

MALCOLM W. METCALF
1932 & 1936 OLYMPIC GAMES
TRACK & FIELD



AN OLYMPIAN'S ORAL HISTORY
INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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AN OLYMPIAN'S ORAL HISTORY
METHODOLOGY

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

Family History

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

Education

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

Sport-Specific Biographical Data

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

General Biographical Data

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

General Observations

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

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

MALCOLM W. METCALF

1932 OLYMPIC GAMES - LOS ANGELES
JAVELIN

1936 OLYMPIC GAMES - BERLIN
JAVELIN

INTERVIEWED:

February, 1988
Claremont, California
by George A. Hodak

MALCOLM W. METCALF

Interviewer: George A. Hodak

Hodak: I'm in Claremont interviewing Malcolm Metcalf, who competed in the 1932 and 1936 Olympics in the javelin throw. Mr. Metcalf, first would you tell me when and where were you born?

Metcalf: I was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, on October 16, 1910.

Hodak: How large was your family?

Metcalf: I was number two in a family of five, the youngest being my sister who lives nearby.

Hodak: Tell me a bit about your father.

Metcalf: My father was number 11 in a family of 13 from Vermont. He was in real estate, a realtor.

Hodak: Was he an athlete?

Metcalf: He was a good athlete but he wasn't in any organized sports, not having gone on to high school or college. My mother was from Vermont also. I can vaguely remember my grandfather in Vermont. He was a blacksmith. He was the real genuine article. He was a big, strong man. I can just barely remember him from when I was a very young boy.

Hodak: So you received all your primary and high school education in Springfield?

Metcalf: Yes, in Springfield at Springfield Classical High School.

Classical meant that we all were headed for college and that we all took three languages. I think I had Latin, German and French before I got out of there.

Hodak: In addition to the emphasis on language, was there an emphasis on physical education?

Metcalf: Not much. I never went out for any sports. If you wanted to go out for a sport you traveled to a park about two miles outside of town. The high school itself occupied a solid downtown city block. There was a gymnasium but that's all.

Hodak: So how did you end up at Dartmouth? What determined your choice there?

Metcalf: I had a cousin that had gone to Dartmouth and a great, great, great relative who supposedly was a professor or an administrator at Dartmouth, on my mother's side of the family. I guess my family had decided for me along the way that I would go to college, and that I would go to Dartmouth.

Hodak: When you entered Dartmouth, were you at all involved in sports on any organized level?

Metcalf: No, not at all. I took the required recreation or physical education the first two years and that was about all.

Hodak: How did you drift into the javelin and track and field?

Metcalf: As I remember, somebody saw me throwing a football a long ways at the end of my junior year, and they decided I should throw the javelin. So I went out for both track and football in my junior year, which was the first time I had been in organized sports. I didn't make a letter in football but I just barely made a letter in the javelin in track. I also threw the shot and the discus, though not as well as I did with the

javelin.

Hodak: Who was your coach at Dartmouth?

Metcalfe: Harry Hillman, who was an Olympian from 1904, where he won three gold medals. He also competed in the 1908 Olympics, winning, I believe, a silver medal. As I remember, he and Lawson Robertson had set a world's record in the three-legged race; which probably still stands since that event doesn't exist anymore. (laughter) Harry Hillman was a hurdler and a sprinter.

Hodak: Was he of much help in the javelin throw?

Metcalfe: He wasn't that much of an expert in the javelin and he didn't pretend to be. In fact, he encouraged me to talk to other coaches and other athletes. All of them taught that back-behind, cross-step, which wasn't really that effective. That's the form that I used in my first year.

Hodak: Were you a bit of a natural as far as the javelin went?

Metcalfe: Well, I had a good throwing arm, which is the main thing. At the end of my junior year, I did go down to the intercollegiates in Philadelphia. I don't think I even came close to placing but I had a chance to watch Kenny Churchill from California, who won it then and had won it the two previous years. I noticed the direct hop that he took, a particular form. So after I got back, I went out in street clothes one day and tried throwing it a few times and found myself throwing it a lot further than I had ever thrown it before.

Then I didn't touch a javelin until March of my senior year. We went up to the University of Maine for an indoor track meet and I was expecting to compete in the 35-pound hammer throw, the shot and the discus. And they had a javelin. They had a

huge armory there and you could throw the javelin indoors diagonally across the thing. I threw several of them that bounced off of walls and went up into balconies and created a ruckus. I finally threw one out through a doorway and I had a friend that told me that that record still stands. He said, "Nobody could beat that unless they had a bow and arrow." Because you'd have to hit a target . . . it was a record for marksmanship. [laughter] They let me have another throw every time one of them bounced off a wall or something. From there on, in my senior year, I got better as I went along.

