

MAYBELLE REICHARDT HOPKINS
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.

MAYBELLE REICHARDT HOPKINS

1928 OLYMPIC GAMES - AMSTERDAM
DISCUS THROW

INTERVIEWED:

June, 1987
Pasadena, California
by George A. Hodak

MAYBELLE REICHARDT HOPKINS

Interviewer: George A. Hodak

Hodak: Today I'm in Altadena visiting with Maybelle Reichardt Hopkins. Mrs. Hopkins competed in the discus in the 1928 Olympics, which was the first year that women's track and field was included in Olympic competition. Mrs. Hopkins, I'd like to have you talk about your family a bit. First of all, when and where were you born?

Hopkins: Well, I was born May 27, 1907, in Los Angeles. There were 13 children in our family; 13 that lived. I had one brother that only lived for three months. But the 13 of us lived for a long time; in fact, 10 out of the 13 have lived into their 80s.

Hodak: Longevity runs in the family.

Hopkins: Yes, it does.

Hodak: What sort of work did your father do?

Hopkins: Well, he was a farmer. He owned a big farm in the Midwest, in Illinois. They came out from Illinois with 11 children on the train. Then my youngest brother and I were born out here in Los Angeles. And my father did landscape gardening after that.

Hodak: Which part of Los Angeles did you grow up in?

Hopkins: Well, I grew up in Pasadena. I think I was only a few years old when we came to Pasadena. I've lived here all my life.

Hodak: Did your father or mother encourage an interest in sports?

Hopkins: No. Out of all of us, I was the only one that was really interested in sports; the rest of them had a fair interest, but nothing serious. Most of them were talented in music or painting or something in the arts. But I was sort of a tomboy when I was young. When I got to high school, I got into every sport there was except tennis and swimming. And I got on the varsity teams, so I just thought it was great.

Hodak: Which high school did you attend?

Hopkins: Pasadena High School. And then right from high school, I went into nurses training at the Pasadena Hospital.

Hodak: You mentioned that you were somewhat of a tomboy. How was it for a woman of that era to be athletically inclined? Did that single you out much?

Hopkins: No, not really. I used to like to play baseball with the neighborhood youngsters and different kinds of things that children do. But I don't know that I should have said tomboy, I don't think that was really But I was very much into all kinds of sports, anything outside, anything physical.

Hodak: It was something you developed an interest in on your own?

Hopkins: That's right.

Hodak: What sports were your strong points in high school?

Hopkins: Well, field hockey, soccer, baseball, track, wall scaling and basketball.

Hodak: So you covered pretty much every sport.

Hopkins: Yes. I really did. (laughter)

Hodak: How were you introduced to the discus?

Hopkins: Well, I think that we had that in high school, and I enjoyed that, but I ran and I did other things too. I tried to do everything, but I wasn't real good at all of them.

Hodak: The discus and the shot became your strong points, along with basketball?

Hopkins: That's right, I loved basketball.

Hodak: After high school you joined the Pasadena Athletic and Country Club?

Hopkins: Well, during the last year of my high school they were having some kinds of meets with other cities, and Mrs. Aileen Allen invited me to compete with the Pasadena Athletic Club. But the high school didn't approve of it. And I almost got into real trouble because I did compete. There was quite a lot of opposition to us competing. But as soon as I finished high school I did compete for the Pasadena Athletic Club for several years, then we went over to the Los Angeles Athletic Club.

Hodak: Why was there opposition? Did school officials object to women competing in sports, or did they object to competition outside their control?

Hopkins: Well, they weren't opposed to women competing in sports, there was a lot of school activities and competition. But they did object to our competing outside of the school. I remember going to a meet at Santa Ana, I think, where I was warned I'd be kicked out of school for going to. But nothing ever came of it, fortunately.

We had lots of track meets between the little cities around here and got lots of medals and things. I know we went to San Francisco for a track meet one time. We went on a boat and I was

sick all the way there. Anyway, we had a lot of track meets. And then they had a big track meet in the Coliseum for Paavo Nurmi, so we competed in that too. I ran in a relay in that meet and we won a medal. I didn't run in too many meets, so I was happy about that.

