

Oral History Transcript

Interviewer: Mike Milligan

Oral History Candidate: Arnie Kachok, class of '48, San Diego Campus

May 20, 2011, San Diego, CA, Business office

All right, this is-it's May 27th, I believe.

Yes.

3:00 in the afternoon; I'm with Arnie Ko-chack.

Kachok.

Kachok, I'm sorry Arnie, Kachok, graduate of 1949, '48.

No, '49.

'49?

I graduated in '49.

Okay, Arnie, can you-

June 7th.

June-

June 7th, I think that was a Friday too.

If you can tell me where you live and your age for me please?

I live in San Diego, California in a community called Terra Santa and I'm, today's May 27th, 2011 and tomorrow I'm going to be 81.

Oh congrats, Happy birthday!

Thank you.

What brought your parents to put you into Brown Military Academy?

I was very fortunate and unfortunate at the same time. I was fortunate because my father was well-to-do in those days, in the 40s, but I was unfortunate because we lived in a poor neighborhood because that's where his business was and so as a result of living in a poor neighborhood and there were a lot of ruffians in the area and so forth, I think, because my father and I have never really talked about it, because I wasn't a bad kid, he had indicated that he wanted to send me to a private school where I could get a better education, than what I might be getting in the area where I lived. The schools were okay; there was nothing wrong with the school I attended, but we lived in a very poor neighborhood which is now a ghetto, it was called East L.A in Los Angeles and it's kind of a tough area today. You gotta, kind of walk-drive down the street with dank, but anyway, so he first sent me away to Page Military Academy, but it was a junior school, so I was there a year and then hey I was done and in the 9th grade and he didn't know what to do with me. So since he got used to the idea of sending me away to

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school, he asked them what school I could go to and they were aware of Browns, so he contacted Browns and brought me down to Browns in San Diego and I fell in love with San Diego and I've stayed here ever since.

That's cool-

Pretty much ever since, I mean, I went back up to L.A. during Korea and then I went in the service and then came back, because I really did love San Diego.

So you actually did get to live on campus?

I lived on campus the whole time I was going to Brown, from 1946-September 1946 to June 7th, 1949. An additional tid-bit I want to tell you, because this is 2011 and this is the first year that it snowed since 1949 in San Diego. It snowed very slightly. I was present, standing on the fourth floor of the Company-A barracks, looking out over San Diego, and for the first time in my life, in 1949, in January 1949, it snowed in San Diego, unrecorded history at the time, it was not recorded.

It actually snowed in Pacific Beach?

Pacific Beach. The other thing I want to say about Pacific Beach that I don't know the other guys will tell you, when I got there, all the roads were dirt roads, except for I think 4 roads. Everything was dirt- Mission Beach was a paved road, Pacific Beach Boulevard, Lamont and to-the main drag in front of Browns and the one that went on the side by the football field. In those days, they didn't even have a Grand Avenue.

There wasn't even a Grand Avenue, huh?

There wasn't; it didn't exist.

You know, I'm still trying to find the plaque that you guys put up over there; I can't find it. I don't know where-where am I supposed to look?

Ok, the plaque is just about 30 yards from the Savings and Loans or Bank that's there on the corner of Lamont and the main drag. What's the main drag's name?

Garnet?

Garnet, yeah, Garnet. Garnet was a paved road and so is G—it started with a G, I can't remember.

Not Grand-

Yeah, not Grand. Garnet, you got one of them and then there was the other one on the other side. Anyway, right there on the corner of Garnet and Lamont, there's a small-not too small-just the side of the building is a bank. I don't know what bank it is and about, from that, from the corner of that building, about 30 yards northwest, there's a plaque; we've got it right there.

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Yeah, I want to go take a picture. If you check on my webpage, I have photographs, and I've got to tell you, it was hard for me to look at these, because it's the demolition of the school.

Oh really?

Yeah, there's a guy who posted some pictures his father took when he lived in Pacific Beach. It shows three little kids watching the big administration building come down. You know, it was a great shot, with the sun setting, with just the face of the administration building standing.

Yeah, what of the interesting things about first coming upon Browns, it looked, it appeared to have a history to it. I guess like maybe the Ivy league schools have back east. You know, the entrance of that school was unique. You know, some of the buildings were old, the buildings that we lived in were fairly new for the time-the four-story buildings that we lived in. But you know, everything was so, just seemed to have a meaning with it, a lot of history to that place.

San Diego Army and Navy held it until 1937, because Len Cordoza had told me that he actually enrolled in San Diego Army and Navy and when he came, it was all of a sudden, walks in and it's Brown Military. So in some sense, you're right-

That's great that he had, not that much of a transition then.

Well I got transition from the beginning and I've got transition from one of the last kids; he's also the youngest to graduate I believe from Brown at 15.

I ran across a couple of those 15s.

Oh really, okay. When it moved to Glendora, he helped kind of close the doors when it moved to Glendora.

You know what was interesting, because you may be talking about the same guy I'm thinking about. I went to a reunion meeting one time and he was here in San Diego when we held it at the Konokai and this would have been in the 1980s and we had a lot, quite a few guys attending and everybody got up and had something to say as usual, but there was a guy who was part of the District Attorney's office in San Diego-

Well he is a family, he's a family attorney.