Hodak: And you went to the ICAAAA [Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America] meet your senior year?

Metcalf: Yes, and before that I went to the Penn Relays and dual meets. Then they had the Eastern Olympic tryouts in Boston and I went down to that just before we came to California, and I won that. Then, all the Eastern athletes boarded the train in New York. It was the first air-conditioned train ever to go all the way from coast to coast. We stopped in Chicago for a workout at Soldier Field, and then in Ogden, Utah, for a workout. We arrived in Berkeley, California, which was a real novelty to all of us because most of us had never been that far west—that was really different. Going to New York state was way out west from where I came from.

Hodak: This was the first ICAAAA on the West Coast?

Metcalf: Yes, it was the very first ICAAAA on the West Coast.

Hodak: How did you do in the meet?

Metcalf: I won it with a throw that I think just missed the intercollegiate and American record of Kenny Churchill, who was there. He had graduated the year before but he was around watching things. It missed his record by three quarters of an inch, I

think.

Hodak: Before we get to the Olympic tryouts themselves, there's a couple of questions I want to ask you about the javelin event itself. For one, how did you avoid shoulder injuries?

Metcalf: I didn't have a shoulder injury but I did have an elbow injury. I remember that for that meet they taped my elbow up so that it wouldn't fully extend. Later on that year, the trainers did the same thing for me.

Hodak: What was the prescribed training regimen in those days for a javelin thrower or other field men? Was weight training encouraged?

Metcalf: No, not really anything at all. We did a lot of throwing. I did too much throwing, that's how my arm became sore. We didn't have any weight programs. There was really no knowledge of that sort of thing at that time. I remember in 1932 talking with the Finnish athletes, and the thing that they did was to chop wood all winter. I know some Americans that did that. I think Lee Bartlett, who was on both teams with me, chopped wood in the wintertime as a training device.

Hodak: What about the javelin itself? Describe the material it was made from.

Metcalf: In my senior year we got hold of some of the new Finnish javelins, which were made of birch, and they didn't nose over and dive down as steeply. The old javelins that we used before were American-made and were terrible. The biggest problem was to get any glide out of them at all.

Hodak: How would you deal with the wind at various meets? Was that much of a problem?

Metcalfe: It was a problem. I can remember a meet at Syracuse University when the wind blew so hard that they had to cancel the pole vault and the high jump because they couldn't keep the bars on, and it just about blew the javelin back in our faces. The wind is a problem—it was then and I guess it still is. A very slight headwind is probably the ideal. But I'm not sure with these new type of javelins just how they do cope with the wind. I know that throwing the javelin in the Coliseum here in Los Angeles can be a problem with the afternoon wind.

Hodak: Let's talk about the tryouts for the 1932 Olympics. There were stages to the tryouts, the final stage being at Stanford.

Metcalfe: Yes, I qualified for the final stage, having won the intercollegiate and the Boston thing. And then the finals were at Stanford in Palo Alto. We were there a couple of weeks before the tryouts and practiced and worked out. They combined two track meets at the tryouts at Stanford. It was the AAU championships and the Olympic tryouts all in one. A strange thing happened: A number of the athletes, some of the real good ones, didn't do very well the first day and they didn't qualify for the second day. They allowed them to come back and compete. I remember [Richard] Barber of USC in the broad jump and then Kenny Churchill in the javelin throw, who was the favorite really. He wasn't in the top six that first day and he went home and thought it was all over with. Then he heard on the radio the next morning that they had changed things and he was allowed to re-enter the competition. He came dashing into the stadium without any time to warm up or anything, he just got there, and his first throw won first place on the Olympic team for him. But they gave me the AAU championship because I had won second place on the Olympic team. Kenny's distance didn't count as far as the AAU was concerned.

Hodak: Had you heard much of the Olympics prior to this? Was it

publicized heavily?

Metcalf: I was aware of it but I had not even had dreams of being on an Olympic team until about March of 1932. It came on me all of a sudden. There was no long term of preparation or anything like that. I was truly a Johnny-come-lately as far as the Olympics were concerned.

Hodak: So you stayed four more days at Stanford and then came down to the Olympic Village in Los Angeles.

Metcalf: Something like that, yes.

Hodak: How did you find the Olympic Village as quarters?

