

ERNEST "NICK" CARTER
1928 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.

ERNEST "NICK" CARTER

1928 OLYMPIC GAMES - AMSTERDAM

1500-METERS

INTERVIEWED:

June, 1987

Santa Barbara, California

by George A. Hodak

ERNEST "NICK" CARTER

Interviewer: George A. Hodak

Hodak: Today I'm visiting with Dr. Ernest Carter, an Olympian who competed in the 1500-meter race at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics. Dr. Carter, I'd like to have you talk a bit about your family background, and when and where you were born.

Carter: I was born September 4, 1902, in Globe, Arizona. My father was a miner and my mother was in the Salvation Army. They met in Globe, Arizona, and later moved to Lompoc when I was about six months old. My grandparents had already gone to Lompoc. They were farmers and went there around 1890, somewhere between 1890 and '95. That was the beginning of my residency in Lompoc. My father was a farmer and remained a farmer until he died in 1915, when I was in the fifth grade.

We always thought it was a hard life because the chores were never done and there was always cows to milk, horses to feed and barns to clean out. We felt at the time that we had a hard life but now, as I look back on it, I feel we were lucky.

Hodak: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

Carter: I had one brother, two years younger than I.

Hodak: Did you develop much of an interest in sports growing up?

Carter: Yes, when I got to high school. Because there were so few students and few boys in the school, anybody could make a team if they would just try a bit. There were only 125 students in the four years of school. So, I tried baseball and was able to make the team

my freshman year, and during my junior year I grew up enough to make the basketball team and go out for track.

Hodak: When did you take up distance running? How did you develop into a distance runner?

Carter: They had an inter-class track meet one day and I ran. In those days it was all yards. I ran in the 440 and tied a senior fellow who was thought to be pretty good. I tied him for first place in the 440, so that was the beginning.

Hodak: Yet you eventually became a miler. What sort of training or coaching did you receive at that time?

Carter: Well, our coach was a science teacher and had very little experience in coaching track until he came to Lompoc High School. He had been a rugby player in England and he inherited the coaching of all sports. We only had soccer, basketball, baseball, and track. We didn't have football, mainly because there weren't enough students to have it. And anybody could go out for anything they wanted to. We only had about two or three dual meets in the year.

Hodak: These would be with the surrounding community schools?

Carter: Yes, I had about three meets, like with Santa Maria, Santa Barbara and then they'd have a tri-county meet. There was a meet at Carpinteria called the Russell Cup Meet. We went to that in my junior year. I was lucky enough to win the mile in that meet, and from that day on I became a miler.

Hodak: And in 1921 you competed in the California State Track Meet at Berkeley. What do you recall of that?

Carter: Well, to me it was a fantastic meet because none of us got out of that town very often. It was 18 miles to the highway and 10 miles to the railroad line that ran through Surf, so we didn't get out of

Lompoc very often. That meet was a fantastic meet because they had all the schools there from the state. And we knew that the best ones were going to be there.

Hodak: I imagine you were the first athlete from Lompoc High to attend a state meet.

Carter: As far as I know I was the first one. Up to the time of the Southern California meet. (the Southern California division) I hadn't lost a mile race, so they thought I was going to win everything I got into. But, I ended up third in that first meet which was held at Los Angeles High. That qualified me for the state meet where I placed second.

Hodak: Behind a miler from Huntington Beach?

Carter: Yes, his name was Bill Kerr. He won the mile in the state meet two years in a row, then went to Stanford and was a very good distance runner for several years there.

Hodak: Following your high school years, how did you end up at Occidental?

Carter: They had this tri-county meet that I mentioned a while ago that involved all the schools in Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo County. So I entered a mile in my junior year and won that. Then the next year I won the half-mile and the mile both, and Lompoc almost won the meet. This same meet had [Lemuel Clarence] Bud Houser, who afterwards won three gold medals in the Olympic Games, and Cliff Argue, who went to the '24 Olympics in the pentathlon. So we thought that was a fantastic meet. Well, later on in the baseball season, I was down here playing Santa Barbara High School and one of the officials of the game was Bobby Robertson, who was an Occidental alumnus. He talked to me about going to Occidental College.

Hodak: Was this an option that your mother favored? What were some of the

factors that you had to weigh?

Carter: Well, this created a little problem, more than one little problem. First of all, we had a ranch, a 125-acre bean farm with cattle on it. My mother was a widow, and she thought that we were all going to continue to run that ranch like all the rest of the fellows did in the valley. Most of them continued working on their farm. One Sunday, this lawyer and another alumnus from Occidental came to Lompoc to see me about going to Oxy and said that I would be accepted, and asked would I go? I said, "Well, I'll go ask my mother." I went in and she said if I had a chance to go to college, she didn't want anything to stand in the way.

So, I went out and told them I'd go and made arrangements to go down to Santa Barbara on the train, and they would meet me there and take me on down to Oxy, which I had never seen. So when I got down there, they introduced me to different people around the campus, and I thought the place was great and I wanted to be there. Shortly after that I was told by the president and the dean of students that I couldn't get in because my principal wouldn't recommend me.

Hodak: Your principal wouldn't recommend you? And what was her thinking on that?

Carter: She had recommended me to go to Davis, that part of the University of California which was primarily an agricultural school. She thought, because we had a farm, that that was the place for me to go. She'd recommend me up there. But she wouldn't recommend me to any other school. She probably thought that I wouldn't be able to handle it since I was a farm boy and I didn't have all A's. So, that created a problem and I had to make up some classes, which I did. I made up all my English grades—they weren't high enough for recommending grades—so I made up my English classes and that got me enough recommended units to get in without the recommendation of the principal.

Hodak: And this you made up in Los Angeles?

Carter: Yes, I stayed down there. I wasn't afraid to go home, but I was too embarrassed to go back because I told everybody I was in school. And anyway, I couldn't go back up there. My mother started making arrangements to lease the ranch. She was planning to go to Honolulu, so I wasn't about to go back to Lompoc. I took those courses and worked in the daytime and was able to get them done, so I could get in the second semester. So I entered Occidental in February, 1922.

Hodak: In the meantime, you were supporting yourself?

Carter: Yes, I worked for a building contractor who was an Occidental alumnus and he was putting up houses all over Glendale and Pasadena and Los Angeles. He hired me to work with his concrete crew, to put in the foundations and the driveways, all the concrete work for those houses. It all was done by hand with no machine. We mixed the concrete on the ground with shovels, water mixed with concrete, rock, and gravel. The cement was poured into the foundations with wheelbarrels. I did that for about five months and was able to feed myself and pay for my room and get enough money so I could get started.

Hodak: Occidental, by this time, had quite a track tradition.

Carter: Yes, that's one of the reasons why I wanted to go there. I found out about the place because one of their main sports was track. They had a history of good track programs and had placed people on the Olympic team. I just felt that that would be a good place for me because I was just getting started in track. I had only competed two years.

Hodak: That in itself is interesting, that you had only competed two years. You were somewhat, would you say, raw, as far as technique?

Carter: I was probably the most ignorant distance runner that ever walked. The only reason that I could do well is because I did a lot of walking in my youth. We didn't have a car until I was a senior in high school. And we had hills where the cows would graze and I had to go after them—I did that mostly on foot. Climbing those hills and walking to school and doing everything by foot seemed to strengthen my legs. So the first time I ran in a race I just ran along with the rest of them and they all got tired and finally I was the only one left out front.

Hodak: So you had a certain stamina that owed to your childhood on a farm.

Carter: Yes. I remember one noon hour in grammar school. I think it was about the fifth or sixth grade. After I finished my lunch they had cooked up a race around the block . . . shows you how big the elementary school was. I won the race and that was just because my legs were so strong, but when we got in the classroom I immediately got sick because I had just eaten my lunch. That was my first experience with running.

Hodak: (Laughter) So you were learning as you went along?

Carter: Yes, that was about the fifth grade.

Hodak: Talk a bit about the competition at Occidental? Were you able to compete as a freshman?

Carter: No, you had to complete one year as a freshman before you became a varsity man. You had to be a sophomore before you could compete on the varsity team. During the freshman year, we had a full program.

Hodak: Who was your coach at Occidental?

Carter: Joe Pipal, who was a real good track coach. He had been coaching for years, he had been coaching football and track. They called him

"Timberwolf" Joe Pipal. He had one of these low bass voices—he had been a minister at one time. This voice of his would carry literally for miles. You could hear him clear across a field when he said, "Carter, raise those knees," or something like that, and everybody would always mimic him. He was quite a coach.

Hodak: What sort of things would he help you with as you developed into a more accomplished miler. What things did he encourage you to do?

Carter: He seemed to think that we needed to work on our speed work a lot.

Hodak: He wanted you to develop a quick finish?

Carter: Yes, he spent a lot of time on speed work and practice. I know that I couldn't run a quarter-mile. I couldn't run it if somebody paid me, in 52 seconds. That's not very good, but by the time I graduated I could run it in under 50 seconds. I was good enough to run on the mile-relay team to set a Pacific Coast record . . .and we beat USC in the process.

But he was very strict on his training. He believed that you should have regular practice, regular hours of practice, and regular hours of sleep. He would talk to you about it all the time. Nobody ever questioned him. We always called him Mr. Pipal or Coach—you never called him by his first name. Everybody respected him.

Hodak: You had some notable teammates at Occidental. Clifford Argue being one.

Carter: Yes. We won the conference championship two of the three years that I was there. During my sophomore and junior years we had some very great athletes, including Cliff Argue, who made the Olympic team in '24 in the pentathlon. Two of us on that team made the Olympic Team. So, that's pretty good for a small school with 500 students and only half of them boys.

Hodak: At what point did you become aware of the Olympics?

Carter: The first time I ever heard of the Olympics was in my junior year in high school when I was in study hall. I was supposed to be studying, but I went over and got a magazine on the magazine rack. They had a story in there about the Olympics. I was reading about Charlie Paddock winning in Antwerp in 1920 and he was crowned or honored by the Knight of Montenegro. He was a very popular athlete. Probably one of the most publicized athletes of my time. He and Paavo Nurmi were probably the two that had been publicized more than anybody else. He usually won too. He was on three Olympic teams and he had the world's record for the 100 yards and the 220. He became quite a speaker. He used to speak on the chautauqua circuit, then he became a newspaper writer. Finally, he ended up owning one of the Long Beach papers.

Hodak: Paddock was certainly notable in that he didn't have what you would consider a classic sprinter's physique.

Carter No, no.

Hodak: Nor did he have a classic sprinter's finish.

Carter: No. He had what we call in track a side-winder stride. One of his legs would flop out on the side with every stride. And he was not a very good starter. If you saw him in his track suit or gym suit, you would not pick him out to be a sprinter. He was short and he was kind of chubby in build. But he had a tremendous finish. It just seemed like the farther he went, the faster he went. They claim he used to jump at the finish and that his jump was 20 feet. That was the jump finish he had, which is not the fastest way to finish a race.

Hodak: Something you never encouraged as a coach later on.

Carter No, I always taught the athletes to run through. At the end he'd

jump up in the air, and put his arms up in the air. Of course, everybody could see him and he was usually out in front. He was right there. He and a fellow named Morris Kirksey had a lot of famous races in their day. They'd draw as many as 5,000 people.

Hodak: Kirksey, I think, was from Stanford.

Carter: Yes. He also was in the Olympics at the same time. They had fantastic races. They drew lot of people to their meets, just to watch those two run. Kirksey could never beat Paddock, he'd be ahead until he got down until about the last foot, (laughter)

Hodak: Was It something you were looking forward to, possibly competing in the '24 Olympics? Did you hear much more about the Olympics?

Carter: After I went to Occidental, I was very fortunate in my sophomore year, I won my first race and set a new school record. From that day on that's all I ever heard about, making the Olympic team someday. That got me off to a tremendous start—although it was a lot of pressure involved there. But, I had good competition all the time, we had lots of track meets. Oxy would send us back to the Penn Relays, Kansas Relays, Drake Relays, and we had meets with Stanford and Cal and USC every year. So, we had good competition.

Hodak: Describe a trip to the Kansas Relays and the Drake Relays. What would that involve? Did that present problems?

Carter: Yes. Anybody going to a meet out of California would have to go by train. If you went as far as Kansas or Drake or the Penn Relays or Chicago, or any other place back there, it would require a night or two on a sleeping car in a berth. And those trips that I took with Occidental—we took a number of them—were always by train and two in a berth. You're riding the whole night, if you go clear to the East Coast you're riding two nights in the train. You'd hear the wheels hitting those rails everytime they go around, and its

kind of hard when you're used to sleeping out on some farm all your life. It's pretty noisy.

When we stopped at a station where we were going to be for a few minutes, the coach would get you out there and make you run around the station on the lawn. I remember one time going through Denver, he was out there with a shovel and shoveled off the snow so that we could work out on the lawn. We did that to get our legs a little exercise after sitting on the train. We used to walk up and down the aisles, but that isn't very good either. But West Coast athletes had a tremendous disadvantage while I was competing, because the final tryouts for the Olympic Games were always on the East Coast. All the big meets were in the East, or Chicago, but generally in Philadelphia and Boston. Those people didn't have far to go; we had to go 2,000 miles at least!

Hodak: And that would be somewhat hard on a distance runner?

Carter: It's harder on a distance runner than any other athlete. He's lost his sleep and a change of water and food makes it very difficult. And I probably made at least two of those trips every year, from my junior year on. It's really difficult to have as much success on the East Coast as you do on the West Coast if you're a distance runner.

Hodak: What were some of your biggest accomplishments competing for Occidental? I noticed you had the AAU, Southern Pacific record in the mile and the two-mile.

Carter: Well, by the time I finished at Oxy I had the mile record. I made that the first meet I competed in while I was at Oxy. I ended up with the two-mile record. I got to compete in the NCAA national championships in Chicago and got second place. I got to compete in the Kansas Relays twice, the Drake Relays once, and the Penn Relays once. Those were all wonderful trips. The first time we went back there in our junior year, we came back with five cups and 20 watches and I don't know how many medals. They had met

us at the train in Los Angeles when we returned and they had a parade of cars all the way out to Occidental. They had pictures of us in the *Los Angeles Times*. Just like they had the other day for the Los Angeles Lakers. That was back in 1924.

Hodak: You mentioned 1924, what about the 1924 Olympics? Did you try out?