That's the guy, must be. Because at the time, he was part of the District Attorney's office, at the time. And we're talking about, you know, 20-25 years ago and when he got up and talked, he was very eloquent, articulate as hell, oh obviously he's a lawyer too and that's good, but the best is that he, being was of the last guys there at Browns, said you know, that school wasn't going broke, you know, a lot of people said that ah Browns is collapsing and so they sold, you know, to get-but that wasn't the case, he said. We had more cadets at Browns at that time, in the time, that they had had at any other time in history at the school, that it was very-it was flourishing. But the problem was, was that their flagship

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school, because I think they had three schools, or four, I don't know how many for sure, their flagship school in the Ozarks was going broke and they needed the money, so they were able to get over a million bucks for this property, because the land was so valuable and a million dollars in those days was maybe like a billion today and so they sold the school, broomed everybody out, thought they could take care of it in Glendora, but it never flew in Glendora. It didn't have the-I don't know the word, but the, you know when you've got-

Well, it didn't have the legacy.

It didn't have the legacy, it didn't have the-

-The tradition and the-

-The appearance also, because it was flat, I'll show you some pictures here. It was flat and you could, you know they had the mountains around it, and the hills around it.

And Mount Soledad

Yeah, yeah, it had all that, but it was flat, the school was, you had to be a Billy goat over in Glendora. I went over there a couple of times, because it used to be a school for girls and we would go out with those girls and dance with them, you know, all that kind of stuff and it was great, but you had to be a Billy goat, and of course it didn't matter if you were a young guy, but I know that later on we also had a reunion there, and I was older then, I was in my 70s by then; it was a hard place to get around.

Yeah, I've interviewed one guy from there, in fact I've got to go back and interview him, because I lost the interview unfortunately; I've got to reinterview him and he shared something that kind of surprised me, is that, in talking to you guys, when you attended Brown, there was an honor code that you guys held each other to, and there wasn't, I get the idea that, if there was a problem, you guys handled it, but you handled it under the guidance of the administrators. There was no corporal punishment dished out that I know of, unless I was wrong. Guys weren't wacked with a paddle or anything like that.

There were times, over the years that I was there, there was some hazing by some individuals, and that's what we used to call it-hazing; it was against the rules.

Right.

It was against the rules, but some of that did occur, just like everything happens.

But what I'm saying is that say a guy was caught lying or something, it was dealt with by the corps, it wasn't dealt with by the administrators, lest the guy refused to change, right, or?

Well, that was the, probably the premise of the code and how it was supposed to work, but life being what it is and people being what they are, it didn't always work that well-I'll put it to you that way-it didn't always work that well, and the reason I say it that way is this: I'm proud to tell you as one of the cadets, that the three years I was there, I never had to march-I never got any demerits, and I never had

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to march the quadrangle. Well I had buddies that were very close friends of mine-they were always in trouble.

Like my father?

Well no, well maybe your father did have to hit the triangle a few times, but I had some buddies that were, they were always in trouble.

Ok, they walked the triangle, well in Glendora-

Oh, they got their demerits.

They got their demerits; in Glendora, there was a paddle. They were given swats by the-

I didn't know that.

And this was 1960.

I didn't attend there.

Yeah, and so, I see a change, I see a change that took-there definitely was a change from when the academy moved from Pacific beach to Glendora. There's a dramatic-

I wouldn't be surprised.

-Dramatic social change.

And let me tell you the foundation change that I perceived while I was attending there. You know, I was just kind of a regular guy that-I love sports, I was involved in that and I loved the military aspect of it, so I tried very hard to be a good cadet and ultimately, I got my wish, I guess you would put it. My dream when I got into that school was I wanted to be captain of A-Company when I graduated and I did get that and I did earn that and I'm pleased with that, but my point is that we had some real smart guys there, intelligent young men, that came from good families. This was not a school where you sent your-I know we had 'em, but, where you send your junior delinquent, you know, I know we had it and it's sometimes, a number of them got kicked out. I had a very close friend of mine by the name of Jim Carreys; he died in 1980, just barely turning 50, wasn't quite 50 yet, and in civilian life, when he got out of school, he did very well. At that time he was worth 3 million bucks when he died and real money, I mean this guy made money. He was very successful as a car dealer.

Yeah, I've heard stories of this man.

Jim Carreys was guess in those days, you'd say he was my best friend. Ok, but he was always in trouble, always in trouble; he just couldn't follow the line, you know. In fact, that's one of the reasons I met up in the band for a while, having to run from that show because I was obviously the only guy he'd listen to. Somehow the administration discovered that and they asked me, I was first sergeant of A-Company at

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the time, and they said, you want to come up and run the band, and yeah, I was up there for about three months, got everything lined up, I got the piano in line and all that was good and everything was good and then they brought me down and I ended up becoming captain of A-Company. But that wasn't what I was trying to tell you, what I'm trying to tell you was the big picture of that school, the whole time that I attended that school, I always knew at least one or two guys that were in class, attending the West Point, Annapolis and the Coast Guard Academy. We were always sending guys to those schools because it was a school where guys that were more fortunate than me in some ways, that recognized that you could make a career in that way, that knew this before they got to Browns, it was I'm trying to say and you know, I'm at Browns, I'm still feeling my way around, trying to figure out what day of the week it is, but these guys before they got to Browns already knew where they were going. And they were part of our cadet corps and so we tried to follow all of the precepts, particularly the West Point followed, the honor code, I mean, you just never lied-there wasn't such a thing, didn't lie, you know, you just try to follow all the -do all the things that I-I always have to remember the words-

I should have brought the copy of my father's bugle notes.