Hodak: While you were competing in the eight-pound shot, as well as the discus, you were also playing basketball for the Pasadena Athletic Club.

Hopkins: Yes, we played basketball. And at that time I was in training at the Pasadena Hospital for nursing and it was pretty hard to keep working there and training at the same time. I loved basketball, so I didn't miss any of those practices.

Hodak: What was your daily schedule like?

Hopkins: Well, we worked eight hours a day. We had three hours a day of classes and then half an hour for lunch and half an hour for dinner, which made twelve hours a day, a pretty long day.

Hodak: And yet you still found time to—

Hopkins: Oh yes, we practiced basketball in the evenings after dinner.

Hodak: What sort of game was women's basketball in the '20s? I know there were a lot of questions as to what sort of rules women should play according to.

Hopkins: Well, in high school we had sections; three sections on the floor for women's basketball.

Hodak: Sections in which you were supposed to stay within the entire game?

Hopkins: Oh yes, absolutely.

Hodak: So, it was a very regulated sort of game.

Hopkins: Oh yes, it was very tame. (laughter) But when we started playing for the athletic club we played men's rules and we could run the whole length of the floor. And it was much more exciting and thrilling.

Hodak: What position did you play?

Hopkins: Well, I played what they called in those days a running guard.

Hodak: Running guard?

Hopkins: I would guard the opposing team under their basket and then I would run all the way up to the other end and shoot baskets. However, I took a liking to shooting long baskets. So I used to practice every night after the other girls went to take their shower. I wouldn't leave the floor until I had made three baskets from the center circle. Of course, I was anxious to get my shower and get home so it didn't take me too long to learn to do it in a hurry.

Hodak: In 1926 you were on the AAU women's championship basketball team.

Hopkins: Yes, we won the national championship that year, and that was very thrilling. I think we were sponsored by the L.A. Athletic Club, though it might have been the Pasadena Athletic Club.

Hodak: That was held here in Los Angeles?

Hopkins: Yes, it was. It was a very important game. I know we were all keyed up like it was a real big deal in our lives. And it was too, it was very exciting to win the national title.

Hodak: Was there any sort of training or exercise routine?

Hopkins: Well, we did practice team drills. But there was never any exercise like they do now in weights, or even running.

Hodak: Even stretching?

Hopkins: No, we didn't do that either.

Hodak: You just showed up, went into your pregame drills and started the game up?

Hopkins: Right.

Hodak: At the same time, as you mentioned earlier, you were competing in the discus and the shot and occasionally in the running events for the Pasadena Athletic Club.

Hopkins: Yes, in 1925 I won the national championship in discus and took second in the shot. Then in '26 I went to Philadelphia for the nationals and I got second in the discus.

Hodak: Behind Lillian Copeland?

Hopkins: Right. And then from '26 on I was so busy with my nursing and so involved that I had no time at all for sports. I followed them in the papers but I didn't have time to compete or even practice.

Hodak: Had anyone ever tried to show you a technique for throwing the discus or the shot?

Hopkins: (Laughter) No, they handed you the discus and said, "See how far you can throw it." And I was on my own right from the beginning.

Hodak: That's kind of astonishing. Do you think other athletes in other situations at that time, such as maybe Lillian Copeland, might have received a little more attention or coaching?

Hopkins: Well, I think she did because she went to USC. I'm sure the coaches there helped her, but I didn't have anybody to help me and I'm not sure that I did it right.

Hodak: Did you have a problem with your shoulder at any time in throwing the discus or the shot?

Hopkins: No, I didn't, but you could really hurt your arm if you didn't put the shot properly; if you tried to throw it.

Hodak: Instead of using your whole body.

Hopkins: Yes.

Hodak: Was this something that came rather naturally to you?

Hopkins: I think so. Yes, I think I just took it. I don't know who taught me how to hold it—you have to hold it with your fingers over the edge. But I learned. Somebody must have shown me how to do that, but the rest of it was my own idea. Of course, I had watched the men, so I had an idea of what to do.

Hodak: And Lillian Copeland was your main rival. In much of the local competition it seems either you or her were going to finish first or second.

Hopkins: Yes, I think in almost every meet that I was in we competed with one another. She was outstanding, of course.