Carter: Yes. The tryouts were in the Coliseum and I won the tryouts.

Hodak: You mean the regional tryouts that would enable you to go to the national tryouts?

Carter: Yes, you had to win that one in order to get to the final tryouts in Boston. They were pretty strict about that. I won the tryouts very easily, really. Much easier than I did in 1928. I had in those days a very good finish, I thought. But I had an unfortunate thing happen. Just about a week before the athletes were to qualify for the tryouts in Boston, I caught the measles and I was quarantined for about two weeks, which kept me from making the tryouts in Boston. I always felt it would have been easier for me to have made the team in '24 than in '28 because they took four people in the mile; when I made it in '28 they only took three.

Hodak: Did getting the measles affect the completion of your college studies?

Carter: Yes. They came right in the middle of my final exams and kept me from taking all my exams which I had to make up later and also it disheartened me so badly that I almost quit school. I came as close to quitting school after that that anyone could possibly come. If it hadn't been for my fraternity brothers and friends of mine at Occidental, I probably would have never gone back to school. I had set my sights on making that Olympic team in 1924. I wanted to go to Paris. I even took a course in French at the college so I'd know a little French when I got over there.

Hodak: So you were really preparing for the '24 Olympics.

Carter: Yes. I had dedicated myself to it.

Hodak: And you were somewhat disheartened, to put it mildly.

Carter: It was a terrible blow because I wasn't even sick one day, one minute. I was studying for an exam one night and somebody who was studying with me said, "What's the matter with your face?" I said, "Why?" They said, "There's little speckles on your face." I jumped up to go to the bathroom to look and sure enough. They called the doctor and the doctor said, "Yes, you've got the measles." This was after school, after the track team practice had finished. So, there weren't very many people working, out and I went in to a room in the dormitory to shower. Unfortunately, somebody who had been in that room had the measles. I don't know how I got them, I never knew anybody that had the measles. It was unfortunate that I didn't catch those measles when I was in Lompoc going to grammar school. (laughter)

Hodak: So, following that, you graduated from Occidental in 1925?

Carter: Nineteen twenty-six. Missing those exams, I had to go extra time. First of all, I stayed out of school one semester and worked after I finished my competition and I came back and finished in '26. I started in the middle of the year because that first semester I had to study my English.

Hodak: You majored in physical education?

Carter: I majored in physical education and minored in economics. I wanted to be a coach, but in those days you weren't allowed to compete in amateur sports if you taught physical education or coached. So that eliminated that field for me. I wanted to make the Olympic team. So for several years I worked in places like service stations, or whatever job I could get; because I couldn't hold a full-time job and

continue competing.

Hodak: And the Olympic team was certainly still a big goal of yours.

Carter: Yes. I was bound to make that Olympic team. So I stayed with it three more years after I got out of school and made it in '28.

Hodak: How did you get lined up with the Los Angeles Athletic Club?

Carter: Well, they invited me to join their club when I finished competition at Occidental. They had a real good track team. In fact they had a team that was called "the team of forgotten men." People used to laugh about that; they even had that in the paper once. Anyhow, we had numerous dual meets with anybody we could get into a meet with—Stanford, California, the Olympic Club, USC.

Hodak: Did anyone in the Los Angeles Athletic Club, such as Boyd Comstock, specialize in distance running or the coaching of distance running?

Carter: Well, I'd have to say there was. We had Boyd Comstock for a coach. He had coached at USC at one time and then later coached at Yale and he had a lot of experience in track. Furthermore, we had a trainer named Peter Poole who knew quite a bit about distance running. He was a very good trainer and he was good enough to make the Olympic team in 1928 as a trainer. He came from Santa Barbara, he was a Scotchman, and was loved by everybody because he could cure your aches and pains quicker than anybody else.

Hodak: Any special home remedies?

Carter: He had his own concoctions made up of wintergreen, liniment and all kinds of hot stuff. If you had a charley horse, a sore muscle, or aches or pain someplace he'd get you well in a hurry. He had concoctions for getting rid of colds that I don't think anybody would want to try, but he used to slice onions and make a juice and put

sugar on the onions and make you take teaspoons of that and it would cure you in a hurry. (laughter) He used to get us up in the morning and make us run a block or two before breakfast. He would make us drink hot water before breakfast. In later years, I heard people doing that, but up to that time I had never heard of anybody drinking hot water. It worked—he certainly kept us well.

Hodak: Who were some of your main competitors nationally in the mile and the two mile?

Carter: Well, the first one I ran into was Lloyd Hahn from the Boston Athletic Club, who was our number one miler in the United States. Then I ran into Ray Conger, who was the national champion.

Hodak: He was from Iowa State and the Illinois Athletic Club.

Carter: Yes, he had won the NCAA championship, set a new record, and then he competed for the Illinois Athletic Club. He won the national championships in '27 and '28.

Hodak: How did you size up your chances alongside Ray Conger and Lloyd Hahn? Did you roughly see yourself on an equal basis with these runners?

Carter: Not at first. Once someone becomes a national champion you always look up to them. They have to have something or they wouldn't be a champion. Lloyd Hahn was a very good long distance runner. He had great endurance. He didn't have the great finish or final kick, but he would wear you out by setting a pace that would run you down before you got to the finish so he wouldn't need a kick. Roy Conger was just the opposite; he wanted to run the first part as easy as he could. He always got behind everybody and didn't want to push until he got to the end and then he got this tremendous kick. I used to say he became unconscious . . . he didn't know what he was doing. He just made himself run. He didn't know anybody or see anything. I was running against two people that

had opposite systems. And they were the two top people during my time in the United States.

Hodak: At the same time there are other meets, outside of the AAU meets, such as the Nurmi International Meet. Could you describe some of these other meets?

Carter: Well, there were three outstanding meets where distance runners were featured. One was with Paavo Nurmi, who I have always considered the greatest distance runner who ever lived. He won seven gold medals and three silvers and he competed in three Olympic Games. He came out to the West Coast in 1925 and they had him run on a Saturday, at the Coliseum. It drew a big crowd. On that Saturday, Occidental was competing in the Drake Relays. But on the way home we got a wire out in Barstow wanting me to run against him on a Wednesday night in the Coliseum.

Of course, we all heard so much about Paavo Nurmi; just being on the same track with him would be an honor. So it wasn't the fact that you were going to go out there and beat him, it was the fact that you were going to get to see him. They claim they had 40,000, 45,000 people there. They had so many people they didn't have enough ticket takers and they broke down the fence at the turnstile end of the Coliseum, which is at Figueroa Street. I was told years later by someone that was there that night that some fraternity boys got by one of those gates that was broken down and charged people something like 50 cents apiece to get in and they took in enough money to pay off the mortgage on their fraternity house. (laughter)

The thing that I remember about that meet, besides running with Nurmi, was it seemed like there was 10,000 people lighting up cigarettes, every single moment there was somebody lighting a match. It was just a solid mass of people all the way around. They didn't have the lights like they do now. Of course, running against Nurmi was probably the greatest thing that happened to me. I got behind him and stayed there and watched him run. I stayed as

close as I could to him until he finally took off. He ran so easy. I watched how he did it, and tried to emulate him later. The next time I ran I broke the school record and the Pacific Coast record in the mile. I ran faster than I ever ran before; mainly because I was watching him and because I was in pretty good shape from being a senior in college.

A funny thing happened in that race. The officials told us at the start to stay out of Paavo Nurmi's way. Everybody laughed—there was no way we could get in his way in the first place. (laughter)

Hodak: Nurmi could get out in front and stay there.

Carter: He always ran by himself. He never trusted anybody. He carried his own stopwatch. He was always by himself.

Hodak: He seems to have been rather aloof.

Carter: There was no socializing with Paavo Nurmi. I ran into him once in the tunnel going into the stadium at Amsterdam at the Olympic Games in '28 and I wanted him to sign one of my shoes, as I had a pair of those Dutch wooden shoes. I had quite a time convincing him that it was alright, the shoes didn't have anything wrong with them, there wasn't any bomb in there. I tried to tell him, "Remember Los Angeles, you know, me running against you?" (laughter) He just stared at me, but he finally signed my shoe.

Hodak: I think Nurmi intended to compete in the '32 Olympics and was in Los Angeles and was notified just two or three weeks prior to the '32 Olympics that he was not eligible.

Carter: He was going to run the marathon. That would have been his fourth Olympics. But they claimed that he took too much money for running in track meets. They charged him with professionalism. So, he didn't get to compete in that last year and that broke his

heart. He never got over that. They have a life-sized statue of him at the stadium in Helsinki. In fact, he's the only one outside of a government official that ever had a funeral that was conducted by the country. He is a national hero.

I was supposed to have had a match race with him in the Coliseum in 1929 and they had banners across the streets in Los Angeles, like Spring Street and Broadway, with big headlines that said "The Phantom Finn," and "The Galloping Ghost." Those were the big signs you'd see on the streets. They had posters all over Los Angeles, put out by Foster and Kleiser. They were 15-20 feet long, 10 feet high, and they had a picture of Paavo Nurmi and myself. I saved one of those that was unwrapped. But they had more publicity on that match race I was supposed to have than anything I've ever seen. I never saw one man attract as many people as he did. Like, for example, that Wednesday night drew 40,000 people in the Coliseum. On a Wednesday night! He had just competed that Saturday before and they had a big crowd on Saturday,

Hodak: And yet he was unable to compete in this '29 match race?

Carter: I was scheduled to compete against him in the Coliseum in the match race. I don't remember what month it was, like March, and he was unable to get there; his plane was snowbound in Salt Lake City. He arrived about two or three days later and they tried to get us together again. But, he had a schedule and his manager said he was unable to do it. In some ways, I was relieved . . . I was so nervous. I didn't know he wasn't going to run until I got to the Coliseum. I got to the Coliseum and was so bleary-eyed from nervousness that I could hardly see, and then somebody tells me when I walk in the stadium that Nurmi isn't there and asked if I would run in the mile against Occidental College and USC. I was so relieved. They had a cartoon on the front page of Paavo Nurmi and myself with wings on our shoulders having a conversation. This was the front page of the *Los Angeles Times*.

Hodak: Well, let's get back to the 1928 Olympic tryouts. The first phase of the tryouts would have been, as far as you were concerned, on the West Coast. How did you fare in those tryouts?

Carter: I won the tryouts in my event, the 1500 meters.

Hodak: From there, the national tryouts were held in Cambridge at Harvard University.

Carter: First of all, you go across the country on a train and you sleep in a sleeping car and you listen to the rails all night long, as I said earlier. It takes about three days to get back to Boston from Los Angeles. It takes two nights. In this case, I was going to a place called Brunswick, Maine, where Bowdoin College is, to train with the Stanford track team. The Stanford and University of Washington track teams were training up there before the Olympic tryouts, and so were some other people. But it was mostly just those two teams. We were there about two weeks to get acclimated and get some workouts on the East Coast because it's different than it is out here on the West Coast.

Hodak: What do you mean when you say that it's different, are you referring strictly to the climate?

Carter: Climate, food, water and it takes so long to get there you don't get to work out properly. It's just very difficult for distance runners. Anybody running on the event longer than 800 meters, it's difficult for West Coast athletes.

Hodak: So you trained for roughly two to three weeks prior to the national finals?

Carter: I am very much indebted to [Robert L.] "Dink" Templeton, who was the track coach at Stanford, for providing me the opportunity to be able to practice and train back there for the Olympics. He sent a wire to the coach at the Los Angeles Athletic Club, Boyd Comstock,

telling him that if he expected our two distance runners to make the Olympic team he'd better get them back there to get them acclimated before the tryouts. Henry Lunney and myself had been running about five years together. He, in sending that wire . . . they immediately got together and sent us back there. They paid our way and paid our meals so we could train.

Hodak: So, you benefited from this?

Carter: I sure did. I don't think I would have made the team. The other fellow, Lunney, did not make the Olympic team. And I doubt very much that I would have made it if I hadn't had a chance to work out and get used to the climate.

Hodak: What about the national tryouts in Cambridge?

Carter: Well, I thought it was pretty hard. It was my second effort to make the Olympic team and I was very apprehensive because I had that big disappointment the first time in '24 with the measles. I didn't want to have any mistakes. I was very careful about where I walked, what I ate and what I drank. I tried to be very, very careful because this was my last chance to make the Olympic team.

Hodak: So, you finished third in the finals of the 1500 meter. How did that race go?

Carter: Well, it was difficult and if you ask anybody they'd say it was most difficult in the Olympic final. But we had preliminary heats and I placed third in my heat. A lot of people thought maybe there was something wrong with me because I had only finished third. Well, they qualified three and I didn't see any point in running any harder than I had to to make the finals. I took third purposely.

Hodak: This was a preliminary heat, so you paced yourself.

Carter: Yes, I did. I know one fellow who was an intercollegiate champion.

Well, he won his heat, but the next day he wasn't there. So, I saved everything for that final event. These fellows, they all placed first, second and third in the heats. I don't know how many heats there were, but there was at least three or four.

They all stayed on the ball. They looked like no one trusted the other and they just stayed together. They stayed in this congested group and I worried about that because I was afraid somebody might step on my foot or I'd step on somebody's foot or something would happen and I'd fall down. There was one fellow that got way out in front. A fellow named [Orval] Martin from Purdue. He must have been 25 or 30 yards ahead of all of us. Most of us had run so long that we knew our pace quite well, and we knew he was running too fast. I was able to judge my own pace within a fifth of a second—after you run a few years you can do that. I knew that fellow was running too fast. But that was his first time in the Olympic tryouts and he just got excited.

Anyhow, the rest of us stayed together and never broke out until the last lap. Then everybody took off. I stayed about third or fourth place all the way because I knew three people were going to make it. It was the only event where they took the top three finishers; all the other events took the top four. They had placed Lloyd Hahn on the 1500-meter team because he had broken the world's record in the 800 meters and he was primarily a 1500-meter runner anyhow. They shouldn't have put him on because it wasn't really fair. Well, we got around to the last lap and I felt like I was in good shape and I felt very confident that I was going to make it. I came down the straightaway and, believe it or not, I was in front. But this Ray Conger came up, and he's got what they call an "unconscious kick," he got ahead of us. Sid Robinson placed second, I got third, and that fellow that was way out front for 25 or 30 yards fell at the finish.