Metcalf: It was delightful. I remember they gave us a ticker tape parade through downtown L.A. out to the Olympic Village. I had one complication. When we got to the Olympic Village, I found my luggage had gotten lost along the way. I think it was the next morning, I was concerned with it and I walked down to the main office and I saw this man coming towards me that looked familiar. I thought he was one of the numerous officials, so I latched onto him and told him my problem. He walked back down to the office with me and somebody said, "What can we do for you, Mr. Rogers?" I looked at him and I thought, "I know who that is. That's Will Rogers!" He straightened it out for me. He was on his way up to visit Kenny Churchill, the javelin thrower from Hollister, because Kenny's dad had been a friend of Will Rogers. Will invited Kenny and I out to a luncheon at the Fox Studio that day. We had to get permission from the officials. That thing kind of snowballed. When we got out there, there was Kenny and I and a few other athletes and quite a good number of officials. I remember the first remark that Will Rogers made when he got up, he said, "Well, I'm glad some of you athletes came along with the officials." (laughter) And I remember another joke

he made. Paavo Nurmi, the famous Finnish runner, had that day been declared ineligible for professional reasons. A committee of eight international people . . . and Will Rogers said, "I see that Nurmi is finally defeated. He finished ninth; there were eight committeemen ahead of him." (laughter) That was Will Rogers' type of humor.

The most exciting thing that I remember was sitting across the table from Ginger Rogers, the movie actress. Then, Will invited several of us to go out and watch him play polo at the Riviera Country Club. We went out there and spent the afternoon watching him perform on horseback.

Hodak: Any other extracurricular activities that went along with the Olympic Games in 1932?

Metcalf: I remember seeing Olvera Street three times one night. We would go outside the Olympic Village and there were a lot of attractive young girls around. We'd sign autographs and they would undertake to show us L.A. But Olvera Street was interesting. It was different.

Hodak: Were you able to do much training prior to your event?

Metcalf: We worked out at Manual Arts High School. A number of the weight men from different countries were there. And there were several Argentine weight men—big, blond chaps speaking Spanish. I could speak Spanish somewhat, so I got to know them quite well riding back and forth on the bus. I knew them well enough that they invited me to the victory party of the Argentine, [Juan Carlos] Zabala, who won the marathon. He was just propped up on a bed there. He was so tired he could hardly sit up. And they celebrated with this mate', which is a drink in a little bowl. They put hot water in it and you stick in a straw and sip it and pass it on to the next person. I'm not sure just what kind of effect it had on us, but nobody was

unhappy as I remember.

Hodak: Were you pretty keyed up about your event?

Metcalf: I was pretty excited about it.

Hodak: Did you have ideas of placing, or did you have any expectations at all?

Metcalf: Not really, because the Finns were 15 feet ahead of us in their performances. I didn't do well at all. I think I fouled the first throw and was considerably below my expectations.

Hodak: What do you recall of the Finns themselves, their technique and performance?

Metcalf: Their technique is different, of course. They use that cross-over step that is in vogue today by most all the javelin throwers. We used the straight American hop, much like a shot putter does except it's on the run.

Hodak: Did you ever try the cross-step?

Metcalf: I tried it after the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. I worked out with a Finnish coach for a few days and found out that I could throw it as far that way as the other, but I didn't throw it further. Then I never did really compete again after that.

Hodak: Did you have much contact or interaction with any of the Finnish javelin throwers. [Matti Henrik] Jarvinen in particular?

Metcalf: Oh, yes, though I did more over in Berlin in 1936. I could speak German, having had four years of it in school, and of course they all spoke German. Some of them spoke English. I chatted with Matti. Matti was getting over an illness and wasn't at his best in Berlin. He did real well in L.A. though.

Hodak: So were you disappointed in your finish or did you take it pretty much in stride?

Metcalf: Well, you have your good days and you have your bad days.

Hodak: And simply being in the Olympics is an accomplishment in itself.

Metcalf: It was a surprise to me.

Hodak: What about the rest of your time in Los Angeles? Were there any events that really stand out in your memory?

Metcalf: I went two days. The first day I saw the high jump and I don't recall what the other events were.

Hodak: So your time was pretty wrapped up in preparation for your event?

Metcalf: They didn't encourage us to go to watch it. In Berlin too, they didn't forbid us—but they didn't encourage us to go either.

Hodak: Was there much fraternizing of various athletes?

Metcalf: Oh, yes, we all fraternized and used sign language or whatever.

Hodak: Were you impressed by the Opening and Closing Ceremonies in Los Angeles?

Metcalf: Yes, very much so, and even more so in Berlin. I think each year those Opening Ceremonies become more impressive.

Hodak: Were you invited to any competition following the Olympics in 1932?