Hodak: During this time were you aware of the Olympics?

Hopkins: Of course I knew there were Olympics, but I did not know that they were going to include women in the track and field in the '28 Olympics until three weeks before they had the final tryouts to pick the field to go.

Hodak: Who contacted you?

Hopkins: Well, Mrs. Aileen Allen called me one day and wanted to know if I wanted to come out and practice and maybe go to the Olympics. And I said I was working eight hours and I had three hours a day of classes, so I had no time. She said, "Well, there are lot of girls who would give their right arm to have a chance to go. But if you're not interested, that's alright."

Hodak: She was putting the pressure on you.

Hopkins: Yes. So, I got a little bit irritated and I thought, "Well, I'll show her." So in three weeks I went all by myself after work every evening and practiced.

Hodak: Out at Paddock Field in Pasadena?

Hopkins: Yes, in Paddock Field. There was no one else around—I was all by myself. I'd throw the discus and I'd run out and I'd throw it back. Then we did try out locally and I had a chance to go to the national tryouts in New Jersey.

Hodak: So you went on a crash course?

Hopkins: I surely did.

Hodak: And you ended winning the tryouts in '28 when you defeated Lillian Copeland in New Jersey.

Hopkins: Well, I think a lot of that was due to pressure; because when I went to the tryouts the superintendent of nurses said I would not be able to finish my training. I only had three months left out of three years of training and I had worked so hard and really wanted to be a registered nurse. And she said if I wasn't on duty at a certain day, why, I had to forfeit everything I had worked for.

Hodak: This must have put you under a lot of strain and pressure.

Hopkins: Oh it did, because I really wanted that registered nurse degree. Anyway, I think that that helped me do a little better at the finals because I just felt I couldn't give up all that nursing that I had been striving for.

Hodak: Once you won the discus championship and made the American Olympic team, did this jeopardize your degree?

Hopkins: Oh no, the superintendent told me if I made the team then I could have a leave of absence for a month or two, whatever time I needed. So I had no problem as long as I made the Olympic team.

In New Jersey, when I won the nationals, they had each winner speak on the newsreel. In those days we didn't have television of course; they used to have what they called a newsreel between the feature showings. They'd have things of interest that they would put on. So they went to each winner to talk about how they felt in winning and they told us a little speech to give. I said that I was happy that I had won and that I was going to do my best to represent the United States team. And so I said what they told me to say and as soon as they made a motion that I was through, I said, "Thank God!" I threw my hands up and said, "Thank God that's over!" And they left that on the film and showed it on the newsreel. When I got back and went to the hospital to work, oh, they kidded me, the doctors kidded me. They thought that that was just fabulous that they left that on the newsreel. (laughter)

Hodak: This must have been somewhat of a shock to be out of competition for two years and then to win the Olympic tryouts in '28.

Hopkins: Well, it was exciting.

Hodak: And from New Jersey, a week later you were aboard ship heading for Amsterdam. Talk a bit of travel on the SS *President*

Roosevelt.

Hopkins: Well, I didn't do much traveling on the boat. I got very seasick. I can remember some of the other athletes would open the door to try to cheer me up and say, "Don't worry, it's only three miles to shore, straight down." (laughter) And that didn't make me feel any healthier.

Hodak: You were quite ill during the trip?

Hopkins: Well, I was most of the time . . . I think about the last two days I was alright.

Hodak: What were your expectations in the discus event?

Hopkins: Well, I really didn't feel too confident, not after I had been so sick. And I really didn't feel I was as good as a lot of them anyway. Of course, I wanted to do as good as I could.

Hodak: And what do you recall then of your accommodations? You stayed on the ship itself outside of Amsterdam?

Hopkins: Yes, we did, we lived on the ship all the time.

Hodak: Did that present any problems for the athletes?

Hopkins: Not really, because they had American food and everything that we were accustomed to. And when we were on the ship such a long time, why, we knew just what to expect. They had made everything as comfortable as they possibly could, so we had no problems that way.

Hodak: The stadium was still being constructed, I think, during the time which you arrived in Amsterdam.

Hopkins: Yes.

Hodak: What, do you recall about the competition in the discus? You didn't qualify for the final?