That was the greatest thrill I'd ever had in sports! After that race was over I had a chill. Just from the excitement of making that

team, I knew I had made the Olympic team.

Hodak: Now this leaves you about three weeks prior to your leaving for Amsterdam?

Carter: Yes.

Hodak: What did you do in that interim period? How did you stay in shape?

Carter: We were staying for a few days in Boston and worked out at Harvard Stadium where the Olympic tryouts were held. Then we moved to New York, and we were there until we took off aboard ship. I don't remember how long it was, but I would say a week at least.

Hodak: And you were able to stay in shape during this period?

Carter: Well, that's what you try to do. I remember it rained. I remember going out and getting soaked. We from the West Coast are not used to that.

Hodak: What about the travel on board the ship, how did that go?

Carter: That's another experience. The ship was the *SS Roosevelt*. It was a big ship and the whole team was housed on that ship plus the administrators and the coaches and trainers and all the other sports. It was very crowded and the object was to do as much as you could to keep in shape by walking or jogging around the boat. Having so many people in such a small space with all of them having the same idea in mind, it was pretty crowded. That was hard to do to keep in condition, everybody was exercising, jogging, walking. It doesn't seem like there was ever a minute that there wasn't somebody running around that ship. It took us seven days to get over there.

Hodak: And the accommodations, were they adequate for the athletes?

Carter: Yes, they were very adequate. They had us four in a room. I was in the same state room with three sprinters: Charlie Paddock, Charlie Borah and Frank Wykoff. They were all famous world record holders at one time or another, especially Paddock. At one time he had all the records from 100-300 meters and Wykoff had the world record for the 100 yards. He made the team when he was only in high school. Borah was a sophomore at USC. Paddock had graduated and he had been out of school six or seven years.

Hodak: How did these three athletes get along?

Carter: Well, they were cordial to each other. They were all from the same school, all the same events, and they were friendly, but they did not pal around together. I thought it was very interesting. We matched for our berth in the room. There were two beds, single beds that were separate, and then there was a two-berth proposition. We matched to see what bed we'd get. I got the upper berth. I felt kind of like I had lost . . . but maybe it turned out to be good. I got to watch a show all the way across. Watching these three fellows being very careful not to agitate each other. Being friendly, but not overly friendly. It was an amazing thing—they all had their own coaches. Wykoff had his high school coach—he hadn't got to USC yet. Borah had Dean Cromwell, he was one of the coaches on board. Paddock, which was kind of a strange thing, he had Dink Templeton.

Hodak: His unofficial coach.

Carter: He went to USC and had Cromwell as a coach, but he and Templeton were together all the time. Templeton had been coaching for about seven years. He got through in 1921 and became a coach the next year after he graduated from college. He was unusual. We used to call him the "boy coach." His athletes just worshipped him. They would just stand around waiting for him to say something.

Hodak: Who were the other coaches in 1928?

Carter: There was also Henry Schulte from Nebraska. He had some great athletes like Ed Weir, the national champion in the high hurdles who later became a star football player, and Roland Locke, who had the world record in the 220. The head Olympic coach was Lawson Robertson from the University of Pennsylvania. He had been the coach twice before and he was the coach again in 1936. I think he coached all the teams from '20 to '36. And there was a another coach, John Magee, from Bowdoin College, as well as John Behr, Dean Cromwell, Thomas Keane, Melvin Sheppard and Edward Farrell.

Hodak: Aside from the situation in your particular room how would you describe the general camaraderie on the ship?

Carter: There's always the ones who pair off with somebody. Lee Barnes, the pole vaulter for Southern California, was always with Charlie Borah. I sort of teamed up with Frank Wykoff because he was just a high school graduate, he didn't know anybody well who was on the team. So I palled up with him more or less . . . I kind of felt that he needed somebody.

I knew a lot of people on that team. I had some other friends, close friends too, like Levi Casey and John Kuck, Casey got second in the triple jump and Kuck won the shot put, set a new world's record. Then, another fellow I knew real well was Bud Houser because he came from Oxnard. He won the discus. He had won the shot and discus in '24, but this time he just went out for the discus. There were 12 of us that made the team in Southern California. They weren't from all the schools in Southern California. But, they came here to make the team. Like John Kuck, he was from Kansas State Teachers' College. But, most of them were from Southern California. Levi Casey had competed for one year from Montana, then dropped out. But he was working in Los Angeles for a title company. Most of them were either in school or just out of school. I had been out of school about three years.

Hodak: So you were maybe more experienced than many of the athletes?

Carter: In those days athletes didn't stay with it as long as they do now. In fact I was accused of being a "tramp-athlete" because I could not hold a full-time job. I'd have to quit my job when track season came. I wanted to make the Olympic team. I just dedicated those three or four years to making the team.

Hodak: And you wanted to maintain your amateur status too.

Carter: I couldn't take a job coaching or teaching physical education. That was my major in college. So, I stayed with it. But, today they stay with it longer. When I made the Olympic team I thought I was old, but I was only 25 years old. Today, they're competing into their 30s.

Hodak: Now, I find it interesting that the U.S. Olympic Committee decided to have your stay on board the ship. What was the thinking there?

Carter: Well, I guess they just had it planned that the ship was going to be our hotel while we were there. When we arrived they docked the ship by the pier, they had planned to leave it there. Of course, everybody got off the boat as quick as they could to walk around to get the "sea legs" out. Everybody had "sea legs" from being on that boat for seven days, rocking all the way across. Also, In this country we had Prohibition and a lot of us had never seen a bar.

Hodak: So there was a concern there . . . temptations in Amsterdam?

Carter: Yes, they caught two or three athletes in one of these bars or saloons; they saw them in there and they got scared and the administrators on board ship panicked. They decided to pull the ship out in the middle of the harbor. It must have been a mile away from the pier. We had to go back and forth by launch. You couldn't go whenever you wanted, you had to wait for a group. You had to be chaperoned, there were a lot of problems getting on

land.

Hodak: Along with curfews too, I imagine.

Carter: The boat rocked the whole time we were there. So, we never got rid of our "sea legs." It ended up bad because our runners weren't able to do well in the Olympics. We only won one running race outside of the two relays. That was Ray Barbuti, who won the 400 meters. I always felt that it was caused by staying on board that ship and having it rock all the time. There were other reasons why we didn't do well. The places to work out were like running in a plowed field. Everything was new. They didn't finish the stadium until the day before the meet and wouldn't let anybody get into the stadium at all.

Hodak: So where were you able to train?

Carter: They had practice fields, but they were new and they were soft. It made the workouts a disaster because there wasn't anyplace to run that was firm, and it was so far away from the ship. You could only get there when somebody else was going.

Hodak: Before we begin to discuss your competition and other events, I wonder what you recall of the Opening Ceremony. Is this something that sticks with you?

Carter: Yes. It was a marvelous thing to see all these countries lined up and march out on that field. It was the first time I had been on the field. The first time I had been in a stadium where they had the Olympics, as a matter of fact. And to see this thing that I had been hearing about all my life. Actually being there, and a part of it, was a thrill. Everybody was dressed up in their uniforms and the countries marched out together. We marched out last. So we finally got out there, the stands were full; although it wasn't as big a crowd as they have now. But the stands wouldn't hold any more people. It was a marvelous exhibition. It was very colorful.

Hodak: Bud Houser was the flag bearer for the American team.

Carter: Yes he was. It was his second time on the Olympic team. He had already won two gold medals from '24. I think Johnny Weissmuller was the one who carried the flag. One of them carried the flag and the other carried an emblem—I don't know which way it went.

Hodak: What about your event? I know there were a number of preliminary heats. Talk of the trial heats that went before the 7500-meter race.

Carter: Well, it was a big disappointment. I thought I ran well, I was in one of the last heats. The track was soft. I tried to run out away from the pole where it was a little more firm. I stayed in a good position. I was in third position, which is the place for a distance runner to run—no worse than third, either second or third. Just to be sure the first guy isn't making a mistake. You run the race to keep yourself in contention so you'll be able to get out and win the race. So you don't want to run last. I managed to stay with them. It was an Englishman and a German. A fellow named [Cyril] Ellis from England, I don't remember the guy's name from Germany. The fellow from England was a better runner than I was so I can't complain about him. He had run 4:14 and my best time up to that time was 4:16 in a mile. But I think I should have beaten the German.

Hodak: Which would have qualified you for the final?

Carter: That's pretty tough on distance runners. They only took two to the finals and I was right there. I gave those guys a real battle down the straightaway. The home straight, I was up there with them. They beat me off the tape and so I got third. So, I didn't get to run in the finals, and that's a big disappointment: to go that far and train all those years and not be able to get in the finals. Now everybody asks me when they find out I made the Olympic team, "What place did you get?" I tell them I got third in my heat. I don't know if they can figure that out or not. (laughter) I

eliminated a few people—they had eight or nine or ten people.

Hodak: Well, getting to the Olympics is an achievement, let's not forget that. What about the final of the 1500-meter race. Certainly you were able to attend that.

Carter: I saw most all the finals; up to the time I ran in the preliminary heats I didn't see everything. I tried to preserve myself as much as possible. The final of the 1500 meters was a great race. The man who won it was named [Harry] Larva from Finland. Finland, up to those years, probably produced more distance runners than any other country in the world. I'm talking about distance events above 800 meters.

Hodak: All the way to the marathon.

Carter: Including the marathon. They were always in there, Willie Ritola, Paavo Nurmi, they were always winning. They had other people coming along. This fellow Larva had a very long, natural stride. He had an unusually long stride, longer than any distance runner I ever saw. He seemed to run with ease. Most people who run with a long stride don't run with ease, but he did. He was running against a fellow named [Jules] Ladoumeque, the champion of France and the world record holder in the mile and the 1500 meters. They expected him to win. He tried to out-kick Larva and I think he started to kick too soon because Larva finally just blasted past Ladoumeque at the end.

Hodak: He overtook him in the last 30 meters or so.

Carter: I think if Ladoumeque had just waited a little bit longer he might have been closer, but I'm not sure he would have won. It was a new world's record in the 1500 meters. So, you have to give the man credit.

Hodak: You mentioned Ray Barbuti earlier, who was the sole American to

capture the gold medal in individual running events. What do you recall of that event, as well as Ray Barbuti himself.

Carter: That was a fantastic race for the United States and for Ray Barbuti. He had a lot of trouble coming across the Atlantic on the ship. He was a big fellow—weighed over 200 pounds. He was a football player. He had big legs and all this walking and jogging around the boat trying to keep in shape gave him shin splints. He got to the point where he could hardly walk. So he was trying out all the trainers on the boat. We had six of them. He finally found this fellow from Santa Barbara, Peter Poole, who cured him of shin splints. Barbuti was very conscientious about his training. I never saw him with anybody. He was always training somewhere. When we'd come home from the stadium, he'd be in the ship looking out one of those portholes as we'd come up the ramp from our launch. He'd make fun of us telling us that we'd come all this way, clear from the United States to "poop out." That was just the word he used—"poop out." He'd say "a bunch of poop-outs." He'd make fun of us all the way up. He had everybody so mad at him they could hardly look at him. But he was so big and strong nobody challenged him. Anyhow, he'd say, "I'm not going to poop out like you guys, I'm going to win." Sure enough, he won.

Hodak: In the picture in the Olympic report it looks like he's a little scratched up after the race.

Carter: He had a very close race with a guy named [James] Ball from Canada. In order to win he dove across the finish line. He was so heavy that he slid on those cinders and that just chewed up his uniform; just chewed it up like it had been rubbed against something hard and rough. It was just hanging on him in front. He was all black-and-blue and had these cinder marks all over him. He had to be treated by a trainer and everything. But he just won by an eyelash. In fact, this Ball from Canada was more worried about where Ray Barbuti was than winning. The picture at the finish shows him looking over at Ray Barbuti. But Ray Barbuti wasn't

watching anybody—his head was straight ahead and he was diving for the finish. That's right where he went. He dove across the finish line and he won that thing. He also ran anchor on the 1600-meter relay team; I think he set a new record and won a gold medal there. So he was not one of the "poop-outs." (laughter)

Hodak: Earlier you mentioned Frank Wykoff. His Olympic accomplishments certainly deserve some mention.

Carter: Yes, he's made an unusual mark in the Olympics: He ran anchor on three winning 4 x 100-meter relay teams, three Olympics in a row; '28, '32 and '36. Yet he never placed in the finals of the 100 meters, which was his event. He had the world's record of 9.4. But he had bad luck this time. He was just out of high school, so you could say he lacked experience. But he did finish fourth in the 100-meter race. He didn't get his good start. His start was one of his main fortes. He told me himself that if he couldn't get out in front of everybody, so he couldn't see the other runners out of the corners of his eyes, he got beat. He had to be out far enough so that he couldn't see anybody. I don't know what difference that would make. But he won most of the time. He didn't get beat very often. He beat all of our sprinters in the tryouts for the Olympic team, and won the finals.

Hodak: I think it is intriguing that he never finished in the top three in the 100-meter race.

Carter: In '36, the last time around, he did not make the 100-meter team, he made the relay team. He didn't make the 100-meter team because he had been injured. But he was a very consistent runner in high school, college and out of college. He very seldom got beat. He had bad luck in the finals of the 100 meters in the Olympics.

Hodak: What about Bud Houser, what do you recall of his event?

Carter: Well, Bud Houser is a fellow that I knew and I had watched compete

in high school. He went to Oxnard High School. He competed in the tri-county meet championships here in Santa Barbara. I first saw him in 1920. He made the Olympic team in probably his junior year at USC. He won the shot and the discus. It was rather unusual because he did not weigh over 190 pounds. He was not a big man. He was probably only six foot or six-one tall. He was strong, had a beautiful build, but he was a fellow that had excellent technique. He had a lot of speed going around the ring. He high hurdled in high school, so that proves that he had speed. In one of the Olympics, I believe it was the '24 Olympics, this fellow from Chile, who was also in the Olympics, told me that Bud didn't have the winning throw until his last throw. He won the thing on his last throw. You get three preliminaries and three finals, and he won it on his last throw. He was a great competitor. He was not only a great athlete but a very wonderful person. He graduated from USC and became a dentist. He retired here a few years ago from dentistry.

Hodak: What other events really stand out in your mind when you think back to the '28 Olympics.