Metcalfe: In 1932 they had the British Empire Games up in San Francisco and I thought I would be going up there for that, but they didn't take along a javelin thrower. They used the decathlon man, Jim Bausch, to represent us in the javelin. I don't know how Jim did. He played football too. He played for Kansas.

Hodak: Given your performance, your competition in the 1932 Games, were you intending to go out for the following Olympics in Berlin? Was this something you looked forward to?

Metcalfe: I intended to, but this was the deep, deep Depression and just keeping a job was a real difficulty. There weren't any track meets, except for college meets. I think the only competition that I entered into between 1932 and '36 was the Long Beach Relays a couple of times and the Santa Barbara Relays, and maybe a night meet or two at the Coliseum.

Hodak: And you would be competing unattached at these meets?

Metcalfe: Yes, unattached.

Hodak: So you moved to Los Angeles?

Metcalfe: I stayed in Los Angeles. I had my ticket to go back East but I had just graduated from college and I stayed in Los Angeles, where there were a lot of very loyal Dartmouth graduates. They fixed me up with a job as an extra in the movies for a couple of months. Then I went to work for the Mortgage Guarantee Company, right next to the Stock Exchange on Spring Street. I worked in an office for a while and later in property management. Another influential Dartmouth alumni was the personnel manager at Firestone Tire and Rubber Company. He talked me and a couple of my college classmates into coming out to work for Firestone. I did that until after the 1936 Olympics.

Hodak: How did you get lined up to take part in the 1936 tryouts?

Metcalfe: Well, along about March or April I thought I better start working out and practicing. There were various qualifying meets locally. There was one at Whittier and I've forgotten where else. I wasn't doing too well. But finally there was the Pacific Coast tryouts in the Coliseum, and I won that and did almost as well as I had ever done in my life. So I was in good shape.

One of the reasons that I didn't get to do anything during '32 and '36 was that the L.A. Athletic Club, which had sponsored a track team in the past, was out of existence during the Depression years. I think the Olympic Club in San Francisco still had a track team that would take them at least to the AAU meets each year. I would have loved to have competed in those, but they were far away and there was no way of getting there and no way of getting out of work in those days.

Hodak: This didn't present any problem for you, not having kept up a regular schedule of competition in those four years?

Metcalfe: Well, in those meets that I went into in 1933 and '34, I did almost as well as I had done before. I would run, go to the beach, play touch football, and I even played some tennis. So I wasn't in real bad physical condition.

Hodak: Tell me about the final Olympic tryouts in Randall's Island, New York.

Metcalfe: Yes, they were in New York. We got there a week or ten days ahead of time. They had a terrible heat wave in New York at the time. We stayed at a hotel in New York and we'd take our javelins up on the subway and go up to Baker Field, where Columbia's stadium is, up on the north end of Manhattan Island. We'd work out and then come back. We all lost a great deal of weight; partly from heat and partly from eating at the automat, I think. We paid our own way to get there—at least I

did anyway—and we couldn't dine out at the better places.

The day of the tryouts was to be the day that President Roosevelt would cut the ribbon to the [Triborough] Bridge leading over to Randall's Island. So that delayed proceedings for about an hour or so. I think my friend Lee Bartlett, from 1932, made the best throw in two days on his first throw. And my first throw was my best in those two days. There was a young chap from Texas by the name of Alton Terry who had recently set a new American record. He was in third place. We had all finished our last throw when a young chap from Oklahoma named Bobby Peoples still had a throw left. Well, Bartlett and I weren't worrying, but Terry was—because if Peoples popped one in there, why, he would go. But, as I remember. Peoples didn't quite do it. He later played football at USC and threw the javelin at USC. He also set a new American record a few years after that.

Hodak: So how much time between the tryouts and the point at which you would leave for Germany?

Metcalf: Oh, about four or five days. I remember one of the happier things in my life. My dad had been very, very sick and I hadn't seen him in four years, since 1932. I had just come back to the hotel from the first day's tryouts and a man walked up to me and grabbed me by the arm, and I immediately recognized him. It was my dad! He had come down to New York. His health was good enough that he could travel that much. He had come down to see me. The next morning, we had breakfast with Jesse Owens and some of the other famous people and he was really excited. Then the next day, when I finished and had made the team, he took over and said, "Make way for my son. He needs to get his passport." He had never seen me play football or compete in a track meet before, so I'm sure he enjoyed it. He passed away a few months later and that was the last time I ever really saw him. So I did go up to

my home in Springfield, Massachusetts, for about two days, and then came back to New York to make the boat.