Ok, there you go! The bugle notes would have the honor code on there-

Yes.

-And all the things that we followed.

Yeah, I found it interesting, with regard to my father. I find it interesting that-because he was a delinquent that was-had to go there, and yet he was-

But your dad was a good guy. I remember him at Browns we would play ball together. He was more mischievous than anything, not really a bad kid that got in trouble were more mischievous-you know, I mean, I was not a saint, you might say I just never got caught, but you know, kids-we're all kids.

My uncle said he got offered West Point when he was there.

There you go; you see, there's your uncle.

And my father said my-I mean my uncle said my father was offered West Point-he wasn't even an officer, but because of his-they saw something in him, and you know it surprised me is that he turned it down.

No kidding.

Yeah, they also wanted, they wanted him really bad for baseball, you know.

He's probably a good baseball player.

You know it's his, and it's something that he never ever shared with me. I didn't even know about his baseball until after he died, which was really-he just wouldn't talk about himself.

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Now you say he graduated in 1939 huh?

My uncle Robert did. My father graduated with you.

Yeah, your father.

Yeah, my father was the one that was offered West Point and he's the one-my uncle Robert left after a year, dropped out of school and joined the army. Father always said that it was one of the best things that happened to him in his life, you know.

Oh me too, me too, you know, you just, you met people that were your friends forever and you would hang your head on account of them, and it was just, it was the most, it was probably on a par with another experience I had when I was in service, but the best experience of my whole life, the first-I'd say it was the first-best experience I had and the second-best experience I'd say was when I was in the airforce, I was lucky enough, after I did my first four years, to be, they asked me if I wanted to reappear in Point Norma, and I got to spend four years at Port Norma, the best...it was like going to heaven, that's how good it was. It was that wonderful and those two experiences of my life just couldn't be, I don't care, couldn't top it.

Well, tell me what the process was for you to become captain of A-Company. What was the-

Well, I think one of the things was I was careful not to get in any trouble, so I wasn't a goof-up and I followed all the-you know I tried to learn all the things that you're supposed to learn and maybe, I don't know, somehow, I wasn't aware of it, because I was just a kid too, that maybe I had some leadership qualities, because otherwise, first of all, when I'd come back that senior year, that particular senior year, they got all the junior college guys and they made them the officers of the corps.

Right.

And everybody else had to be less than that, but I was a senior, so they made me first sergeant of A-Company; that's how I started my senior year, so a guy by the name of Parugaman was captain of the college company, and a guy by the name of Slokam was-no I beg your pardon, I'm wrong, the guy by the name of Parugaman was captain of A-Company; the guy by the name of Slokam was captain of B-Company. I don't remember who was company commander of the college company. I was the first sergeant and that's how it started that year, but things change, you know, people come and go and whatever, and then they were having some real problems up in the band. It wasn't just the piano, they were just having some problems.

My father was in the band-

I remember, your father was in the band, but I never had any trouble with him and I went up there, and so anyway, after about a couple of months of school, I don't know, maybe it would have been like toward the end of the year, toward November or something, they set me up there to see what I could do and apparently, whatever it was I did worked and then maybe they could see-by then Parguanan was

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not doing that well with A-Company and one of the reasons-it wasn't Paruganan's fault. Paruganan was older than the rest of us. He was 22 or 24; he had been in World War II-he was a vet and he had more medals than us little guys with our little medals that we had from Brown. This guy had real medals and that's what he would wear. So you know, right off the bat, he had, not a free pass, but the administration thought of him, well you know, he's more mature, he's been there and we're just talking about it, but he's been there. So they gave him a little bit of access to moving up the ladder better, but he apparently couldn't identify very well with these little puppies out here that were very mischievous-

-Teenagers!

-Teenagers, they were mischievous teenagers and maybe he didn't like yeah, so they moved him over to the college company and they made him company commander of the college company and he ran that show and he stayed there the rest of that year and that's when they pulled me out of the band cause they needed somebody for they and they said let's put you back over there and somehow I got my wish because Slokum stayed in B-Company; Paruganan had the college, the C- and D- didn't count, and so I was just, I was so happy and fortunate. Man, you walk the tight rope and don't-it wasn't so much that you don't make any waves. That wasn't the issue. I made my waves, but it was, well maybe, to answer your question, maybe they saw some leadership qualities in me and I'm kind of a little, I kind of complex like most people are, but maybe not all that easy to read, because I wouldn't come off as a big leader like some guys you know, some guys are different.

One of the things, one of the questions that I ask all of you guys, the school, one of the main purposes of the school was that, was to instill in you leadership. Good, bad or indifferent, it didn't matter if you were a private, or if you were a company captain. You were instilled with training in leadership, right?