Carter: There were several of them. One was [Percy] Williams from Canada, who won the 100 and 200 meters. He was a high school boy who was the same year in school as Frank Wykoff. It was two high school boys who were champion sprinters of their countries. He won both the 100 and 200 with all those heats. He was just a skinny kid, and real young, probably not over 18 years old. They had to run at least twice before they got to the finals and he won them all. Everybody thought it was unusual because they had never heard of him. The next time they had the Olympics in Los Angeles he was there again, but he didn't do what he did in Amsterdam—and he was closer to home. I don't know if he placed or not, I know he didn't win.

There were some other unusual things about these Olympics. It was the first Olympics for women.

Hodak: For women's track and field.

Carter: It was the first time they competed in the Olympics. They only had five events. That's not very many. One of them was the 100 meters, 800 meters, high jump

Hodak: The discus and the 100-meter relay.

Carter: They really weren't prepared. They weren't far along in development. Their development was at such a stage that they weren't prepared to compete in the Olympics against Europeans, for example.

Hodak: You mean European women had been competing longer in track and field?

Carter: I'm sure, because when they ran the 800 meters I've always said it looked like a bowling alley where the fellows rolled the ball and knocked all the pins down. Whether they all fell down or sat down, there's been quite a bit of discussion over this.

Hodak: I don't think many women in the United States had really trained at that distance.

Carter: They weren't used to it. The sprinter that won the 100 meters, [Betty] Robinson, had never competed before. Somebody saw her running to catch a train and they talked her into going out, and she made the Olympic Team and won the 100 meters. So you see how new it was for our people. And these distance runners . . . I was sitting right at the finish and they all went down. There have been some articles written on this and somebody called me and wrote me a long letter and sent me a copy of an article and they seemed to disagree with all this.

Hodak: Well, we know that women had not, certainly in the United States, trained in the 800-meter distance. In fact, the 800-meter race, as

an event for women, was not reintroduced in the Olympics until 1960, which might have been somewhat of an over reaction to the finish of the '28 race, or accounts of that finish.

Carter: All the people around me, they were all athletes, felt the same way I did: that they just weren't prepared for this.

Another unusual thing . . . well, it wasn't unusual but it was new. It was the first time the Germans were allowed to compete in the Olympics since before World War I. They weren't allowed to enter in '20 and '24 and this was the first time back for them. Also, this was the first time the Japanese had ever won a gold medal. They won the triple-jump, a fellow named [Mikio] Oda, in the 1928 Olympics. A fellow named Levi Casey finished second. He had very bad luck. They had the contestants divided one at each end of the field in separate pits. He happened to be in the one that was moved and they didn't give him a chance to have a practice run down the runway. He was at the opposite end of the field in the preliminaries and when he qualified for the finals, they moved his section to the other end. So he didn't have his mark set on the runway. And he was an unusual jumper; he never measured his run, he always did it by sight. He'd run down there a couple of times and check it out. He used his sweat pants for a marker, and this time it caught up with him because they wouldn't let him have a practice run. If he had known what his distance was he could have marked it. It took all of his jumps to get squared away on his run. He only had three more left, but he managed to get second. So he did pretty well, considering he had no marks.

Hodak: Throughout the period of the Olympics was there much fraternizing with other athletes?

Carter: No, I don't remember any fraternizing, because we were on that boat in the middle of the harbor. There was no Olympic Village. We were completely separated from everybody. Oh, I'm sure that some of them got together somewhere.

Hodak: What about the quality of sportsmanship? What would you say about that?

Carter: Everybody was friendly, just courteous, but not too much socializing that I know of. Most of us were with each other. I had a friend over there that went to Occidental College who was a Dutchman from Holland, well, his folks were. He belonged to my fraternity house so I had a prearranged date. He came out to the boat and took me out to dinner a couple of times and showed me around. I'm sure other people had some connections like that. They didn't have the socializing like they did here in Los Angeles in 1932. That's the first time I saw an Olympic Village. What a wonderful idea; whoever started that really did something great. When I went to the Games in Rome, that's where everybody got to see everybody every day.

Hodak: Any other events, anything else noteworthy that comes to mind?

Carter: We had a fellow, John Kuck, from our group at the Los Angeles Athletic Club. He won the shot put and set a world's record. He went to Kansas State. And Bob King, from Stanford, won the high jump. He was a very consistent athlete who always seemed to win. Eddie Hamm from Georgia won the long jump. Sabin Carr from Yale won the pole vault. We also won the two relays and the 400 meters. We did very well, even though we won only one running event, other than the relays. We did fantastic considering the way we were housed.

Hodak: Considering the travel too. Also, I think that part of the success of European athletes in 1928 might have been due to training and coaching clinics given by American coaches in Europe.

Carter: They weren't doing anything until they saw our athletes over there. They started having our athletes compete in their countries, and started getting our coaches to come over and give clinics. That's what started it.

Hodak: Before we discuss some of the international events which followed the Olympics, what do you recall of the Closing Ceremonies? Were they of similar magnitude as the Opening Ceremonies?

Carter: No, I would say the Closing Ceremonies are great, with a lot of camaraderie involved, but I don't think anything can take the place of the Opening Ceremonies. You're looking forward to that day. It's a thrill, I didn't get a chill like I did for the final tryouts, but pretty close to it. The Closing Ceremonies, I think, seem to take on more show now than it did. I've been to five Olympics, competed in one and went to four others, but I'd never seen anything as fantastic as this one down here in Los Angeles. That was tremendous. Los Angeles put on a whole show, like it never had been done before. I suppose each time they'll try to outdo each other. They're going to have a hard time outdoing these last ceremonies though.

Hodak: There are a number of international meets which normally follow the Olympics. What other meets did you attend following the Olympics?

Carter: We were asked—the ones that didn't want to go, didn't have to go—if we would be willing to go run in this big international meet in Cologne, Germany. So, I accepted it. I would have gone anywhere that anybody asked me. I figured I'd never get that chance again.

Hodak: Your expenses were paid by the sponsors of the meet?

Carter: All paid. That was a big meet; they had the German team, the French team—Ladoumeque ran again. I ran in the same race with him. He took off and left me in the dust. He was a good runner. You have to be pretty good to get second in the Olympics. Anyhow, our whole team went over there. We went by train from Amsterdam and had a big banquet. I remember sitting there across from Emil Hirschfeld, who got third in the shot put. I was sitting with three shot putters: John Kuck, Herman Brix and Emil Hirschfeld. They were all big mountains, they were all 220- to

250-pound people. And Levi Casey, he was always with them. Levi Casey and John Kuck were always together. I was a close friend of Levi Casey. I don't think Frank Wykoff was there. I don't remember him running over there. He was pretty discouraged. However, he competed in our meet, the British Empire Games.

Hodak: So this followed immediately after the Cologne meet?

Carter: Right. We went back to the boat, then the boat went back to England.

Hodak: The same boat, the *Roosevelt*?

Carter: That was our home. It was our hotel. Anyhow, we went over there and they housed us in town and we competed in that meet, which was a big meet. I ran in a four-man, four-mile relay. Everything was relays and the field events were all added up—four people on each side. They added up all their marks and whoever had the biggest total won.

Hodak: A curious way of scoring a meet.

Carter: I had never seen a meet like it before. They did it for years. I don't know if they still do it. Then after the British Empire Games some of us were invited to run in Dublin, Ireland, in what they call the Irish Olympics. Ireland claims that they're older than the Olympics. They claim the Olympics started with the Gaelic Games back before the Olympics, so they've got quite a tradition. I had a field day. I ran in the 800 meters, the 1500 meters, and threw the Javelin. I used to throw the javelin at Occidental. It wasn't that big of a meet . . . it wasn't like the Cologne meet. They housed us in a hotel and it was fun. I was supposed to go to another meet in Belfast, Northern Ireland. But finally I got tired—it had been a long year. Another fellow. Chuck McGinnis said, "Let's go to Paris!" I said okay, so we cancelled everything we were going to do, went to Paris and stayed nine days and nights in the Latin

Quarter. I had never been to Paris before, but here was my opportunity. He seemed to know where to go, people to see. He wanted to go back home because he had a job coming up. He was from Wisconsin. We came home on the *SS Republic*.

Hodak: By this time the American team had dispersed.

Carter: Yes, I didn't see any more of them. After I left Dublin, I never saw them again, except just he and I. There were four or five of them on the boat coming home though. Lloyd Hahn and several others were there.

Hodak: So everybody sort of went their own way following the Olympics?

Carter: You could stay, or buy a ticket back from New York to Los Angeles—all you had to do was transfer. You could make arrangements to go on another ship. You didn't have to go home with the team. I know they had a homecoming in New York. I left Los Angeles around the 15th or 16th of June and didn't get back until sometime in September.

Hodak: When you returned to the United States, was there any reception in Los Angeles or elsewhere?

Carter: No, I landed at the depot in Los Angeles and nobody even knew I was there. They would have been there if I had told them. I remember coming home from the NCAA championships in Chicago my senior year in college, and there were a bunch of people down there. This time there was nobody there. I got on the train and came to Santa Barbara, got off at the depot and onto a streetcar and went to my house.

Hodak: And you competed for one more year as an amateur athlete?

Carter: Well, I hadn't planned to run anymore but Paavo Nurmi was supposed to come to Los Angeles. They didn't have very many

distance runners out here on the coast, so I was the closest they could get to having somebody to put in there with him. At first I didn't want to do it because after the Olympics . . . like a lot of people in those days—that was their goal and that's it. We didn't have these athletes hanging around for years afterwards. So they finally talked me into it. They wore me down. This was in December or January. They told me they'd pay my expenses. I told them I was working and I'd have to train twice a day to catch up. So I trained twice a day in Pasadena, on a crash course.

Kodak: And as you mentioned earlier, Paavo Nurmi never showed up. He was snowbound in Salt Lake City.

Carter: Yeah, after all that. I was so nervous when I got to the Coliseum my eyes were so full of water, I couldn't even see. And here I had been in the Olympics and I was still scared, because he had such a name. They had so much publicity on him, with big banners across the streets of Los Angeles. Anybody that had seen me or knew me, that's all they'd talk about. Well, I got myself in fair shape and got down there and went into the Coliseum and then some guy tells me, "Hey, Nurmi isn't here." Well, I was relieved.

Hodak: So you were left without a meet to compete in.

Carter: They had paid my expenses, so they felt that they should have me run something. So they cooked up this race with Ray Conger, to be held in May in the Southern Pacific AAU meet. That gave me a chance to get in shape. I ran in the Fresno Relays. I was in better shape then than I was when Nurmi didn't show up. See, he was snowbound and he eventually arrived, but he arrived two days late. They tried to arrange another meet, but he had a meet down in Dallas. They tried to arrange a meet for later in the year, but that didn't pan out. So they had that race with Conger.

Hodak: How did that race go?

Carter: Luckily, I won. And I said that was going to be my last race.

Hodak: The picture suggests it was a very close race.

Carter: He's been to my house, he's a real nice fellow. He said, "Here's a picture of the finish of that race which they say that you won," or something like that. (laughter)

Hodak: He was being facetious.

Carter: Yes, it was all in fun. I don't think there could have been more than two or three inches difference.

Hodak: So you had decided in advance that this was to be your final race?

Carter: The very next week they wanted me to run in a meet against him in the 800 meters. They came and pleaded with me to run. But I said no. They wanted to send me to the AAU national championships in Denver. Well, that's one place I wouldn't run—high altitude. Boy, that kills you, especially some guy from the West Coast—there's no way you're going to win. Though I might have done it, because I was in pretty good shape. Conger didn't go. The guy that won was Leo Lermond, who was a 5,000-meter runner. I had worked out with him; that's how I discovered how to beat Ray Conger, from working out with him during the Olympics. That makes a lot of difference when you know you're going to win, you feel confident. When you go into a race like a mile with any apprehension, you're going to lose. You've got to think you're going to win.

Hodak: What would you say is the most important thing that a miler or a distance runner comes to learn. What sort of things will improve a miler's performance over the years? Is it simply coming to know your limitations better, learning to pace oneself?

Carter: Learning to pace is probably one of the top points in being a good distance runner. Knowing how fast you can run, being able to run

with the least amount of effort. And you must keep yourself in position to win, and save a little bit for a kick at the end. He who kicks best wins. The person that has the best kick will win, as a rule. Once in a while someone with a lot of endurance can run people out. But the fellow who is running out can use his head too. He doesn't have to be run out. So you have to know your pace and slow up a little bit. It takes experience, it takes years to learn that.

I coached track for 30 years and I had a hard time convincing my athletes to learn to pace themselves. They always want to try it some other way until they learn. They get beat real good and then they'll take my way. By learning to pace yourself, you're going to run that race with the least amount of effort and have a big kick at the end so that when you cross the finish line you have expended all of your energy. If you have any energy left when you cross that finish line you didn't run your race right. You use it all up. So when you cross that line you can't run much further at that pace. That's hard to do. A lot of people don't do it because they lack experience or make a mistake. Like that kid from Purdue during the final tryouts—he was out there 25 or 30 yards, maybe more. He was crazy to run like that against people like Ray Conger and others in there, but he did because he hadn't run against the rest of us.

Hodak: You say you had decided that this race in 1929 was to be your last race. What options did an amateur athlete have at that time? If you continued to compete, it seems like an awfully tough situation trying to earn a living at the same time.

Carter: There were no options in amateur sports in my day. We didn't get paid for running. Sometimes we were paid for a short period of time for meals; either they were paid for us or they gave us money to pay for meals. You weren't paid to win a race like they are today. In those days, if you ran more than three or four years after you were out of school, you were called a "tramp athlete." My

benefactor, who made it possible for me to go to college, told me one day, he said, "You'd better watch out, you're going to become a "tramp athlete." I said, "I've got to make the Olympic team, after that I'll quit."

So that's the difference today; now they're running in their 30s. I was only about 26 when I quit. There weren't many people running. Joie Ray was one to stay with it a long time, and Lloyd Hahn, and Paavo Nurmi. Europeans . . . they've been doing that for a long time. But there weren't too many old-timers in this country. Sometimes shot putters, discus throwers, or hammer throwers would throw for a long time, but it was unusual. Now, most of your top athletes are older, except for sprinters. Even hurdlers—look at Edwin Moses, he's been running for years.

Hodak: That suggests a number of differences in the organization and support for track and field.