Hopkins: No, I didn't. I missed qualifying by one quarter of an inch. And I was very disappointed because I think I could have done better.

Hodak: You think that maybe you were a little depleted from your trip on the ship?

Hopkins: Well, I don't like to say that, it sounds like an excuse, but I think it probably contributed some. And then another thing when we got there . . . Dean Cromwell was such a good friend of mine and he was trying to help me, and of course I really didn't have good form, so he was trying to help me adjust a little. He thought it would do a lot for my distance.

Hodak: He tried to get you to shift your form a bit?

Hopkins: Yes, and I think I got a little confused; instead of doing it all my way or doing any of it his way

Hodak: You had been thinking too much instead of simply throwing.

Hopkins: I think so. I think that would have helped if I had had a little longer time to change my form.

Hodak: What do you recall of the general ambiance of the Olympics in '28? Was there much fraternizing among the athletes from other countries?

Hopkins: Well, not so much from other countries, but among ourselves. Of course, the girls had a big advantage because there were only 39 girls on board and 300-some men, and we were all about the same age. So it was really very exciting. We really had a very good time on the boat, although Mrs. Allen was quite strict. She was the chaperone for the track and field girls. We had curfews and

everything but we were all dating, which made it nice—especially for the girls.

Hodak: What about other events, were you able to take in many events?

Hopkins: After our event was over in the Olympics, from then on we could quit training and do as we pleased and go where we wanted. So of course I was very interested in every event and we went to a lot of them. Every day we went and watched all the events. And as soon as they were over, well, a group of us went to Paris.

Hodak: What did you do in Paris?

Hopkins: Well, we just saw the sights and nightlife. A group of us went together and we got our tickets—we were going to fly. And in those days there weren't very many planes, and as I started through the gate they handed me a paper bag and I said, "What is this?" They said, "Oh, that's for airsickness." And I said, "Excuse me," and I went back and said I'm not flying anymore.

Hodak: Might look into a train, huh?

Hopkins: Right. So Mrs. Allen and I went on the train and the other girls flew. I had been so sick on the boat I wasn't going to take a chance.

Hodak: Yeah, I can understand you being a little wary. It was common for a lot of athletes to be invited to participate or compete in other track meets following the Olympics. Were you invited to compete in any European meets?

Hopkins: Yes, but I was so anxious to get back, I felt I had to get back on duty as soon as possible, so I came right back on the boat when it came.

Hodak: Do you have strong recollections of the Opening Ceremonies? Is

that something that stands out in your mind?

Hopkins: Oh yes, it was exciting—everyone just whistled and clapped. And it was very exciting and very impressive when all the different countries came in, each country at a time.

Hodak: What of the Closing Ceremonies, were they just as impressive?

Hopkins: Yes, I think they were just as impressive. It was something that you couldn't even imagine unless you were there, I think.

Hodak: You mentioned you returned feeling the pressure to get back to Pasadena. What did your friends and relatives think of your competition?

Hopkins: Well, they were all happy that I had won the national championship, and they didn't even say anything that it was too bad I hadn't won in Europe. But, they were happy that I got to go and wanted to know all about our experiences. So it was a lot of fun talking about it for many months.

There's one thing I've always thought about with the Olympics. I remember going on the train back to the East and we were all playing cards. Well, it seems I was winning a lot. I remember one guy laughing, telling me he would get his money back on the boat over. But as it turned out he didn't make the team. I've often thought of that, and wished that the tryouts didn't have to come down to just one day. I don't remember his name, but everyone thought he was a sure bet to make the team. And I know he had trained hard for a long time, and then he didn't make it. Whereas I hadn't been in competition for a couple of years.

Hodak: Did you continue to compete for the Pasadena Athletic Club?

Hopkins: No, I didn't. After that I finished my training, and then as soon

as I took my state board exam I went to work. This was during the Depression and no one had any money. I had received my RN degree and I was anxious to get to work. And then in '31 I got married and I was so in love I couldn't see anything but just being home.

Hodak: What about the '32 Olympics, were you invited to attend the tryouts.