Yes, yes, yes.

And, do we have that today, outside of the military?

Hell, no. I tell you something was really interesting. You asked me about little things, you know, they're kind of coming back. One of the interesting little things that I used to enjoy was we'd go down into the armory and we had three particular guys. One guy used to refer-these guys were real military guys; they were PMSAT. Colonel Gody was in charge of them, we have this lieutenant, I don't remember his name right now, and then we had two student sergeants and this guy, this sergeant, his name was Bardling.

Ok, Bardling.

And he was kind of funny; he was a big guy.

He was a sergeant of the regular army or he was-

Sergeant of the regular army. He was for real and he would teach us about guns and boy at that age, you just, you just soak it up and I remember, we used to have, we-there was two things we had to do, or

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you just couldn't get through the PMSAT. You had to be able to take a '45 apart blindfolded and put it back together.

Wait, what is PMSAT, what is that?

Um, Professor of Military Science And Tactics.

Ok.

Ok, and we had to do the same thing with the M1 grand, blindfolded, we'd have to be able to take those things-I couldn't even, I probably couldn't even carry the damn thing now, but in those days, boy we were just-you know those were the-you're just, you know, you're full of energy and you just love doing that kind of stuff, such a thrill. I used to enjoy it. I could take that damn thing apart, put it back together as fast as anybody. Either one of them-blindfolded, boy, they'd never catch me with my socks of with that stuff.

So as captain, what was your responsibility?

Well, we had certain aspects of training that we had to do, particularly we had to do it for the end of the year, we had a competition with B-Company, and we had to be able to take apart a 30-caliber, and a 50-caliber machine gun, which leave blanks and that kind of stuff, and we trained on that kind of stuff and there was other kind of training related to military life, not, we never really went on any...that I recall, but as a leader, you had to make sure that everybody followed the rules and you know, there was, in the building, A, for A-Company, there was the first floor, which was not empty, there was a couple of chaplains lived there on the first floor and then I had my room on the first floor, then on the second floor, you had one platoon, and then on the third floor, you had the second platoon and then on the fourth floor, you had the college company. The college company, they had to take care of themselves. But we were also, as a leader, we had to be responsible for the guys underneath you to extend their responsibilities to the guys underneath them, because every, well at least once a week we had inspection, but I think that we-I don't remember right now-that we had more inspections than-we probably had a major inspection once a week, we had an inspection more often than that and then you know, before school, after breakfast, we'd come back, have to tidy up the room, get everything pass, have the officer of that platoon come by and whoever the lieutenant was or the sergeant to check all that stuff out and I was kind of part of the rigor that you followed all the time.

It was interesting, I talked to Len. Part of World War II, they did go up...up in Monterrey.

Ok.

You know, they'd do the summer thing where they'd go up-

It's funny, I did the same thing, but not through Browns-

Oh, you did it through the other school?

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When I graduated from the other school, I was older at that school than the other little kids, so I got to move up the ladder quicker, I don't know if I was a captain or major at that school, I don't remember, but I belonged to what they call, it was sort of like ROTC, but for little kids and they had a program like the one you're speaking of, where you go-what was the name of that place you said again?

It was something-Monterrey, camp, something

That's it, Monterrey, Fort, something up there. I just don't remember the name of it, but I went up there as part of this group and was there for a couple of weeks. In fact I remember I got athlete's feet while I was up there. Ooh, my mother had to take me to a specialist because I couldn't get well from it; it took me about a month to get well from it, but he had to put my feet in iodine, I think. My feet were purple for six months.

Just to get rid of the, of the showers that you guys used?

I guess, whatever it was, but it was, Fort, it may come to me later. I just remember that, because it was kind of interesting.

Murray? Montgomery?

But we wacked and we marched the heck out of everything, attended lectures and all that.

So, if I'm understanding correctly, since the end of World War II, they might have just stopped that.

It could be, yeah, you're right because you see World War II ended when I left that school and then I started Browns and Browns was already '46, and the war was over in '45. But the best thing you got to get into your paper is that when I got there in '46, every road in Pacific Beach was a dirt road, except for those, well name them.

Yeah, because I've got photographs that show Pacific Beach. It's just not as developed as it is now, obviously.

You wouldn't-it's not the same town; it's a big party town now. And in those days, it was like-I tell you what, I remember going to La Mesa for the first time, maybe in the late '40s, driving right through town. Carl Burger Dodge was right on La Mesa Boulevard, near Drew Ford, which was in La Mesa.

Right, which is still-it would be, except I-8 now split the two apart.

Well not really, because there's a restaurant now where Drew Ford was. Yeah, I'm talking about really going back and it was the cutest little community you've ever been in, this La Mesa. I was mesmerized by it.

I lived there and I loved that little village.

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Yeah, the little village. Ok, it mesmerized me. I used to love to just drive through there, just to look around. It reminded me of some town in the mid-west that you see in the movies. Ok, Pacific Beach used to be like that. Not now, now it's a big party town. But that's what I'm trying to explain. That's why I'm telling you that.

So, did you, when you guys went on weekends, did you stay on campus, or did you go off campus?