Carter: The bad thing about that is it's nice to do—but if you don't have any money, what are you going to do when you quit? In your 30s you should be preparing for the future. You can't run all your life.

Hodak: You mentioned earlier that your long-term goal was to become a physical education instructor.

Carter: I majored in physical education, but I went into business when I got through, which was just luck. Then the Depression came along and they hired me to be a track coach here at Santa Barbara State College, which was the forerunner of the University of California at Santa Barbara. So, I took it. It was just a part-time job when I started it.

I also coached a basketball team in Santa Barbara, sponsored by an insurance company. That was a lot of fun. We would play local teams and then traveling basketball teams like the Olson Swedes or

the House of David. We had a very good team. We had Jimmy Anderson on the team. He was a superb athlete and had numerous school records. I think his best sport was baseball. There was also Paul Crawford. He had played with the Pasadena Majors and probably could have made the '36 basketball team. Another star was Tom Cordry, who had been the captain of the team at Stanford. Anyway, I took that job at Santa Barbara State College.

Hodak: Who approached you about serving as coach at Santa Barbara College?

Carter: The president of the college recruited me out of a hospital bed in St. Francis Hospital. I was in there for an operation for appendicitis. He and the fellow that was coaching the track team came in there. He hired me to help him coach the track team. The next year he gave me the job, that was 1934.

Hodak: What conference was Santa Barbara State College in at that time?

Carter: At that time we were in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. That was with Occidental, Pomona, Redlands, Whittier, and Cal Tech. We were a small school. When I first went there we had 840 students. But later on they joined a new conference called the California Collegiate Athletic Association, referred to as the CCAA. That was with San Diego State, San Jose State, Fresno State, and Santa Barbara State. They were the four original schools that formed a conference in 1939. Of course, those schools started growing. Now we're the Pacific Coast Athletic Association, the PCAA. They have big schools. Today UC Santa Barbara has close to 18,000 students compared to the 830 when I was first there.

Hodak: Among other things that have changed are certainly track facilities and conditions. What was it like in 1934 when you first started?

Carter: First of all they had a fifth-of-a-mile track in the canyon behind the

school, which is now the Santa Barbara Tennis Club. The first thing I did was to lengthen that track and make it a quarter-mile track. It's pretty hard to train on a little track and everything is different. I used my students and went out and bought some boards and lengthened it. We put stakes in the ground, did it all ourselves. We had a very weak team, competing against Fresno State, San Diego State, and San Jose State. Those are all powerhouses today, though they too weren't that strong then. The school has done quite well over the years. In 1960, I was still coaching, we won the CCAA championship down in San Diego. We beat all those big boys. We didn't have as many students as they had but we had a lot more than we had when I started. While I was there we had three different tracks. We moved down to the Ledbetter Estate, where the school moved in 1940, and they built a stadium down there called La Playa Field. It was a brand new quarter-mile track. In 1951 we moved out to Goleta in the old marine quarters where we had another track. While i was there we had three different tracks.

Hodak: You also worked with the Peruvian national team. Would you discuss the background on that?

Carter: While I was at Santa Barbara State College, during the third year I was there, I met a man named Captain Charles Cordon Davey, who lived in Santa Barbara and had been In Peru and had reorganized their navy. He copied our navy and formed a new naval academy just like ours. He had an officer named commandante Alejandro Bastante, who became president of the athletic federation of Peru, and he asked Davey to get a track coach. So Davey called me and asked if I'd like to go to Peru, and I said yes. The salary was going to be more than the department chairman's salary, I was only getting part-time salary, so I took it. It was a contract for six months, and I was to take a team to Sao Paulo, Brazil, their national team; which I did. And I tried to form clinics and teach some of their physical education people how to coach track and field. When I got through with that meet in Sao Paulo and came back to Peru,

the president of that federation wanted me to stay two more years. I said, "No, I'll lose my sabbatical leave and I'll lose my job." (I was working on a master's degree.)

So I argued with him for awhile. Finally he told me one day, "You know," he says, "you're just starting now to understand our people. You understand what we say, you've learned a little of the language, you know what our people are like. You've just reached the point where you can do us some good and you're going to go home." He got to me somehow. I didn't want to do it really but he just talked me into it. He was wonderful. I felt like anybody can do what I'm doing up here in the U.S., but how many people can do what I'm doing down there in Peru. He did have a point; I was getting to the point where I could speak a little bit, and the hardest part is understanding the people. So I thought about it and said okay. I wrote back and asked if they could extend my sabbatical leave. And the school agreed to extend it, so I stayed two more years. Another reason they wanted me to stay is because the South American championships were going to be held in Lima. So that was another reason . . . the clinics and other things. The school hired another fellow and they only kept him one year. He didn't work out so I had my job back. I was to have been the Olympic track coach for Peru in 1940, but the war came along and spoiled that.

Hodak: Did you find -your work in Peru rewarding?

Carter: Oh, yes. I saw things I thought I'd never see. For example, I asked them to make a ring for my shot put ring, which is seven feet in diameter. Well, of course, they go by meters. You know what they brought me? A top off of a barrel. They didn't understand. Another thing, their eating habits were different. They don't eat anything hearty for breakfast. Their noon meal is the big meal of the day. They take a siesta, for two hours everything closes up. They don't eat at night until eight o'clock. You can't get into a restaurant or anyplace—they won't serve you until eight o'clock. I only saw one man that weighed 200 pounds in three years.

Hodak: Well, that may reflect a lot of things So, you returned to Santa Barbara. Shortly thereafter you were involved in the military during World War II.

Carter: That's right. Everybody that could get in got in. There were a few that didn't want to go. I went into the physical fitness program in the Air Force. They figured that's where I belonged since I was a coach. I stayed there until . . . they kept sending me to these schools. After they sent me to the third school, I said, "That's it." I had a friend who was over at Randolph Field in the foreign liaison division, so I called him up one day and asked if he could get me out of this. I was in the western flying command and he got me in the central flying training command. We had 5,000 Chinese and we had 3,000 Brazilians. We had a whole group from Mexico, little groups from all over, most from South America, plus some from France and England. Every time one of the generals would come they would send me to the bases with them where their people were being trained.

Hodak: You returned to Santa Barbara in '45?

Carter: I went in in '42 and returned in '46. Practically everybody got their jobs back.

Hodak: Following World War II there was certainly an influx of veterans into colleges following World War II.

Carter: During the service a lot of them got overweight, they didn't train. I found out from experience that it takes two years to get back to the way you were before, if you were an athlete. The pilots were all in good condition because their physical fitness program was terrific. They had an obstacle course; it was two hours long, every day. They really worked them. That's what the bases were for, to train the pilots.

Hodak: Following the war you continued to coach track here in Santa

Barbara?

Carter: Yes, then I went on full-time.

Hodak: Let's resume with you discussing your years as track coach at UC Santa Barbara. Talk of athletes that you've coached, as well as general matters that changed over the years. Who were some of the more notable athletes that you coached at Santa Barbara?

Carter: Well, I had seven track athletes that placed in the national NCAA and AAU championships, so I always considered them to be my top ones. One of them Delfs Pickarts, made the AAU team that went to Europe one summer and competed in Sweden, Finland and Norway. He won second in the NCAA meet when it was held in the Coliseum in 1949. He also got second place in the national AAU meet, and that's how he qualified for the team to go to Europe. He was a real good javelin thrower—set a school record—and was a splendid athlete. He became manager of the Southern California Edison Company for all the territory from Los Angeles to San Luis Obispo to Fresno. When he was here at Santa Barbara he majored in industrial arts, and that was his specialty, electricity.

I had another one who was on two Olympic teams, Henk Visser. He represented Holland in the 1952 and 1960 Olympics, and was on the Dutch team in '56 but Holland withdrew from the Games because of the Soviet invasion of Hungary. In 1960 he jumped 26 feet 2 inches and at that time that was the best in the world. He also finished second in the NCAA meet at Berkeley behind Ralph Boston. And then later he beat Ralph Boston in a national AAU meet in Bakersfield so he became national champion in the open division. I would have to say that he was probably the top track-and-field athlete I had. He was a good sprinter and a good hurdler, and in the years I had him we won the conference championship. In fact, he tried to get me appointed as one of the coaches on the Dutch team. I didn't make it, but I went to the Olympics. I spent a lot

of time with him in the Olympic Village in Rome. He got seventh place in the long jump in the Rome Olympics.

Another guy that I worked with was Armin Hary. He had come to Santa Barbara from West Germany and would have entered school but there was some problem with his transcripts. Germany would not send them. But I coached him some. He knew Henk Visser from Europe. I mention Armin Hary because he got two gold medals in the Rome Olympics in the 100 and the sprint relay.

I had another outstanding athlete who should probably be in the same place as the other two. His name is Otey Scruggs. He was a black guy who came to me as a freshman. He was a left-handed shot putter and not very big in size. He was tall enough but not very heavy. He only weighed about 170 pounds—and that's not very heavy for a shot putter and a discus thrower. He placed third in the national decathlon championships, open division, in his junior year. And he got third in his senior year. In his post graduate year at Harvard University he got fifth. It was an Olympic year and it was unfortunate. But, by that time a lot of new decathlon people had come along, and he had to get third place in order to be on the team. In 1951, he was selected for the Pan American Games, which were held that year in Buenos Aires. I always considered that fellow unusual in many ways. First of all, he did all this when he was an undergraduate student. Now they're out competing for ten years even after they get out of school. He was a very smart young man. He went to Harvard and got his master's degree and his doctorate and is now a full professor of history at Syracuse University.

Hodak: Are there other athletes that you want to mention?

Carter: Well, I had seven of these fellows that did very well and placed in the national championships both, NCAA and AAU. There was Jim Pryde in the hammer throw. He was in the top ten for about ten

years and he made the Pan American team one year when it was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. I had a high jumper that placed in the NCAA meet and the AAU meet, Willie Dancer. And I had a distance runner named Cordon McClenathen who was considered the best distance runner we ever had at UCSB. He won our conference championship in the mile and the two-mile, set new school records. One year he won the Southern Pacific AAU cross-country championship. Max Truex was in it—he was the top one—and I think it was the only time he got beat. He ran in the national championships of cross-country in Michigan when it was three or four degrees above zero.

I had another fellow named Earl Engman, who was the first man to ever place in the national championship meet from U.C. Santa Barbara. He got fourth place in 1948 in the triple jump and qualified for the Olympic tryouts. He became a coach at Santa Ana High School and won two back-to-back CIF championships and won one state championship. I thought that was rather unusual. Gordon McClenathen became the track coach at Dos Pueblos High School and had a very good tenure in track. He's still coaching track, though he finally gave up being head coach because he teaches classes. Then I had a fencer, his name was Sidney Getzovitz, who was taken into our Gaucho Hall of Fame. I think I have something like 20 or 25 ex-trackmen in the Santa Barbara Athletic Round Table Hall of Fame. Sidney Getzovitz was also taken into the Hall of Fame as a fencer. He was the Pacific Coast intermediate champion in the sabers. He really influenced our team. We won five straight CCAA championships; three while he was here competing and two more after he left. He left his mark on all the fencers I coached, I taught and coached fencing for 20 years until I wore myself out and I finally had to give up that sport. But it was very interesting.

And I had a lot of other good athletes. I had a fellow named Alberto Triulzi from Argentina, who was fourth in the 1948 Olympics. I had a fellow named Hugo Nutini from Chile, who was their national champion in the 800 meters. Another fellow I had.

Hovis Bess, was probably the first great athlete I had. He ran on the sprint relay team at Riverside Junior College that set a world record.

I recruited another fellow named Johnny Morris who came to me as a class-B sprinter from Long Beach Poly. Well, he finally became track captain and a member of our relay team that set a school record. He was always playing in intramural football in the fall. He was running wild in those fields behind our gym and somebody heard about it and went out and recruited him for football. He was so good that by the time he graduated he got a tryout with the Chicago Bears and played with them for ten years. He was a halfback and receiver for the Bears and one year he set a Bear record for receptions. He played in the same backfield with Gale Sayers and Brian Piccolo. As a matter of fact, his wife wrote the story that the film *Brian's Song* was based on. He is now a CBS announcer.

Hodak: You mention recruitment. How did that change over the years that you were coaching?

Carter: It changed quite a bit. When I first started coaching we had no money, and all you could do was be nice to them and tell them you'd try to help them find a job and a place to stay. We had no money for recruiting, absolutely none. Every time I went to see anybody I had to pay my own way. There was no money to travel with and no money to go to the intercollegiate championships. In fact, we really had some hurdles to jump over. It took us quite awhile before we could get enough athletes to make any kind of a showing good enough to compete, especially with Pomona and Occidental.

A lot of kids will surprise you if you're nice to them and show them that you can help them some. Some will accept it and I got some pretty good athletes doing that. I got the state champion in the mile, a guy named Virgil Hooper. He was from Mojave and I think one of the things that helped me was that he wanted to get over here where it was cool. (laughter) Another amazing thing about

that was that the president of the college went with me when we called on him the first time. He had come over and competed in that meet, and he beat the college guy who was in there. He had potential. I also knew that he had been a state champion. So later on I talked to the president about going over to see him. And I thought that if I could get him to go I wouldn't have to pay for the gas. (laughter) So, we did. Virgil Hooper came to Santa Barbara and competed for me for two years. He really didn't like college too much. He put on weight and got so heavy that it was difficult for him to run. He was the type that had to fight weight all the time. He was also hampered by the fact that he injured his leg boxing, in fact he broke his leg.

Hodak: As the school grew and the athletic department grew accordingly, did it become easier to recruit athletes?

Carter: Yes, the school grew. When I first went to Santa Barbara State in '34 it had about 800 students and more than half were girls. We had a very aggressive football coach who recruited a lot of football players. Quite a few of them were track people too. They would play football in the fall and come out for track in the spring. I got some that way, and some I talked to at high schools and they came on their own. But we had no scholarships for tuition, not even the football people had any scholarships for tuition. They had to raise money from boosters and try to encourage people to come that way. They would get them jobs and find a place for them to stay—that was it. Tuition was very minor in those days, especially at a state college. So there wasn't very much they had to pay there. As the years went along the schools learned how to recruit better, they were offering more enticements. And of course that affected some of the athletes that I would contact. I lost a lot of good ones just because somebody else was able to give them something. Like the fellow from New Jersey, Milton Campbell, who beat Rafer Johnson and won the decathlon in Melbourne, Australia, in 1956. He would have come here, except he got a bigger offer from Indiana

University to play football along with track.