One thing I remember was seeing Ben Eastman crying in the showers after failing to make the Olympic team. He had just set a new world's record a few weeks earlier but had had an off-day apparently. That's one criticism I would make. I think there's more pressure on American athletes to make the Olympic team than there is in the Olympics themselves.

Hodak: So it was a rather eventful journey for you, to New York and to Berlin?

Metcalf: It was. You know, it's a delightful vacation in the middle of the Depression, when otherwise there would have been no way I could have afforded a vacation like that.

Hodak: The financing was still rather tough? You had to come up with a lot of your own money?

Metcalf: They paid for everything, including our train fare all the way back to L.A. But we were in Europe for some meets afterwards—the British Empire Games and a meet in Paris and so forth. All we were allowed was a dollar a week for laundry. (laughter) It wasn't really sufficient. So we all ended up kind of in debt when the thing was over.

Hodak: Did you enjoy the travel on the *SS Manhattan*?

Metcalf: Oh, yes. The first day out they thought we should all stay on a training diet. We had all lost so much weight while in the heat of New York that they waived that and we were allowed to really eat. I gained eight pounds in five days.

Hodak: You took to the ocean travel rather well? It didn't present any problems?

Metcalf: No problems. It was good weather. There were a lot of things to do and a lot of people to meet and talk to. We did an awful lot of running around and around that upper deck to keep in shape.

Hodak: You couldn't throw much javelin, I suppose.

Metcalf: No, we couldn't do anything like that.

Hodak: How were you received upon coming into Hamburg? Was there a big reception?

Metcalf: Not in Hamburg. As I remember we went quickly from the ship to the train. Then we took a night train from Hamburg up to Berlin. I can remember our reception in Berlin. We came in about eight o'clock in the morning, into the train station, a big domed place. There were thousands of women and children there and a huge German band that was playing marches that just about deafened us. I think they probably greeted all of the incoming teams that same way.

Hodak: And then you went straight to the Olympic Village?

Metcalf: Yes. The Olympic Village was about 10 or 15 kilometers outside of Berlin, out in the country.

Hodak: And these were rather nice accommodations?

Metcalf: Yes, they were very nice accommodations. Each building slept about 20 or 25 people. Each room had four bunks in it.

Hodak: How did you determine who shared rooms?

Metcalf: I don't know. The officials took care of that. I can't even remember who my roommates were now.

Hodak: Who were the coaches for the 1936 track team?

Metcalf: Let's see, Brutus Hamilton, Dean Cromwell, of course, and Lawson Robertson. I'm not sure who the others were.

Hodak: What about the Opening Ceremonies in Berlin?

Metcalf: It was very impressive. I remember we were all lined up outside the stadium. All the nations were lined up and then Hitler and his entourage of about 15 or 20 officials came out of a little gate and walked down the middle of that. All the Americans, of course, broke ranks and rushed up to get a good look. I got to look at Hitler from about 15 or 20 feet away. I didn't have my javelin with me or I could have changed world history. (laughter) He looked a little bit disturbed when he saw all these people rushing towards him. But he was well surrounded, he didn't need to worry.

Hodak: Did you see much of Berlin before the Olympics? I think you had ten days before the Olympics started.

Metcalf: We were there quite a few days after we competed, too. We saw a lot more of it afterwards. I spoke fluent German so I went into Berlin a great deal. I think they had a sign-up list wanting to know when I'd be going the next time. I went in one day with the other two javelin throwers, and everywhere we'd go to shop they would say, "You explain to them." I got even with them when they went into the restroom. They couldn't tell *herren* from *damen* so I steered them into the ladies restroom and they came out of there with some woman with an umbrella, beating it on their backs. (laughter)

Hodak: Were you besieged by German reporters wanting to take advantage of an American with a knowledge of German?

Metcalf: On board ship I was. When we docked at Cuxhaven the

German reporters came aboard and there was one that someone had steered towards me. He found out I spoke German and he wanted to get up to the A-deck where Eleanor Holm Jarrett and the movie people were. I said, "I can't go up there." But he said, "Go with me." So I went with him to help him translate and to introduce him to people. How he did with interviewing, I don't know. I got to hobnob with the elite for a brief period of time.

Hodak: Were you able to meet many German people?

Metcalf: Oh yes, we met a great deal of them. One day, Bartlett, Terry and I were in Berlin and we had all our uniforms on so everyone would know who we were. We were signing autographs in a little place where we were eating. We spotted three very attractive young ladies at a table who were sitting there amused by it all. So Bartlett and Terry insisted I go over and talk to them and get their phone numbers. Well, one thing led to another and the next day they met us and took us out to Sans Souci, the resort of the kings outside of Berlin. And we saw the Unter den Linden and all the rest of it. Then we went out with them several evenings and really enjoyed their company.