Most of the time, I hung around campus. However, there was two friends of mine, one guy whose name was Denis and the other guy Kelly or something, I don't remember-I'll look in my book-but anyway, I remember we went down just between us guys I think-I don't know if we were in civilian clothes or uniform, but we went downtown and we stayed at the US Grand. Now I hardly knew what the US Grand was, but one of the two of them knew the whole town, maybe through his parents, and I'll always remember, it cost us \$18 a night, we each pitched up three guys six bucks, you know? And can you imagine? That must have been maybe 46-47-I don't know-48, but we stayed overnight and we didn't have anything to do, we're just kids, so ended up wrestling and we made so much noise that the house detective came over and knocked on the door and wanted to know what we were up to, so we straightened up our act and we-

So you never went to Tijuana?

Oh! Tijuana, that's another story, yeah, went to Tijuana and in fact, not a lot.

No, a lot of you guys didn't, because for some reason, they always knew where you guys were.

Yeah, I went to Tijuana a couple of times, maybe like on a weekend, but never stayed overnight-I never stayed overnight, but that could be that way and I think I had more to do with Tijuana after I graduated and was an adult. But I remember there were times, I know that-I remember this, okay, I remember this: I don't know which year this was, but a guy by the name of Felix Mason, father had a new, brand-new Cadillac, 1947 Cadillac, and his father let him borrow the Cadillac-my father had a brand-new Cadillac that year too-'47, that's a little story I'll tell you, but I remember cause the three Cadillac's I remember: John Smilies' father had a Cadillac, I think it was a '46, Felix Mason's was a '47 and my father's was a '47, so the time must have been 1947 or '48. Now the year that I took my father's Cadillac down to Browns for the big dance, the-what do you call that dance, the senior dance?

Prom.

Prom, yeah, the prom. I stayed in town-I didn't, cause I got a ticket doing 80 coming from LA to Gotus with a car.

How'd you get here? There was no I-5 then.

101, going on-

How do you go 80 miles an hour on that Pacific highway?

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That's what the cop wanted to know and you know what, it was just three days before my 18th birthday, and he said if I would have been 18, he'd have taken me to jail, but he had to give me a ticket and let me go.

So it was hard to signalize on the pacific highway, or to signalize back-

Sure, but between, around Tamenalton, there was a lot of room.

There still is!

You get over there, but it wasn't like it is today. There's a Mickey Mouse 101. They changed the name of that, or maybe they changed it, I don't know. But anyway, back to Felix Mason, so anyway Felix Mason was a friend of mine and he came from Tijuana and there was a number of cadets that were from that area. They were very well-to-do people and his father owned the oil industry down there and he was rich as hell in those days. So anyway, I remember we all piled into Felix Maizes' Cadillac-his father's Cadillac-we went down there and stupid Mason left the car keys in the car and locked it. And that's-

In Tijuana?

In Tijuana. Because he's from Tijuana, shit, he didn't care about-he felt that he owned Tijuana. You got to understand the arrogance that some of those kids had at the time. So you know what he did to-well, he got a rock and he broke the side window to get the key out of the car. I looked at him; I wanted to faint! My father'd shoot me. I'd never do a stupid thing like that.

Unbelievable.

It was a riot.

Man, how about the beach? Did you guys go to the beach much?

All the time. The beach was a second home to all of us and I had two friends, one guy by the name of Young and I can't remember the other guy's-these guys were muscle builders, kind of funny. These two guys were muscle builders and it might have been my junior year and I had a girlfriend in my junior year, so they kind of admired that about my ability, that I had a girlfriend, but these guys were so much into their muscles, that they didn't have room to expand into girls, but they admired anybody that had a girlfriend, so they let me into their little clique. And we'd go to the beach every day, not during football season or during track season, cause I was always busy at that time, but we'd go down to the beach. We'd go swimming and oh god, I had a horrible experience one time-on our senior ditch day, I don't know what the hell happened with Senior ditch day, we got a hold of some liquor. And I'll tell you sir, I was no saint. I somehow got a hold of Vodka; I don't know where the hell I got it. But I'd go down to the beach with all the other kids from our school-other guys, and I must have had two or three drinks of that and I got drunk as a skunk. And what happened is I went out into the water and the other guys that

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were there, they saw that I was up-side down and they pulled me out of the water. I wasn't drowning yet, but I probably would have, if they'd have left me there.

Well thank God they didn't-they came and got you.

Yeah, and so, and I'm going to tell you, I had a hangover the next day. The next day we were going over to LA on the bus to-all the cadets were going up there-just to see the skating capades.

Ice capades?

Ice capades. We were going up to the whatever building it was in those days that they had in Las Angeles-I think it was on Washington Boulevard-I'm not sure, but it was where all the-it was the biggest deal of LA at the time and we-Browns bought us tickets and that was maybe part of our Senior ditch day thing. And they took us up there and I had a hangover that just, the thought of vodka, I never had another drop of vodka. Just never. I mean, yeah, I had another vodka way later in my 30s or 40s, but just oh-

So did the academy do a lot of these types of field trips for you guys or just the seniors during the year?