Hodak: Along the same period that you were coaching, you were also coordinating and helping arrange the Santa Barbara invitational meet. Would you discuss the history of this meet? Talk about what you did in setting up this meet, how athletes were secured to compete, and how that also changed over the years.

Carter: Well, the meet started in 1931, which was three years before I became the coach at the college. I was on the committee that started it. I was working in Santa Barbara after my retirement from running. It started as an invitational meet. In fact, it was called the Santa Barbara Open Invitational Track and Field Meet. It was open to everybody: high schools, clubs, colleges, unattached. It was sanctioned by the Southern Pacific AAU. You had to get a sanction. We had no money, and nobody asked for any money, believe it or not. It didn't cost us anything to get anybody to come to the meet. They were tickled to death. There weren't many meets in those days. There were the Compton Relays and the Fresno Relays. I don't know what year the Compton Relays started, I think it was 1936.

Hodak: And the Modesto Relays?

Carter: Modesto started after we did. We are now the second oldest meet in California. The oldest is the Russell Cup Meet at Carpinteria, which is a small high school meet, limited to high schools with 1,000 students or under. The Fresno Relays are older than we are but they stopped competing. Now I understand they've started up again. They had moved to one of those smaller cities in the San Joaquin Valley. Now they have a new track at Fresno State, a brand new all-weather track, and they're back this year at Radcliffe Stadium. Our meet started in 1931 and we went for eight years at Peabody Stadium, which was the stadium at Santa Barbara High School. The war years came along in 1940, and the meet wasn't held again until 1947. We started up again after the war as a relay

carnival.

Hodak: How would that have been different from the open meet that you discussed earlier?

Carter: It was mostly all relays with the exception of a few open events like a 100-yard dash or a mile run. We did have a mile run for awhile and then we had an open 100-yard dash, but most of the events are relays. We finally ended with a high school division, a junior college division and an open division. The universities and open athletes all competed in the same open division. We had so many entries and so many schools that we had to limit them to certain schools. The ones that came the year before were invited the next year. We had everybody wanting to come to the Easter Relays. Somehow it just attracted them and they're still coming. Our field, La Playa Field, is part of the Santa Barbara City College on the beach. A lot of these schools come from inland cities and places where it's hot and they come here and look out at the ocean—it isn't more than 50 yards to the beach—and they see all those yachts and those boats in the harbor. They sit in the stands with friends and relatives, and then athletes, when they finish competing, take off their shirts and get a sun tan. They really have a ball when they come over here. We have the most unusual site for track as any place in the world, right by the ocean. Santa Barbara is situated in a cove and we don't have much wind, so it's really nice.

Hodak: You've never had trouble enticing athletes.

Carter: We've never had trouble. We have more trouble having too many. But now we don't have open division anymore because athletes don't want to run on the dirt track. They want to run on all-weather track. Now they can go places where they can run on smooth tracks. There are a lot of those new tracks now, the new surfaces, where the athletes can go run. So we don't have the open division any longer, we just have high schools and junior colleges. But we are going to in the future. Next year we're going to have our 50th

anniversary, and we're going to have a brand new, all-weather track. We just raised all the funds that we needed for that. We're aiming for a golden new Balsam track, almost the same identical material as the Rekortan. It comes from Germany. Hopefully, we'll get that.

Hodak: What were some of the more notable performances that you might have seen at the Santa Barbara meets over the years?

Carter: We had the first 16-foot pole vault in 1962 by John Uelses. He's the first to vault 16 feet indoors and outdoors. He'd been one year in Alabama and I brought him in from Florida. He was out of school and competing unattached and living in Florida. It was not more than a month or two before he had vaulted 16 feet. So I sent him an invitation and he wanted to come. He vaulted all over the world.

We had a lot of wonderful weight events in the shot and discus. It's paradise for discus throwers because the ring is situated so they throw against the wind, and all discus throwers like to throw against the wind because it holds the discus up. We've had fellows like Jay Sylvester, who used to come all the way from Utah, and we had Fortune Gordien and Parry O'Brien and [Richard] "Rink" Babka. We probably had all the great discus throwers in the United States during a period of 10 or 15 years there. We also had a lot of good shot putters like Bill Nieder and Dallas Long, who tied the world's record one year. And we've had some great javelin throwers. The first time Tom Petranoff was noticed was at the Santa Barbara relays, nobody knew who he was or where he was from. He had never made any mark that was noticeable. I think that was in 1978. He threw the javelin so far it landed in the runway for the high jump. The high jump, we thought, was far enough away. It was on the other end of the field. A football field, you know, is 120 yards long, that's 360 feet. Well, he threw something like 260 feet and nobody had ever heard of him before. And that's the day he came into prominence. He's now one of the best in the world. He's been in the Olympic Games and is competing

right now over in Europe.

Hodak: It's certainly a meet that showcased some of the best track and field athletes over the years.

Carter: Oh, yes. We have had, over the years, some of the greatest, like Lloyd LaBeach, Mel Patton, both sprinters. Each one placed in the Olympic Games in 1948. Mel Patton was in a class by himself for a number of years. We've had hurdlers like Jack Davis, who went to two Olympics and competed in the high hurdles. We've had guys like [Laszlo] Tabori and [Jim] Beatty in the mile and a lot of others. I could go on here for quite awhile, but we've had 'em. In 1960, we filled the stadium, which holds close to 10,000. And I've never seen it filled by any athletic event before or since.

Hodak: Talk about the Gaucho Track and Field Club. When was that established and how did that develop?

Carter: Well, the Gaucho Track and Field Club was a fund-raising club to help a little bit with grants and aids and to pay for banquets and trophies and things. I formed that in 1957, mostly from officials and alumni of the school and people who were interested in track. We always had an annual dinner, a fund-raising dinner. One year we brought out Jesse Owens and he packed the place. We had Rafer Johnson and people like Payton Jordan, Dean Cromwell, [Elvin C.] "Ducky" Drake, C.K. Yang, and Glenn Davis, the special events man for the *Los Angeles Times*.

Next year will be our 50th annual dinner. We have what we call a kick-off dinner for the Easter Relays on the Thursday night before the meet, and we always have somebody special. Two years ago we had Mack Robinson, brother to Jackie Robinson and 1936 Olympian. We've had the hammer thrower, who won the hammer in 1956, Hal Connolly. He had a boy competing in the decathlon at UCLA. Last year, or the year before, we had Jane Fredericks. We have somebody special every year for that. And then for our Gaucho

Track and Field Club, we do the same thing. It's a fund-raising program. We don't have it anymore, but I had it the whole time I was coaching.

Hodak: Something that is certainly relevant to your career as a coach and a teacher is your thesis which you worked on in the early '60s. Tell me about that a bit.

Carter: Well, when you go for a doctoral degree, you have to write a dissertation when you finish all your classes and pass your exams. You get past that exam then you can start writing your dissertation. Anyhow, one day I was going to lunch with the chairman of my doctoral committee. Dr. Flaud Wooton, head of the history of education department at UCLA. He said to me, "How come these people are always breaking these records? Don't they ever reach a limit? Why, or how, are they always breaking these records?" And so I gave him a thumbnail sketch of what I thought were some of the reasons. When I finished he said, "Why don't you use that topic for your doctoral thesis?" I said, "Well, I didn't know I could do that." He said, "Well, you know that field and no one else has written on it. You ought to be able to write a good dissertation." If I could do that, well, that would be easy, I thought. Well, it wasn't. It took me about three or four years. It's about 100 pages long and I probably covered too long a period of time. I covered a period from 1896 to 1960. It's called "The Changing Concepts of Teaching Track and Field Athletics in the United States from 1896 to 1960." And that's an awful long period of time to cover. That's why it took so long.

Anyhow, it was an interesting subject. I found out a lot of things about different kinds of tracks that have been used over the years and different kinds of equipment and facilities, ways of coaching, teaching, training, and various ideas that different people have.

Hodak: What sort of research did you delve into, other than track and field record books?

Carter: Well, first of all you had to find out if anyone had ever written on the subject before. That's what Dr. Wooton had told me to do. I had to go through the research program; every library has a place where you can check up on dissertations and theses and any books written on the subject. Of course, all the doctoral theses are filed at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. But there is a place in the library where you can check up on all these things. So it took me quite awhile to get that all done before I could even start. When I assured him and proved to him that it hadn't been written on before—he was a very strict guy—he told me I could start. So I did.

Hodak: Did you, in effect, take a sabbatical to complete your doctorate?

Carter: Yes, you have to. Before you finish, you have to put in one year of residence. First of all, in my day, you couldn't do your doctorate degree where you were working. I understand they are doing it now; but in my day you couldn't do that. You had to go somewhere else. So I decided to take my sabbatical leave. I'd been coaching for a long time and thought it would be good for me to do a little research and studying. So I took my sabbatical leave, which you had to file for ahead of time. It takes awhile to get through because you've got other people in the department who are trying to get it too. So I took my sabbatical leave in the beginning and got that out of the way. In my day, you had to have 28 units of required subjects in four fields to get a degree like I have. And at the end, you take a qualifying exam, which is really hard. It's a half a day each, on four fields—and that covers the waterfront, I tell you. I met all kinds of people who had taken all their courses for a doctorate degree and then get to the qualifying exam and not pass it. They'd either not try to pass it, not even take it, or fail when they'd take it. At UCLA, where I took mine, it took two days—four half-days, a half-day on each subject. Then, when you finish that—if you pass—you can go before the doctoral committee and have your topic accepted and start on your dissertation, which took me about three or four years. Then you go before an oral

committee for an oral exam on your dissertation. If you pass that, then you've got it made, if you can get by the person who okays your format. There are three big hurdles after you finish all this other stuff, and one of them is getting your dissertation accepted by the library.

Hodak: Now, I don't know that you can compress all your research and findings into five or ten minutes or so, but what were some of the things you came up with in your research?

Carter: Well, there were several. There is better prenatal care today than there used to be. There is better postnatal care today than there used to be. This is much improved over what it used to be. Another thing that is very important, and to which they are paying a lot of attention these days, is the diet. Another one is the kind of exercises you use. When I was competing, weight training was taboo; today it's in. It's the thing to do. All people are in some form of weight training. They don't necessarily see how much they can lift, they work with lighter weights. Of course, all the weight men do the heavy weights to try to see how much they can lift, and it has made them much stronger.

Another big change that is very important is that originally coaches were usually retired baseball players or retired boxers or ex-football or ex-basketball players. In the beginning, they were the ones that usually coached track, like [Glenn] "Pop" Warner. He coached track and he was a famous football coach. There were a lot of people like that. Track was just an added duty to the main one. And today, the coaches are well-trained in science. They have taken courses in kinesiology and physiology and know all about the muscles and the bones. They've taken health and nutrition courses and are well-trained. The coaches today have gone through school and have had to take a lot of science and they are well-trained; whereas they never used to be trained in the beginning. My original coach, Joe Pipal, was a former preacher. He also coached football. And my high school coach, the first coach they ever had at my high school.

was an ex-rugby player from England who came to Stanford to do some graduate work, got a teaching certificate and came to our high school and taught science. The principal of the school coached some of the sports, and she was a woman. Some of the other teachers would come out and help coach. They didn't even change their clothes. They came out in the same suits they taught the classes in. So, you see, today your supervision and teaching in track and field is a lot different. They are well-trained, very well-trained. They go to clinics and learn from other people. People don't keep their theories a secret anymore. They write them up and publish them or they can go to conventions and speak about their system. So you learn new ideas all the time.

Also, the training today is different, much different. We never used to go out for track until after January 1st. Nobody went out for track in the fall. I never went out for cross-country in college. I ran one cross-country race, with no training at all, just one race. They had a team and they had cross-country meets, but cross-country was not looked upon as a good training because they said, "Well, you're running on the hard streets, the pavement. Don't do that." All that changed. Now, everybody goes out for road racing and in the fall they all go out for cross-country and run over the hills—cross-country courses usually go over some hilly area—and they get in their distance work. There is a saying in track: "It depends what you did six months before this race, how well you'll do today." In other words, you don't wait until the track season is here to start training. Now, they train year-round. Most of them are training at least ten months or more. Not only that, they train twice a day—train in the morning and train in the afternoon—because most of them are on scholarships or some sort of sponsorship, being sponsored by the Olympic Committee or somebody.

The facilities are another big change in the way track and field is coached and conducted. As far as the facilities and the equipment, most all our tracks, I would say all of them, were 140-yard tracks.

Now a lot of them are 400-meter tracks and, as you know, 400 meters is a little bit shorter than 440 yards. A little bit over a meter. All new tracks are being made on a 400-meter basis because they are trying to conform with the rest of the world and have everything in metric measurements. However, it has a drawback, because people in the stands don't know what 3.92 meters is in the high jump. They haven't the slightest idea in the world how much that is. So you have to translate it for them to understand how high they are jumping.

Anyhow, the facilities are much different today. The surfaces are different—that is one of the main differences, besides the standard size of the track. A standard track has 110-yard, or 100-meter straightaways and 100-meter curves. Some might be a little longer and narrower, and others might be a little bit wider and shorter, but just as long as it's the right distance, that's the most important thing. And the surfaces are different today. We are coming to this all-weather surface, made out of tartan materials like Rekortan and Pro-Turf. There must be at least 12 different new names for these surfaces. And they make a smooth, even surface. These tartan surfaces are all very similar. They are made of hard, compacted rubber that doesn't bounce or give. There are no low places, no high places, and no holes. In the olden days, they'd dig holes for the starts and then fill up the holes. Sometimes those holes would be soft and a guy would come along and step in that and sprain his ankle. I had that happen once. A star decathlon man stepped in the hole and it took him out of the season for track. Well, you don't have those things happen anymore because they are all smooth. There are no holes. They don't allow them to dig holes; they have starting blocks. So the tracks are all smooth and level and even. They're all measured and surveyed and checked out beforehand.

Hodak: So athletes certainly benefit from this uniformity.