Hodak: And all this was prior to the Games?

Metcalf: I think it was after we competed.

Hodak: Tell me what you recall of the javelin competition in 1936.

Metcalf: It was a cold day. The German officials were very, very strict. They didn't let you run around and warm up. I can remember I had a sweat suit on, a towel around my neck, and a trenchcoat on top of that trying to keep warm. On my first throw I got down to the head of the runway and was all ready to go and the official stepped out and told me to stop: "*Der*

Fuhrer is coming." And old Hitler came on in. Of course, there was the "*seig heil!*" all the way around. By the time that had all settled down, I was colder yet. I didn't do very well on my first throw. I didn't do too well on the other two either, actually. It was not one of my better days. I also remember I was wearing a truss for a hernia, which is a common injury for javelin throwers.

Hodak: Did you bring your own javelin for this or were you provided with one?

Metcalfe: I had a javelin that I brought with me to practice but . . . I'm not sure, I don't recall. If we did have our own javelins, I know they had to be checked in and approved.

Hodak: Do you recall watching the finals of the javelin?

Metcalfe: I was in the finals of it, of course.

Hodak: As you mentioned earlier, Jarvinen, the 1932 winner, I believe had a back injury that kept him from finishing higher. He finished fifth in 1936.

Metcalfe: That's right. A German by the name of Gerhard Stoeck won it. His form was kind of a combination of the Finnish and the American. He did the double cross-over step with a little hitch-step at the end of it. He also won a bronze in the shot put three or four days earlier. He was a very interesting chap. I could talk with him in German.

At the time in the United States, there were fuzzy sweaters that everybody wore. I had one of these blue, fuzzy sweaters that I was wearing around the Village and it attracted quite a lot of interest. I remember Gerhard Stoeck was asking me about that and I told him, in German, that there was a blue bear that I had shot in the Rocky Mountains. He didn't quite

buy it, but he didn't know whether to question it or not either. (laughter) A number of athletes wanted to know where they could get one. All I could tell them was Sears Roebuck, Chicago, Illinois. I think I was the only one that happened to be wearing one of those fuzzy, blue sweaters.

Hodak: Did you see any other events, or was it more like the 1932 Olympics where you were—

Metcalf: The day I competed was when Jesse Owens had his real battle in the broad jump with the German [Lutz Long]. He was tied there for a bit and then Jesse beat him. The bench where they sat was pretty close to where we javelin throwers were, so we were in pretty close touch with what was going on over there. The other event that happened while we were out there was [Glenn] Cunningham in the 1,500 meters. I remember [Jack] Lovelock of New Zealand cut loose in a sprint with about a lap and a half to go. We were sure that Glenn would take him, but he didn't. It surprised a lot people.

Hodak: Are there any other things you would care to mention about the Berlin Games? I know you have some post-Olympic competition to talk about.

Metcalf: The Opening Ceremonies were very impressive. I remember the young, blond chap that carried the torch in the '36 Olympics. I met him in 1984 because he was at Knott's Berry Farm as a guest. I got to talk with him quite a bit then. I asked him about some of the German athletes; the German that took a fourth in 1932 in the javelin [Gottfried Weimann], and Gerhard Stoeck, who won the javelin and took a third in the shot put in 1936. I had thought that Stoeck had been killed in the war. I knew that he was a paratrooper. But he said they were both around. He wrote out postcard messages to them and I signed them and he mailed them to them. I haven't heard a reply from them since, but they are still alive and kicking.

One of the highlights of the Berlin Olympics for me was getting to hit fungoes during the warm-ups for the American demonstration of baseball. I knew one of the coaches, John Whalen, who invited me to hit the fungoes. I remember the Germans making a lot of noise; they'd watch the ball real closely and oooh and aaah. I don't think they were really familiar with the game.

Another thing I remember was when Leni Riefenstahl came in and talked with Glenn Morris, who had won the decathlon. She popped in the room to make sure he was prepared for the awards ceremonies. Everyone kidded me, saying that Hitler's girlfriend had sat on my bed.

Hodak: Did you stay in touch with any athletes that you met during either of the Olympics—1932 or 1936?

Metcalf: There was a Canadian boy by the name of Jim Courtwright. I don't remember how he did in Berlin, not very well. But he worked out with us afterwards quite a bit and we showed him everything we knew. So in the British Empire Games in London two or three weeks later, he beat all three of us. (laughter) I've got some pictures and I wrote back and forth. Once when he was on his way to the British Empire Games in Australia in 1938 he stopped off in L.A., and I visited with him and fixed him up with a date and things like that.