They didn't do a lot of them. We didn't go to a lot of places, like this Billowack that we were talking about, it never happened at Browns while I was there, that I remember, you know, who knows? But things like that, I remember they did have occasionally a certain, maybe the certain holidays or what-they'd bring the girls from either Glendora down, and we'd have nice dance-everything was-I'll tell you one thing, that every time Browns did something, it was always first-class. We always had to dress up in our uniform.

Your dress uniforms?

Well, not always the dress-dress uniforms, because the dress uniform, you know with the big plumes and all that, that was mostly for parades, but there was other times when-but there was another dress in between your going-to-school clothes is what I'm trying to say. And it was-they looked very nice, sort of formal and they had dances for the girls coming down from Glendora and then they also, somehow they made arrangements with Hoover and San Diego High, because they were the main schools. I don't even think Pacific Beach-Lojoya, yeah, we even had girls come down from Lojoya come down from. My girlfriend that I did end up having a girlfriend-ended up marrying her-ended up marrying twice. She was the girl that I married eventually, but she graduated from Lajoya High, cause I met her at Pacific Beach and that's where the kids in Pacific Beach went to school at Lajoya High. The kids at Lajoya went there and that was that for those days, but they would bring down girls. I remember meeting this real-pretty blonde from Hoover and I remember how we, you know, just-so did have that kind of stuff, and it was intermittently during the year, so that we were not in a monastery, I'll put it to you that way, by any sense of the word, but we're always doing something. If we weren't in the army, taking apart a machine gun or something, then we were maybe focusing on some-swimming was very, very popular. I was never a good swimmer, so I'd go swimming once in a while, but we had some damn good swimmers.

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You had your own swimming pool didn't you?

Yes, we had our own swimming pool, over by the nurses office, I don't know what we used to call that, but-

Were they by the huts, where the-

Off of Lamont.

Oh I saw pictures, I've seen pictures of it, yeah

Yeah.

I'd think it would be in here, isn't it?

Maybe this, right here, '48.

What amazes me in your senior picture here, shot of you doing the long jump, but this is when you played football. How come?

There's um-

You guys were embarrassed by your football team, weren't you?

Well, yeah. We could have done better, I'll tell you that. You know the best team we ever had?

Well yeah, the baseball team.

Well, that. The baseball team was always very good. But there was-I don't know if it was 1948, maybe it's '47-we had a football team that was really very good and I was-hell I was just-I was fairly new there, so I was what you might call a-I was on the second string, but the first string was really pretty good.

This was 1949.

Yup.

Yeah, 1949, my father started on the baseball team.

Oh well, that was baseball, see. I wasn't on the-

There it is, here it is. Swimming. Here's the pool.

Yeah, there you go and then there might be another picture around there somewhere of-

-The campus.

Yeah, the campus, that'll give you a better picture, but it was-no.

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Why is that? Why didn't you letter returning players. Did you just play seniors, is that-

Well, we were a small school for one thing.

Yeah, that's true.

And they didn't offer any scholarships to, if a guy was particularly good from some other part of the world, to bring him to Browns to play football like they would at West Point.

But you had some good guys on the baseball team, because I heard you guys had a lot of Hispanic pitchers.

Yes.

-Which really-

Yeah, they did really well. They-well our basketball team wasn't too bad either.

And right here. It's 17 right there. You and him are mentioned here in the game against Ramona.

I think we beat Ramona that year.

Yeah, I think that's the only way-

Might have been, but that's a '48, no that's-

'48

'48, okay. Yeah. '47 was the year that, like I said, we really ended up with a pretty good football team. They did well against other schools beyond our southern prep. We were in a smaller league.

Yeah.

Well you gotta figure the whole school in those days might have had four-five hundred including the junior school and then, you know, most of the guys weren't really activated or attracted by sports, so the few that were there really had to carry, you know, carry the whole picture.

Did you join, you joined the letterman's club, didn't you?i

Yes.

You know, it's funny. I didn't see my father with it, yet he has-I have his letterman sweater and I have his two-he's got the football and the baseball.

Well, let me tell you something about these books. Every year, there was somebody else different that was the editor of the book and they-they tended to take the pictures when they could get things accomplished and I think in some way-because I remember, particularly my last year-the three guys that

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kind of-two of the three guys that were kind of running the yearbook-I guess it was called the year of the...they really weren't involved in anything. They-one guy maybe turned out to be intellectual, because I think he became a doctor of physics-the other guy, he did come to one of our reunions about two or three years ago-I didn't recognize him. But they were really not that involved. They-after maybe being at that school-both guys if I recall-maybe five or six years, which maybe they started in junior school. They didn't move up the ladder or anything, but you know, they were not involved. They were not one of the boys. Put it that way.

Yeah, it's like normal high school, they were kind of the geeks or outsiders. They weren't the inside guys that were captain of the football or played football or sports.

They weren't any of that.

-Weren't advancing up the ranks in terms of trying to make themselves something. They just kind of did their job and-

And so these guys kind of ran these books. I won't say that for my first year there. The ones in '46, I mean, this book, '47-the guy that did this book was a guy named Williams and he was a real involved guy and he was an artist.

Oh, is that the one that has the cartoon sketches and everything?