Carter: They sure do. The lanes are all marked so they can be seen, with painted lines on this new material. They're made so that they are

all-weather. If it rains, the water will go to the inside and drain out. One of the most important things in building a new track is drainage. Everybody takes that into consideration when they build a track. The runways for the high jump, pole vault, triple jump, and long jump, are all made out of the same material as the track, and are all level. The areas for the javelin are the same way and have a tartan surface to run on. The shot, discus and hammer are all thrown on concrete rings. They're made out of concrete so they are smooth and level, with no holes. That was a big problem with the shot put in the early days, even the discus, because every time they would pivot in the discus to turn around, they'd dig a hole with their spikes. And in the shot, they would drag their foot across the ring and make a regular furrow. They don't have that problem anymore. It is all smooth and level. They don't even have to have track shoes; they use flat-soled shoes today.

On the track itself, and the runways, all the track people have to have short spikes, approximately one quarter inch, if they have any spikes at all. They won't allow you on the track with long spikes anymore, because it really tears up the track. The pits for high jumping and pole vaulting are made so you can land on them without getting hurt. In the early days we used to have sand, then we had shavings; now we have sponge pits.

They have areas all set aside for the shot, discus, the javelin and the hammer. Most of the hammer throws are thrown off the field. I'm afraid we are going to come to the time when the javelin and the discus are going to have to be thrown off the field because they are thrown too far.

Hodak: So, based on your research and what you have observed since, do you see that there are possible limits to certain events, in times and distances?

Carter: I would not say that. A coach said that once. He put down on

paper what he thought the mark would be when they reached the end, and thought that nobody could surpass that mark. They passed his marks within five years. (laughter) It was amazing, everybody's talking about it to this day. He was a prominent coach who had been a head Olympic coach and a college coach. He had been an athlete himself, a great athlete. His name was Brutus Hamilton. He's dead now, so he can't hear what I'm saying. But, he said this and it was written up. He was the coach at Cal for a long time and was the head coach for the 1952 Olympic team that went to Helsinki. But, I wouldn't dare make a prediction. They are running faster—I never thought they'd run 3:17 or whatever it is in the mile. That's unbelievable, just unbelievable!

Hodak: Well, for years four minutes was the barrier.

Carter: Right, when I was competing everybody was asking, would they ever break four minutes? But [Roger] Bannister did it. That broke the ice and a lot of people followed. But up until then, there was nobody that did it.

Of course, the use of starting blocks is probably one of the biggest things that has helped. I don't know the exact figures—there has been a lot of research on this—but it has cut down the time probably about two-tenths of a percent, one way or the other, making it faster. The starting blocks are up on top of the surface, whereas the holes were down below the surface. Everybody had to have a trowel to dig a hole with. Half the time it was where somebody else had dug a hole. And everybody has a different stance, so it caused problems all the time.

Hodak: When did starting blocks become commonplace?

Carter: Nineteen thirty-four. That's the first time they were legal. They had tried it before, but they were illegal. I remember Dink Templeton brought his Stanford track team to the Coliseum one time for a Pacific Coast Conference meet, and he insisted on his people

putting their hands up on blocks to raise them up higher. They disqualified every one of his track men. He didn't care, he was an ornery guy. He was probably one of the most popular track coaches that ever walked—his track men worshipped him, they were just waiting for him to say something. They looked at him like he was a priest. He was a young guy; he was called the "boy coach" because he began coaching the year after he graduated. And he just loved to tangle with Dean Cromwell. Dean Cromwell was older and thought he was a lot better and, of course, he had championship teams all the time. But Dink Templeton was very successful.

Hodak: So he was one of the innovators in establishing the starting block?

Carter: Yes. He wasn't the guy who started it, but he experimented with things. Now, they have a rule that you have to start with starting blocks, up to and including the 400 meters. You can't stand up and you can't dig a hole either. Of course, there is no place to dig a hole on most of these tracks anyhow. Starting blocks are a great help to the sprinters for making faster times, no question about it. They have already done research on it, and the studies prove it. So there is one thing that was very important as far as equipment was concerned on the track.

In the field events, there has been a number of things. For example, you have these fiberglass poles in the pole vault. They learned how to bend the pole so it snaps them back and throws them over. You have to be sort of a gymnast. It throws them in the air and they can go a lot higher than they could with a bamboo pole. So that changed the pole vaulting and they are now up to almost 20 feet. Nineteen feet, seven or eight inches, this last record was made by [Sergei] Bubka of Russia. He's up there close to 20 feet now. He couldn't do that with anything but a fiberglass pole—nobody could. For example, our first 16-foot pole vault record in the Easter Relays was done with a fiberglass pole. So you see how they have learned how to use it.

And they have done some other things. In the javelin . . . the Held brothers—Bud Held was a great javelin thrower and his brother Dick was a manufacturer of javelins. They learned a lot of things about balancing the javelin. They did research on hollow shafts and wooden shafts and all kinds of things. They got the thing out so they could throw it over 300 feet, which was unheard of in my day. Nobody ever dreamed they'd throw over 300 feet. Well, one day I saw a world-record throw of 327 feet on UCLA's track when I was officiating down there. But it's more than that now. They throw so far you couldn't throw it in the infield, they are afraid of killing somebody. So now they have invented a new javelin that they can't throw that far. It's balanced in such a manner that they can't throw it that far. They haven't even gotten it up to 300 yet—it's 260 or 270 feet, around in there. And that's Petranoff and all those fellows from Europe. By changing the grip on the javelin and the aerodynamic design, making it so that it will not go so far when it comes down, they can still be thrown in the infield. Otherwise, they would have to take it out of the infield like they did the hammer. There are not very many places where they throw the hammer in the infield anymore. There was one fellow killed about two years ago, a sportswriter over in Bakersfield or Fresno. He had his clipboard and was outside of the sector—you know these all have sectors to throw within—and he wasn't paying attention and the hammer didn't go where he thought it was going to go and it hit and killed him. The hammer is a 16-pound weight with a 4-foot wire on the end of it. And they throw it out there a long ways. They're throwing it out there close to 270 feet. So it is getting so dangerous that there are not very many places where they throw the hammer on the field.

Now in your jumping events, they still haven't figured out a way of helping a high jumper very much. And the long jumper and the triple jumper are still on their own. There's nothing much helping them. Of course, the runways on the jumps might help, but there is not much else that is helping the high jumper, the triple jumper or the long jumper, except just your own technique and ability.

Now, as far as the technique, they're experimenting on that all the time. And they keep trying to do something different about training. You've got to have speed and spring to be any good in the long jump. Speed and spring is the key. If you don't have that, you're not going to jump very far. Then you have to learn the technique—either the hip swing or the hitch kick, one or the other—to do any good. And you learn how to land in the pit without sitting on your fanny. Not every coach knows how to teach them that. I'm amazed when I go to these track meets and see them sitting down in the sand. One time I asked a coach, I said, "How come the coaches don't teach their long jumpers how to land in the pit?" He said, "What do you mean?" And I said, "Well, there's a way of landing so you can pivot, one way or another. All you have to do is keep one leg straight and release the knee on the other one. You go the way that is easiest for you to go." But, you know, I tell that to some people and they just look at me. I see world-class athletes sitting down in the pit. They lose a whole foot. You see, the idea is to get your feet out in front of you with straight legs so that you can try to figure out some way so you won't go down. That's the problem right there.

Hodak: No equipment can solve that problem?

Carter: No, that's technique. That is technique that has to be learned and of course, they have to be strong and be able to get up in the air. There is a lot to it. I learned a lot from that Visser. I've learned a lot from my athletes over the years. You learn from your athletes.

Hodak: One other thing that I want you to go into would be your work as a track official. When did you take that up?

Carter: I took up officiating the year after I retired from coaching track. When I was coaching, I was always getting the officials for our track meets anyhow. The guy that followed me is lucky because I got all the officials. Well, that led me into this officiating, and I was asked

to be a commissioner for our area, which covers Santa Barbara and Ventura County. When I did that, they started sending me invitations to officiate down in Los Angeles at the Forum, the Sports Arena and the big meets over at UCLA, Oxy and USC. In the beginning I was one of three commissioners. Andy Bakjian was the commissioner of officials for Southern California and later became national commissioner of officials for the whole United States. In fact, he became a referee for the track events for the Olympic Games in 1984. So, I started getting these invitations to all these things and I just stayed with it. It lasted 23 years, and then I finally decided it was time for a younger man to take over. All during that time I conducted clinics and taught people how to be an official. A lot of people don't realize that there are approximately one to two pages of changes in rules each year. But you try telling that to some old-time official and he will hardly believe it. Some of these officials haven't looked at a rule book in years. In fact, when I first started, you just grabbed anybody you could get to time or judge an event, whether they knew anything or not. You just had to get somebody to run it off. But now we are more particular. We try to get people who are knowledgeable and know how to officiate. In this area we have up to 30 certified officials. There are four categories that you go through before you become a master official. In order to become an Olympic official you have to be a master official and you have to be there five years. I was one of 200 officials for the 1984 Olympic Games, and every one of them was a master official. They were picked from across the United States. There were about 650 applications and they selected 200. A lot of good officials didn't get selected because there were some politics involved in certain areas, just like everything else. But, by and large, the greatest number of them knew what they were doing. Anyhow, they went through a process and were judged by seven different people, the final committee. They had to fill out applications and get letters. You know, you couldn't really get by all of it. There were a few cases where people got in when I thought there were others that were better, but you can't help that.

Hodak: So you must have felt somewhat honored to have been chosen.

Carter: Oh, yes. I was one of four people who had been on an Olympic team, competed as an Olympian, and then served as an Olympic official. There were four in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. It's amazing . . . I asked somebody, "What happened to all these Olympic athletes? How come they just disappear?" (laughter) What happens to them?

Hodak: Some of them get interviewed for this project. What events did you officiate in the 1984 Olympics?

Carter: I was what they call an umpire for the track events, watching for infractions of rules, such as running in lanes. You're not allowed to run on the lines or run off the track and run back in, or cut off a distance. If it's an accidental step-off, you come right back on. It is all a matter of judgment whether you gained anything by it. If the officials don't think you gained anything by it, they won't do anything.

Hodak: You mean an unfair advantage?

Carter: Yes, an unfair advantage. The first thing you do when you call a foul is to fill out this form, and then they come to you and say, "Well, do you think the fellow gained any advantage on the other fellow? Or did you think that fellow interfered with the other fellow so he didn't get to run as fast as he should?" So you have a lot of little things there to go by. I was an umpire—over in Europe they're called umpires, in this country they are called inspectors—and you watch for infractions of rules while they are running. For example, no pushing—you don't cut in on somebody unless they have a stride, and you don't make them stop or push them out of the way. If you accidentally touch them somehow, you don't call that, but if you push the guy so he falls down, then you're in trouble. Like in a relay, after you run one lap and in the turn you break for the pole . . . well, if you break too soon.

before you're supposed to, there is a line there with a flag and there are two officials there. So if a guy cuts over before he gets there he is taking unfair advantage by running a shorter distance because everybody starts with a handicap, you know, a stagger.

Another thing I watched for is running over the hurdles to see that they don't drag their foot. A lot of times a guy will drag his foot on the inside. You've got to watch for that. The toe goes over below the level of the crossbar. It's pretty hard for the middle ones to do it because they might knock a hurdle down. But they do do that sometimes.

Hodak: You mean either on the outside or inside hurdle?

Carter: They do it mostly on the turns. But they have done it other ways and in other places too. I've seen them run on the line or inside the other lane for quite a distance. They're just not paying attention. The general rule is if you run three steps out of your lane, they won't do anything to you. If you keep doing it, or run further than that, then you're in trouble. Then, there's the exchange in the relays—watching to see that the baton is passed within the zone.

Hodak: There tends to be a lot of controversy over that?

Carter: Yeah, the fellow who drops the baton has to pick it up, not the fellow it was intended for. And he has to pick it up and pass it to the other man, and you can't throw it. You watch for all kinds of things. Inspectors have a red flag and a white flag. If he sees a foul, he holds up the red flag. The starter waits to see that all inspectors on the zones have the white flag up; that means that everybody is all ready. If you have the red flag up that means you're not ready.

Hodak: Well, aside from any infractions, what about the 1984 Olympics in general. Did anything strike you as particularly remarkable in

terms of athletic events? What were you able to witness?

Carter: Well, I was down on the track so I was about as close as I could get to the competition, which was great. One of the greatest races I ever saw in my whole life . . . I think it was the 800 meters in the Olympic tryouts. Four guys got under . . . I don't remember now, I think it was under 1:45 or something. They were all 1:41, all four of them. I thought that was tremendous. I had never seen that before. And the relay teams, our relay teams especially, did very well, both men and women. Excellent! They were just out of this world. Of course, they were running on our home court and had everything to their own advantage. And they didn't have the Russians there or the East Germans down their throats. But, they were excellent. I thought Evelyn Ashford ran awfully well in the 100 meters. I don't know if she ran the 200 or not. I think that Valerie Briscoe-Hooks ran the 200 and the 400. But Ashford, she really ran well in the 100 meters and in the relay. She ran the anchor on the relay. They were excellent, that relay team.

Carl Lewis, of course, was out of this world in his 100 and 200 meters. He was at the top of his training, I guess. He hit the right spot at the right time. He got into a hassle over his long jump because he didn't want to keep on jumping. You know, it was cold out there. I was out there on the field when that happened and I don't blame him. It was cold, he had to wait, and he thought he'd already jumped far enough. He was leading—he was at 28 feet something—and nobody was going to be near him. But they got on him because he didn't take all his jumps. One jump he had was a foul and one was a legal jump. He just had two jumps and they wanted to see him jump all six of his jumps. Well, they never got through harassing him over that. Some are still complaining about that. I know the athletes are temperamental. Sometimes they aggravate the officials and aggravate people. But he just didn't feel like he wanted to take those extra jumps.