Hopkins: Well, I did have the American record in the period from 1928-1932, so they did invite me to come to the tryouts in Chicago. Alice Ryden and I were going together and we had no money and no one subsidized us at all, so we were told to go around to the merchants and see if they would donate anything toward our trip. Well, we went around and we finally got 125 dollars for the two of us for a round-trip with all our motels and our meals and our car expenses and everything. So Alice Ryden and I drove there from Pasadena and we competed. My husband went along because he didn't want us to drive alone; it was a long, long drive and there were only two-lane highways all the way and I didn't know anything about taking care of a car. He didn't think two young girls should go by themselves.

Hodak: You hadn't trained very much in the period from '28 to '32?

Hopkins: No, I hadn't trained at all. So I really didn't care if I made the team or not in '32 because I had too many other interests at that time. I certainly went to the Games in '32. I was interested enough to watch them, but I really didn't care whether I competed or not anymore. I don't even recall where I came in at the tryouts. I didn't make the '32 team so I must not have been one of the first three or four.

Hodak: Lillian Copeland, of course, won the discus in 1932.

Hopkins: Well, she just stayed available. I mean she was practicing all the

time. That was very important to her.

Hodak: So you attended the '32 Games in Los Angeles?

Hopkins Oh yes, we went to them and, in fact, I went several times to where the girls lived in Los Angeles.

Hodak: What do you recall of visiting the athletes?

Hopkins Well, it seemed like they had a lot more advantages than we had had in '28 and things were a little bit nicer for them. I mean, they knew what to expect; while in '28, of course, we lived on the boat, and I don't think they knew exactly what you might need. And they learned a lot of things from the 1928 Olympics of what was necessary to get them in their top condition, too.

Hodak: So you visited the Olympic Village and you attended the Games. Do any events or performances stand out?

Hopkins Well, of course I was naturally interested in the discus and things that I had competed in. But I just loved every bit of it.

Hodak: And Lillian Copeland put away your American record.

Hopkins Well, I wasn't worried about it. (laughter)

Hodak: So, after '32 did you take much of an active interest in the Olympics through the years? Is this something that you've followed every four years?

Hopkins Well, I followed them, but I didn't go to them. I was in Rome in, I believe it was 1960, and I just went one day but I don't remember too much.

How do you look back on your 1928 experience?

Hodak:

Hopkins: Well, I think it was a big step in letting women take part and I think that they should be able to do the same things that men do. And there are some very outstanding women athletes. It's wonderful that they have progressed to the state that they're in now where they have facilities and coaches.

Hodak: Any advice you'd offer to athletes?

Hopkins: First, I think if you decide you're going to compete in any one special thing you should find where you have the most facilities to use and the best coaches and competition. I think competition is a big item when you're trying to develop in your event.

Hodak: I noticed that athletes in your day, [Mildred] "Babe" Didriksen, you, certainly Lillian Copeland and others were very versatile, competing in many events.

Hopkins: I really wish that they could have had a pentathlon or a decathlon or something like that because I would like to have competed in everything. I enjoyed doing everything. I tried throwing the javelin, doing the hurdles, all sorts of things. And I could do it, but I wasn't as interested as I was in the discus because I didn't do the other events as well . . . and because I didn't practice them.

Hodak: And what of your work as a registered nurse?

Hopkins: Well, when I finished high school I said I either wanted to be a nurse or I wanted to be a physical education teacher. Mother said, "Well, if you want to go to college and want to be a physical education teacher, you do it. And if you want to go into nurses training, you do it." So, I said I wanted to go into nurses training because I felt that people could take exercises by themselves, but a lot of people couldn't get well by themselves. So I felt that I might just as well do the one that would do the most good. Besides, I had three sisters who were graduate

nurses. Because I was the baby of the 13 children they thought I was a little spoiled and they said, "Well, you'll never make it." And I said, "Yes, I will." They tried to discourage me because they really didn't think I'd finish training. (laughter) But anyway I showed them. So there were four of us that were registered nurses.

I did private duty most of the time, practically all of the time after I finished until I had my family. For six years I worked, and then I had my two boys and I didn't work until they finished school. One graduated from USC and one from UCLA and then they went on; one went to Yale and one went to Harvard. So the boys said, "Mother, you're going to be so lonesome with us being away. Why don't you take a refresher course and get back into nursing?" I said, "Well, that's an idea." So I did and then I worked for quite a few years after that. I didn't work all the time, I just worked whenever they were very busy. I really enjoyed it because I felt like I was doing some good in nursing.