Yeah, he was phenomenal!

Look at the size! Look at the size, the thickness of the books.

Yeah! He really-they were very proud of what he had done here, but unfortunately, his father took him out of school toward the end of the year, because he got involved with a girl. I don't know if he got drunk or what the deal was, but he got involved with a girl. That really pissed the parents off what he had done with her, so I don't know-I don't really remember that. But I know he was a real good guy. He was, you know, just had a lot of fun with him. His name was Williams. I remember that. Good guy, but then I don't think he came back the following year. So I think he would have been in my class. He would have done a good job with those too, but the guys that did that last book, they were-maybe call them geeks, is one thing you could call them. They were nice people, but they weren't too involved. They belonged to that-they also, there were some other things too. Because the school, and you got to know we're talking about teenagers, that has something to do with it, but we had two chaplains on campus and the school promoted religion, which was good, because I'm going to tell you, the religion that they promoted helped me in my life later on, even though I was a Catholic and this was a Baptist evangelical school. There wasn't that much difference between the honor and the right and the wrong that you learned in school, versus being a coward or whatever. There wasn't that much difference, but it really instilled in me a stronger belief that I would not have had otherwise if I'd have stayed in the ghetto, put it to you that way.

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Well what's interesting, I've interviewed two men that were Jewish that went to, you know, and they didn't, they're still Jewish, but they know every Baptist hymn, which is kind of funny. You know, they would because their parents said, they need to have a good education, this is where they went.

And see, I say that because the school-there was an element, there was a group of guys that belonged to the Bible class, which meant that these guys were more focused into the belief system and this tended to separate them a little bit from some of the mischievous things that the regular guys would be getting into, not that anybody ever did anything like, you know, like anything bad, but it just-I guess like in any high school, there were cliques. I didn't realize it until we started to talk about it right now. I suppose it was.

You know what's funny it one of the things that the lawyer-I don't remember his name right now.

Yeah, I know who you mean.

They took apart one of the professor's cars and stuck it on the roof.

Oh I remember them telling us about that at one of these-they did that later, way after I left, probably in like 1958, maybe '57, somewhere in there.

'57, it was '57, yeah. You know that's-

And they put the damn car on top of the roof?!

They took it apart, put it back together on the roof.

Isn't that incredible?

I think it's awesome myself.

Oh yeah, that was fun. We laughed, we're still laughing about that. I didn't know about that.

But he also told me that one of the differences too was that they-the officers, there was a milk strike because they wanted to go to the milk cartons that the schools use now, where they used to-you used to just have a pitcher of milk?

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Well, they went on strike and the consequences were they won the strike, but all those officers that organized it were busted to privates.

Oh really.

Yeah, it was interesting-

That must have been later on then.

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It was the 50s, yeah. You guys, you know, I'm starting to realize that as I get closer to moving up to Glendora, things changed. It was just sad.

Well you know, society changes.

Yeah, and I notice that too when it goes into the 60s, because the school folds in the midst of the Vietnam War.

It was then that there was a sin to even think of joining the army.

-Which was sad, because in retrospect, I wish I had, but I was with that generation, you know, I grew up with this thing, so, I think of it-again, there's nothing to say nego about this academy.

Nothing, nothing, even Ken Kramer of San Diego has that program, KPBS.

Yeah, I just watched that last night!

I didn't get a chance to see that last night. I flipped on it and it just finished, but what I'm saying is I've watched Ken Kramer about San Diego, and not only Ken Kramer, but there's another guy-

Rick Tefolla.

Him. And both guys have focused on Pacific Beach on a particular program. They say nothing at all-they talk about this little house made of rocks, about the pier and anything else you want to talk about Pacific Beach, but nothing whatsoever that Brown ever existed.

I think it's because they don't understand the legacy.

They don't.

I'm trying to move forward.

They don't. It would be good if you could put this together in such a way that it maybe would come out narrative in like, like in a book form, that one of those kind of guys would maybe want to-

Well the goal is to get it published in the San Diego Historical Journal.

Good!

Okay, that's the goal. I'm trying to get you guys, as many as I can-I'm surprised at how few I'm getting, all right. But that's okay. The more, I'm mean, I feel I have enough now to where I could write this thing, but my goal is to make sure that we keep this going. I don't want it to disappear. The nice thing is that Brown University is really interested. I told you that my father send them his uniform-I'll keep his letterman's sweater until later, then pass it on. I'm also going to send them the bugle notes-they have a copy of that. So I have his dress uniform and I have two of the cadet jackets and I have all the buckles-

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excuse me-and belts, so that's all going. I wish I had a button board. You know the button board where you had to polish your brass buttons?

Oh yeah.

Because everybody talks about the button board and having to scrub and polish those brass buttons. When you became an officer, you had to buy a new uniform, didn't you?

I guess I did, I don't-

You don't remember, because I know it cost your parents a pretty penny.

Probably did, yeah.

Because it was a lot more expensive than the regular one.

But I still have my saber and all that, but you see, when I went through my divorce, I don't know, I guess things just disappeared.

You still have your saber, right?

I still have my saber.