Hodak: So following the Berlin Games you competed in London, Glasgow, Paris and also on a barnstorming tour through Ireland. Who sponsored you on these tours?

Metcalf: The barnstorming tour through Ireland . . . we were at dinner in the Victoria Hotel there and these Irish policemen came through asking if anybody would like to do some clinics and so forth. We simply volunteered on that. We hadn't been picked to go to Scandinavia. They'd already picked a team for that.

Some of us who were not included in that said we'd go. So four of us went and were guests of the Belfast police force. It was Bill Sefton, who later held a world record in the pole vault, and there were two hammer throwers from the University of Maine. I can't think of their names right now but they were on the Olympic team. We did clinics at Queenstown University and then I remember after that there were two carloads of us, and we took a tour of Northern Ireland up at Lough Neagh and up to the Giant's Causeway. We stopped at every pub and had warm Guinness stout. (laughter)

Hodak: How about the British Empire Games?

Metcalfe: The British Empire Games were in the White City Stadium in London. That was a team thing. I've got a medal up there for that one in team competition. But the individual honors went to Jim Courtwright of Canada. He beat all three of us that day.

Hodak: And you also competed in Glasgow and Paris?

Metcalfe: No, I didn't go to Glasgow. Again, they split us up on that. Nor did I go to Scandinavia or to Czechoslovakia. They split the team up a number of different ways. But we did all get together back in Paris for a triangular meet between the U.S., France and Japan. I won the javelin throw at the track meet in Paris.

Hodak: How many track and field members were still competing in Europe at this time?

Metcalfe: One boat went back earlier. We came back on the *Manhattan*, the same one we came over on. There were still a lot of us there for that track meet in Paris.

Hodak: By this time you'd been away from the U.S. for almost two months?

Metcalf: Something like that. It was getting on into the latter part of August.

Hodak: Was there a big reception in New York?

Metcalf: Oh, yes. There was a ticker tape parade all the way up to the north end of the island. We got to shake hands with Mayor [Fiorello] LaGuardia and got a little medal from him. I met Jack Dempsey that day and got his autograph.

Hodak: So overall, you were pretty satisfied with your experience in the Olympics?

Metcalf: Oh, yes, it's tremendously rewarding. It's just simply wonderful.

Hodak: Do you think of the Olympics as involving something more than simply sports?

Metcalf: Yes, the fraternization and the friendships that you make. I think that's the most important aspect of it, as far as I'm concerned.

Hodak: Tell me what you did upon your return to the United States.

Metcalf: I went to graduate school at USC, taking graduate work towards a teaching credential. Then a couple years later, I ended up as a teacher and coach at Pomona Junior College, which went out of existence and was replaced by Mt. San Antonio Junior College. I taught business subjects there and also coached football and track. And then I went in the Navy for three years in the pre-flight schools for naval aviation training. Then when I came back out of the Navy, Mt. San Antonio College was opening up and I was able to go to work there.

Hodak: Was there a track program at Mt. San Antonio College?

Metcalf: I was the baseball coach so I wasn't in it. There were only two of us that were coaches. I wasn't in the PE department. They only had one man in the PE department that first year. There was about 700 students and many of them were GIs with vast football experience. We had a tremendous football team and two coaches really couldn't do it justice. I got around to help the other football coach, who was not a track man at all. He coached the track team. And I, who was not a baseball man, coached the baseball team—although I had played a lot of baseball. But I would go down and help them just a little bit with the track.

Our football team at Mt. San Antonio . . . the first year we rented the Pomona High School field and used that for practice and for games. But the other coach and I had wandered around out on the 440 acres at Mt. San Antonio and noticed this natural gulch out there, which was filled with brush and woods and so forth. We thought that would make a pretty good football stadium. We talked to the administrators and the other people, and two years later that was a football stadium. Then a couple of years after that they put in a track and several years later they put in the artificial track. Another thing that happened . . . I think in the third year, a man came to Mt. San Antonio as a journalism teacher by the name of Hilmer Lodge. He was very much interested in track. And we other coaches were much too busy to do all the things so we told the board of education that they could give some of our pay to him if he would coach track. They did that and he became the track coach. He was a real promoter and was the original organizer, and continued as the organizer of the Mt. San Antonio College Relays. He later helped out with Olympic tour groups and things like that.

Hodak: Tell me when you were married.

