at Resorts International. The hotel gave us not only lodging, but they gave us "gold" credit cards to all the restaurants and facilities in the hotel. My wife. God bless her, asked if that gold credit card was good in the jewelry store. (laughter) It was a wonderful weekend and we saw so many magnificent people who had won gold medals all the way back to 1920.

I have always believed in trying to get the best education you can in the fields that you're working in. Since I have been retired from the Navy, I have been blessed with some opportunities to continue with my education. For instance, Dick Fuller at Bendix asked me to attend the UCLA executive program when I first came to the company in 1959. So I did attend the executive program with about 54 other executives from various corporations in Southern California. We attended UCLA graduate school of business. We went one afternoon and one evening a week for a full academic year and listened to the top-notch professors at UCLA and other guest speakers. This facilitated my entree into the industrial world.

Somewhat to my amazement, at the end of that academic year, the class of 54 executives elected me as class president.

By that time I had become extremely attached to UCLA and I had learned about their engineering executive program, which had about 50 people from a lot of engineering activities in the industrial world attending for a full two-year course. It was my privilege to attend that course for two years. At the end of that two years, like everyone else in the class, I was given a master's degree in engineering. It was a straight master of engineering degree. By that time I had been around the graduate school of business and the engineering schools over there for a few years and was sometimes mistaken for a member of the faculty because I had been there so long. I asked people back at the graduate school of business how far I was from a master's degree in business administration, and they told me I had only about a year to go, if I continued to go one afternoon and one evening a week—which I did. In 1966 I was awarded an MBA in marketing. It's my strong conviction that marketing is a very important part of whatever we do. I believe that attending a course like UCLA's long course for an MBA in marketing is bound to be helpful to anyone who hasn't.

I told many people in the Navy that the route to success in the Navy, especially for "white hats", is to go to the Navy school in the field that they choose, work in that field as hard as you can and beat the competition. When you get through with that, go on and get a degree in that subject, when and if you leave the Navy, and then you'll have a career that no one can take away from you. And it's true for the rest of us too. If you educate yourself in the field that you work in, know more about it than anybody else, work your head off in it, you can't fail. That's the route.

Hodak: What other interests and pursuits have you followed?

Bass: Well, I'm very fond of real estate, especially the last 20 years or so. You should acquire real estate as soon as you can and keep on doing

the same, it has been a successful route in the past and I expect it to be a successful route in the years ahead. I'm also in the Kiwanis Club and involved in church activities. And in recent years, I have developed a reputation as a motivator and have given a number of talks on that subject.

Hodak: You don't seem to be slowing down at all in terms of your career.

Bass: I think that people should not stop working and retire. They should keep on doing things that interest them and make contributions instead of not making contributions. It keeps people active and busy and happy. What else is there?

Hodak: And you have children?

Bass: We have two sons and a daughter. My oldest son, Raymond Henry Jr., was born in 1937, and my other son, Robert Hart, was born in 1942. My daughter, Elena May, was born in 1947. She works today as a dental hygienist. My oldest son lives in Salt Lake City and my other son is working on passing the bar exam.

Hodak: I certainly am privileged to have met you today and I really appreciate your cooperation in this interview.

Bass: I'm glad to participate in anything such as you are working on here. If anything I have said here can help some others I am very happy to have it happen.

Hodak: The Amateur Athletic Foundation is appreciative of your help and cooperation and I hope that you're able to come to the Paul Ziffren Sports Resource Center once it is completed and see the fruits of today's work. I thank you.

Bass: Thank you.