I also witnessed probably the most talked about thing that happened in the whole '84 Olympic Games and that was the problem with Mary Decker [Slaney] and Zola Budd. I was a judge on that turn. And there were also other judges there. They had us both on the inside and the outside. All the judges were approximately 20-30 yards apart. I was on the outside, right opposite where this took place—not where she fell down, but where the problem started. I was right near the water jump, on the outside. Zola Budd insisted on running in the second lane because she wanted to run alongside of Mary Decker. Of course, she runs farther when she does that. But she is not a smooth runner. She doesn't have good style in running, as far as I'm concerned, being an ex-track coach. She swings her arms from side to side, sort of a rounding effect, She doesn't swing them ahead like most runners do. Also, she has a tendency to be a side-winder to a certain extent, which means one of her legs flops up out here. Now, Decker is a very smooth runner. She has an even stride that is practically effortless. And here's this gal running alongside of her who felt, I imagine, that she could run better by running along with her, even though she had to run farther. But all of the sudden, on one turn, she decides to cut in on her, just like that. She didn't have even a foot, all she had was her shoulder. Her left shoulder was ahead of Decker's right shoulder. She just cut in like that. Decker threw her arms up like this—she didn't touch her, but she should have—and stopped, almost completely, to keep from having a collision. That was on the turn. Well, when Zola Budd, got ahead of her, she slowed down. And when they got around the turn, two more people came up, an English girl—another girl from the same country that Zola was running for—and [Maricica] Puica from Romania. Puica ended up winning it. They came up on the outside from the rear and here's Zola Budd in front, and the English girl gets up there by her. Then there's Decker behind Zola Budd and over here is this Puica. There's four of them, right together. They just closed in like an accordion. Well, Decker, with her long stride, didn't have anyplace to go so she stepped on Zola Budd's heel. And Decker fell down. It could have been Zola Budd, and it

could have been the other way.

Kodak: So technically, was that an infraction?

Carter: Sure, the infraction was made in front of me, so I raised up my plaque—they gave us little red plaques to hold up when we had a foul—and I started filling out the form. The first thing I did was go over to put a piece of tape on that mark, about where she did this. We were all supposed to do this, carry a little piece of tape in your pocket, tear it off and put it on the track where it happened. Then you write out what you saw. I called a foul and signed it. A guy came over and took it and, supposedly, took it down to the referee. Well, I had my name on there and everything, but they didn't do a thing about it.

Hodak: So the infraction was not really acknowledged?

Carter: The guys who were on the turn didn't call the foul on Budd. I was the only one to call the foul. I talked to them afterwards and they said it was just as much Decker's fault as it was the other one's. And I said, "But the other one crossed over." But, of course, they didn't see that. She had started it back there on the turn. So they didn't do anything about it, never even told us, never made any report to this day. I saw the referee, Andy, a friend of mine, and I said, "Did you know that I turned in that foul?" He said, "Well, I knew that there was a report that came in from down there on the turn." And I said, "That was me!" He didn't seem to know it. He was the one that appointed me as a commissioner here.

Hodak: And did this pretty much conclude your officiating career?

Carter: No, I am still officiating. I stayed with the commissioner's job one more year; I didn't want them to think I just did the Olympics and quit. So, I kept it one more year and then turned it over to a fellow that had been officiating a long time with me, one of my ex-athletes. I still officiate at meets out here. I work them if it

doesn't rain. I don't work any meets in the rain or the wind—I quit that. I don't work any meets on Sunday either. No Sunday meets and no rainy meets. Because at my age . . . well, they can get somebody else to do it.

Hodak: Now, I know you also have some thoughts on changes, aside from equipment and facilities, in how track and field and amateur sport in general has changed over the years.

Carter: I have some definite thoughts on that. The philosophy of the athlete today is almost completely different than when I was competing. I never heard athletes talk about how much money they were getting and being paid for doing this or doing that. It started, though, about the time I was competing. They were talking about it in certain places but I never actually saw it. But today, when you go to recruit some of these people, the first thing they say to you is, "What's the deal?" One of these athletes pulled that on me once when I was still coaching and I said, "What do you mean? 'What is the deal?'" He said, "Well, how much am I going to get?" I said, "You don't get anything, nothing. If you want some help, we might be able to help you find you a place to stay, or find you a part-time job, or maybe get you a grant or some aid to help pay your tuition. But there isn't any deal. Where did you get that, 'what's the deal?'" It made him mad and he didn't come. He went to another school that gave him a "deal." Basically, the philosophy now is: You go where you get the best deal. You don't go there because it is a school you want to go to. Half of these athletes are not going where they want to go, they are going because they got something that they couldn't get somewhere else, or they got something they thought was worth it. They will say that they picked out the place, but half the time it's not so. I know because they have pulled it on me many times.

Another thing is that some athletes today never work. I know one star athlete . . . he quit and he had a scholarship and everything. He was a star athlete, one of the best in the world, and had been

for a number of years. He was given a job on the campus and he didn't feel that it was right that he had to work. I don't know whether it was that or whether he thought that the job was degrading—it was some kind of a gardening job or something. But he refused. So, he left after his freshman year. And the guy has been on three Olympic teams. So you have people, a lot of them, that don't do a thing. You know, you've heard the old saying: "All he did was wind a clock." Well, that's more true than you think. If all he had to do was wind a clock, that means they're not doing anything, but they have some way of covering up for it. They are doing something that's supposed to be the same as work. But the idea is to get a scholarship or sponsorship somehow and not have to do anything for it.

Hodak: Other than compete.

Carter: Right. They do want to compete. But a lot of these athletes are competing because they are getting something for it. They are not competing because it is something that they want to do more than anything else in the world. They are doing it because they are either getting something or they think it's going to help them get something in the end. And I'm not talking about a job. They think they are maybe going to become a pro or they're going to get something eventually. As a matter of fact, as I mentioned to you before, quite a few of these athletes today are like what we used to call "tramp-athletes." They are competing year in and year out. I've seen some of them who have been doing it for ten years or more; doing nothing, living a life of ease. They are getting paid by some committee or some fund somewhere. Somebody's helping them. And they're getting help now from the Olympic Committee, which is a wonderful idea, but I still think that these people should be doing something and at least preparing for life. They should be preparing themselves for the time when they may have to work. They should know what kind of work they are going to do and get a little experience at it before the time comes. Also, I think that if they're going to go to school and get all this help, they should at least

graduate and get a diploma. You know, it's in the paper every day. You'd be surprised how many of them don't have degrees. They go there for four or five years or longer, they redshirt them, you know . . . then to come out with no degree. Look at this Len Bias—four years and didn't even have one year's worth of credits.

Hodak: I think colleges are trying to reach more of a balance. At least you see a lot of discussion of that.

Carter: Well, some schools are. But they are not all doing it. Of course, you always hear about the bad ones. You don't hear about all the good guys who go out and get degrees.

Another change, and it is a big change, started in about 1968, I believe. That's politics. They are using the Olympics for politics. Starting with 1968, in Mexico, some of the people tried to use the Olympics to bring out their cause. They tried to disrupt the Olympics and caused a lot of trouble. In fact, some of them got killed because the President of Mexico wasn't going to stand by and watch them stop the Olympics. So, the police cleaned them out. Then, some of our athletes got up on the stand down there, held their fists in the air, and rolled up their pants to show that they had on black socks. I don't know what that was supposed to be for. And they didn't stand at attention; they talked, laughed and carried on. They never used to do things like that. In 1972, two more American athletes on the stands were talking and laughing; one was first place and one was second place. And when they were playing the national anthem, they just made it look like it wasn't important. Then, in 1976, at least seven or eight nations pulled out and didn't come to the Olympics in Montreal.

Of course, back in 1972, assassins went in there and killed several members of the team from Israel. Another time, I remember there was something about marching around the stadium during the Opening Ceremonies. There were some that tried to use it for some political cause by making remarks and having it printed in the

paper. In other words, they are using the Olympics for politics—which they didn't used to do. They'll probably refute me on this. But I was on the team, and I tried out for the team in 1924, and I never heard anything about politics. I think it started here in 1968.

Hodak: Well, it certainly took on a bigger scale. Do you see any way around boycotts and other problems?

Carter: Well, I think somebody's got to put up a rule. I don't know who did it. I think [Juan Antonio] Samaranch said that if they boycott, they don't get invited next time. It's all invitational anyhow, so just don't invite them the next time. If they want to boycott, let them boycott.

And another thing—it's too costly. It's outrageous what they have done, how they have made it into an extravaganza. I don't think anybody could duplicate the extravaganza they had down in Los Angeles in 1984, with the Opening Ceremonies and the Closing Ceremonies. They just went all out, just like a Hollywood production, having a guy flying through the air and landing on the track with some kind of a little plane. I don't know how they did that but they did it.

Also, a lot of people are competing for material things, not because they want to run in the Olympics. They do want to run in the Olympics but they're also running for something else, they think. The bottom line is that they are using the Olympics for a purpose other than what it was intended for in the beginning. It was supposed to be for the love of competition; it wasn't so much to win as it was that you took part. And a lot of them are not doing that now. We've sent teams to Europe to compete in these big meets over there and some of the athletes go somewhere else to compete because they are going to get paid, or get paid more. When you compete for your country, you don't get paid. But they can compete in other places on their own and get paid. That's happened to our teams

going to Europe, and that is wrong. So that's about all I've got to say on that. It's just not the same.

Hodak: What advice would you give to coaches or athletes? What sort of things come to mind that you think need to be stressed more often, other than these matters that you have just discussed.

Carter: Well, I thought this over because I knew you were going to ask me that question. There's two things that I would like to say. First, I think that some of these athletes have too much competition, especially when they are young and developing. There's too much, too many meets . . . competing every Saturday somewhere. I have seen and heard of athletes going back East on a plane, running somewhere indoors on a Friday night, and running in another place on Saturday night. You know why they do it? Because they get paid and some of them get a lot of money. I know a kid who should have made the Olympic team but he did that all winter before the Olympic tryouts. And when it came Olympic time he wasn't there. He had worn himself out.

They do too much running too young. They should enjoy life while they are growing up and developing, but be careful. I don't mean that you have to just isolate yourself and hole up somewhere and not see anybody or go anyplace or do anything you would like to do. I think you should try to live and enjoy life and be as natural as you can. But you've got to be careful. You've got to be careful about your social contacts. And you have to take care of your body. Now, you probably think it's funny to say something about social contacts, but that's a place where you get in a lot of trouble. The company you keep means an awful lot. If you're running around with a bad bunch, you're going to get yourself in some kind of trouble physically, or otherwise, by doing something you're not supposed to do. There have been athletes who have done that and it's mostly caused by the associations they make. That is very important, especially for young people.

And the accidents, that has eliminated a lot of people over the years. Accidents, just simple little accidents Sometimes it happens because you get mad at somebody and have a fight, or you bang up your knee or your shoulder, or you do something to yourself and it doesn't get well like you thought it would. Of course, you didn't do it on purpose in the first place, but there are all kinds of accidents. I told one kid this year who looked like a great pole vault prospect, I said, "If you take care of yourself, don't get in trouble and don't get hurt, you've got a great future." This guy came down here for our Easter Relays from Atascadero. I never saw him before, but he went over that pole vault and landed way out in the pit. This Richards kid was competing there. Bob Richards' son from San Marcos, and he beat that kid by two feet. He just went over that pole and landed out there in the pit just as pretty as you please. He was a tall, slender kid and he'd come out here from someplace in Illinois so he could have a little more sunshine.

So, I would say everyone should prepare for life and learn some kind of an occupation, learn how to do something. And, get a diploma—a high school diploma, a college diploma, a city college diploma, or some kind of diploma that shows that you have some education. It will help you get a better job, a better occupation. And in regard to that, I have heard this said, "Nothing takes the place of education and brains." I know a fellow, a friend of mine, who was selling bonds and securities a long time ago, and I was asking about his company and he says, "It's a good company because it has a smart man running it. Nothing takes the place of brains." Well, I am adding education. There have been lots of kids that could have done well in school but they always had some excuse why they didn't go to school and finish. They've always got an excuse.

Hodak: Well, certainly there is life after athletic competition and it's best to be prepared for that.

Carter: They don't realize this is not going to go on forever, getting these

little handouts.

Hodak: I can appreciate your sentiments on that level. Now, as a sort of general summary, I'd like you to talk about the significance of sports in your life. Certainly, your interview reflects that. But is there anything, in summary form, that you'd like to add?

Carter: Sports have made a great deal of difference in my life. I was raised on a farm in Lompoc and always thought I would be a farmer just like all the rest of my relatives. I didn't go out for track until my junior year . . . just an accident, I guess. Anyhow, in such a small school anybody could make any team they went out for if they had time to do it. It wasn't that I didn't like farming or being a farmer, but it seemed like sports was an opportunity to get out and see the world a little bit better and get to do something else besides being a farmer, at least for a little while. I'm sure if I hadn't placed second place in that state meet I wouldn't have ever gone to Occidental College. I know that made it possible for me to go to school. And I think that has made a lot of difference in what I have done in my life.

There's another thing I learned from a friend who was one year ahead of me in high school. He went to Cal and tried real hard to get me to go up there. He told me that one of the most important things about going to college was the associations you made, and I never forgot it. I made some wonderful associations when I went to Occidental College and they made all the difference in the world. I'd have never been in Santa Barbara State College if it hadn't been for those associations.

Hodak: And you may never have attended the 1928 Olympics.

Carter: (Laughter) That's for sure, I wouldn't have. I didn't know anything about fraternities. And there's another thing about that; it opens doors for you. A lot of people have opportunities created for them through athletics that they otherwise wouldn't have ever

come in contact with. And because you were lucky enough to place somewhere in a meet or you went to the Olympics or you did something in athletics, you've met somebody that might be important to help you get a job or influence you somehow in life. I think it makes a lot of difference. It sure did with me. And I'm sure it has helped a lot of kids that went out for sports, all kinds of sports. The associations you make while you're going to school—that's important. I've told some guys, "Don't forget the associations you make." Some of those guys that I went to school with are now heads of this and heads of that, you know. Like Cliff Argue was on the Olympic Committee, and his son is now on it. It's fantastic what happens to these people when they go through the process.

Hodak: Well, I am pleased to have made the association I have with you. Is there anything else you would like to say before we conclude?

Carter: Well, I'd like to thank you. And I'd like to thank Anita DeFrantz for sending the letter and sending you here. I'm glad to get to meet you. You seem to be a very fine young man. I'm sure you're going to end up somewhere. You'll end up somewhere important and I'll say, "Well, I remember that fellow, he came to see me."

Hodak: (Laughter) Okay, Dr. Carter, I'll accept your compliments. More importantly, I thank you for all your time and cooperation on this project, as does the Amateur Athletic Foundation. I've thoroughly enjoyed visiting with you.

Carter: I hope some of the information I gave you will be helpful in some way.

Hodak: Oh, I am sure it will. And thanks again.