Metcalf: I was married in 1943. Back on the East Coast I got my naval officer's commission and my wife was just finishing at Capistrano High School. I had gotten orders to Del Monte pre-flight. I sent her a telegram asking her how she would like to go on a honeymoon in Carmel. She said yes and that's the way it turned out.

But getting married in 1943, I had been out of college for 11 years. That's about par for the course according to some surveys I have been reading recently. The typical college graduates of 1932-33 was about 10 or 11 years in getting married. It was particularly rough on those of us that didn't have the money to continue on to law school, medical school, engineering or whatever. It was rough going during the years of the Depression if you didn't have contacts and influence. I know my Olympic influence got jobs for me and kept me employed. If not for that, I might have gone hungry for a time.

Hodak: How many children do you have?

Metcalf: I have two children. My oldest daughter was adopted in 1948. After five years of not having one of our own we adopted her and we really hit the jackpot there. She's a little doll. She was homecoming queen and could do everything. She's married to a doctor in Seal Beach and has given us three grandchildren. She just gave us a new addition to the family at age 39. We've got Skyler, aged four months now.

Our younger daughter, who is four years younger, we accomplished under our own power. She had quite a career as a tennis player. She was a little four-pound preemie and was always too little and too weak. She couldn't start playing tennis until she was about 10 or 11. She was very interested in it and I started teaching her and working with her. She never played in a tennis tournament until she was 14. I don't

think she won any national junior titles but she has about eight or ten senior titles.

She stayed an amateur all through her four years at Redlands University and in her junior and senior years she played on the men's team. The rules were changed so that women could play on the men's team. And they won the NAIA [National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics] tournament back in Kansas City both times. She almost won a men's tournament of West Coast colleges. She was a finalist in that. She blew out her knee twice in her senior year in college and it took about a year for it to heal. Then she went on the Virginia Slims Tennis Tour for one year until she blew it the third time and that ended it. But in that year she got up into the top 20 in the world and won half a dozen pro tournaments. She won the Spanish Open, a couple of tournaments in South Africa, and a couple in the United States. She played at Wimbledon and played at Forest Hills several times. She's now a tennis pro up at the Claremont Tennis Club. She's very fortunate. She just married a man who's a scratch golfer and doesn't play tennis. And she's a tennis pro who never played any golf. They really hit it off just fine.

Hodak: Tell me how long you taught at Mt. San Antonio College.

Metcalf: I taught for 30 years there. I've been retired now for 12 years.

Hodak: And how do you spend your retirement?

Metcalf: In my retirement I'm no longer a tennis player. I've had foot surgery, back surgery and cancer surgery. But I found out a few years ago that I could golf with a cart. So I play golf and I shoot my age every now and then, which is a lot of fun.

Hodak: I wonder, as an Olympian, what are your thoughts about the

Olympic Movement as you have followed it over the years? What things strike you as you compare today's athletics?

Metcalfe: It's all much more structured and organized, of course, including the Olympics themselves. Of course, the Opening Ceremonies, each successive four years, are ever more impressive. I'm wondering if the Koreans can outdo what we did in L.A. I'm sure they'll try.

To be a member of an Olympic team is not a simple thing anymore. It means hours, days, weeks, and years of dedication and expert coaching and study. You can't fall into it in three months like I did in 1932. I don't in any way begrudge the benefits that now come to these amateur athletes, because they pay for it in time and effort. They earn it and deserve it. It cost us money to be on an Olympic team and left us in debt. But on the other hand, it was an awful lot easier then to make an Olympic team than it is today.

Hodak: Is there any advice that you'd like to offer to athletes today?

Metcalfe: Don't lose sight of your dream, if you have a dream. I remember when my daughter was ten, she had never had a tennis racket in her hand. She had heard of Wimbledon and was telling people, "I'm going to play at Wimbledon someday." She hadn't even played tennis yet, but sure enough, she did. I think dreams can come true if you work hard enough at them.

Hodak: Do you look fondly back on your Olympic competition?

Metcalfe: Very much so. There's no sadness, no regrets, no unpleasantness at all, that I can recall.

Hodak: Anything else you'd care to mention, any further remarks?

Metcalfe: Being an Olympian does open doors. I'm sure the jobs I got

during the Depression—the teaching and coaching jobs—were the result of being an Olympian. They assume, because I am an Olympian, that automatically I can coach anything, which is not exactly the truth. (laughter)

Hodak: Well, I certainly appreciate your time today and the Amateur Athletic Foundation also appreciates your cooperation. I thank you, Mr. Metcalf.

Metcalf: May I say it has been most enjoyable and I thank you.