Hodak: And your sons today, what are their lines of work?

Hopkins Well, one of them is a composer. He's composed nine or ten symphonies and a lot of other big compositions. He's now a professor at USC. The other one is a physicist and he's a professor at the University of Houston. He also does a lot of research on DNA work. So, I'm very proud of them.

Hodak: What line of work was your husband in?

Hopkins Well, he was in the plumbing business. He had a plumbing business and he was very successful.

Hodak: Did you take up other sports? What kept you in good physical condition over the years, other than your work. Certainly the discus or the shot isn't something you throw around for recreation.

Hopkins: Well, I never swam much. I swam enough for my own amusement but never competed in swimming. But I used to play tennis with friends. I never was good enough to compete in tennis. Well, anything physical. My husband and I used to go bowling and that type of thing.

Hodak: And you've stayed in very good shape.

Hopkins: (Laughter) Well, I'm not so sure about that. In all the years that I competed and did all kinds of sports and athletics, I never broke a bone until I was 69. I decided I wasn't getting enough exercise so I got a new tennis racket and some balls and went down to the school to bat some balls against the wall. I hadn't done that for more than ten minutes when one ball bounced over my head and I reached back for it and fell and broke my back. And I was 69 and I had never broken a bone before. So, of course I was in the hospital for a while for that. But, it was one of those things.

Hodak: What about the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles? Did you do any work with the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee's Spirit Team?

Hopkins: Oh, we were invited to many affairs; dinners and evening banquets, all sorts of things. We went down to Disneyland and we went to Knott's Berry Farm, and then we went to McDonald's and signed autographs. Oh, we just had a lot of affairs that were very interesting.

Hodak: Did you see many athletes from the '28 Games?

Hopkins: Oh, yes. The first time we were at Disneyland this woman came up to me and she said, "Hi, Maybelle, how are you?" I had no idea who she was and I was so embarrassed. Why, it was Anne O'Brien. She hadn't even changed very much. I don't know why I didn't recognize her, because she recognized me. So, I've seen

her at quite a few affairs and I've seen Dorothy Poynton [Teuber] at some affairs, and Jean Shiley [Newhouse] used to come to a lot of the affairs. I've seen Dallas Bixler, who was in the '32 Games. I know him real well. It was really very nice getting together with them.

Hodak: Did you take much of an interest in the Games themselves?

Hopkins: I did. I watched them on television and I went to one soccer game here in Pasadena. But not long before that I had had to have one of my hips replaced and I didn't seem to get around as easy. So I really stayed at home and watched them on television, except that soccer game in Pasadena.

Hodak: Do you have any conclusions or summary thoughts on the Olympic Movement itself? First of all, what sort of significance has it had on your life, and, secondly, what sort of change you've seen in the Olympics themselves.

Hopkins: Of course it's expanded so much. Well, I think that you look at things . . . you compare them to other phases of life. You get a lot of good out of sports and competition and things that you really couldn't get any other way. And they keep improving everything and doing so much more for the athletes and it improves the athletes and the records.

Hodak: Are you astounded to see some of the distances?

Hopkins: I certainly am. (laughter)

Hodak: Something that you dreamed of reaching when you were throwing the discus?

Hopkins: No, because . . . well, of course you can't be too astounded in a way because we didn't have the facilities and we didn't have coaching, and when they have all these advantages, why, it does

improve everything.

Hodak: Do you feel somewhat of a pioneer having competed in the Olympics?

Hopkins: I feel like I went in a covered wagon. (laughter) But anyway, we were no worse off for the experience and I think it really taught us a lot. I think it taught us a lot of responsibility and certainly good sportsmanship and everything. So, we got a lot of good out of it—and certainly a lot of pleasure.

Hodak: Well, I appreciate your time today, as does the Amateur Athletic Foundation. And with those thoughts I think we can conclude, unless you have any additional remarks.

Hopkins: I think that about sums it up.

Hodak: Thank you very much.