Promise me that when you go, you'll give that to Brown Military Academy-I mean, Brown University. They don't have one. Again, because it will live in perpetuity. You know, I mean that stuff will live-if your children don't want it-

No, they don't want it.

Send it to Brown. This is part of their legacy that they had this academy.

I really am-I have two daughters, two natural daughters. I have three other kids, but they're not mine. They're not particularly interested in this kind of stuff and I have one natural grandson, and although I have a couple of great-grandsons, but-

[phone reading caller ID]

That's mine-that's my daughter.

Anyway, the grand-and she's calling on your cell?

Arnie, think about in your lifetime, just in your lifetime, the things that you've seen. You were adolescent through the depression, grew as a child through World War II, you served in Korea, all right, you've seen a man walk on the moon, which you would have never thought of in 1940 or '50, you've seen the advent of computers and just the technology climb.

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I remember when they used talk about computers being as big as a house in the 1950 and now look how small they are and look what they can do.

Here they are, right here. It'd just amazing what you guys have seen and it's-

Well, what's kind of interesting-I measure it this way. Think about it, I was born when Herbert Hoover was president and when I was two years old, Franklin Delanor Roosevelt became president-

Right.

And I was 15-not quite, I almost was 15 when the war ended and president Roosevelt had just died and everybody felt as badly about his death, except as a different kind of tragedy in the case of Kennedy-you remember how shitty everybody felt when Kennedy was killed. Oh God, that was horrible. So, yeah, I think about all that.

You've seen us attacked twice, you've seen Pearl Harbor-

Oh I remember Pearl Harbor.

-And you've seen 9/11.

Yeah, I didn't grab the-I didn't grab the just of-

Historical significance of it?

-Historical significance of Pearl Harbor, but it did scare me enough to make me begin to wonder about war, because even though as a kid-you know, kids think more as like-that's why it's crazy about all the games that they have now, killing people, you know, because kids they think-they don't think anything of that. But like-in fact I saw it on the news last-TV last night, where McArthur makes this statement that nobody hates war more than the soldier.

The benefits of Brown, we've mentioned this, but leadership?

Well yeah, and you have to be-as a human-being, you have to be open to accepting what they have to-I never fought the system. That's one of the reasons I never got any demerits is, you know, this is the way it is, you know, I'm smart enough to understand this is the way we're going to play this game and then play the game that way and so therefore, I wasn't just becoming captain of A-Company, I was captain of the football team too and captain of the track team.

So you must have had some leadership skills-

I must have had a few, but none that I can figure out.

What about the academics? How was the difference-how was going to a military academy different, do you think, than going to a public school in terms of academics.

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It's interesting because during the summer-cause my father, he'd have put me to work, or I'd talked him into letting me go to summer school, so I went to the local summer schools that were available in the area that I used to live.

In East LA?

In east L.A., when I was going to Browns. So, my 11th year, and I don't know, it seems like I went to two summer schools, just to take some courses. I went to L.A. high one year-had a car by then, so that must have been just before my senior year, because I remember I went to-I took a course there with a guy by the name of Burkheart that had just graduated from Browns at that time. He lived not very far from L.A. high. I also went to Roosevelt High, which was in the east L.A. area and-with some kids from the neighborhood-but anyway, different, there's two things: one, is the classes were much smaller at Browns and so you had more personal-and the teachers tried real hard and then the other things is the discipline. There was a lot more discipline at Brown, so you didn't mess around. You tried to focus with what they were offering you.

When you came into the classroom at Brown, did you guys have to come at attention and wait until the teacher told you to sit, or did you just come in and sit down or-?

I don't remember to tell you the truth.

Okay.

I don't remember. I don't know, whatever the other guys say, that must have been it.

The other ones-no one-

I think it might have depended on the class too. Sometimes we'd come in and we'd sit down and then he'd come in, we'd snap to attention and then he'd tell us we could sit down.

Would it also be too if it was an officer teaching the class verses a civilian?

You know what, as I recall, everybody, including the civilians-they were all men; I don't remember every being taught by a woman at Browns for anything except the nurse, but the civilian people-cause I remember I had two different Spanish teachers: a guy by the name of Rosado, whose exactly ten years older than me; he was a Spanish teacher and Rosado went on the law school and then he became a judge in the city of San Diego and I remember when I first started the insurance business, I was working downtown in the US National Bank building, my office was on the 14th floor, because I worked in this particular insurance agency and Rosado's office, before he became a judge was across the hall. So I'd go visit with him and we talked about, you know, things. Okay, but your question was did they wear uniforms or not. I remember all the teachers wearing the uniform of some sort or another and they'd wear these-they'd all be captains or higher, as I recall, except I think Rosado because I think he was kind of young, compared with the other teachers, I think he might have been a lieutenant, but that was simply because of his age.

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So do you feel then that the strictness and the smallness actually provided a better education for you?

I think in that respect, yes. The school was a no-nonsense school in every respect. They were definitely accredited and, you know, they figured they'd bone you out well enough so you'd go take that West Point test and at least have a chance to get in and most of those guys would pass the test, but then you had to go get a senator or a congressman or somebody important to recommend you so they would accept you.

Yeah, the-how do you feel that Brown has helped you as you-80-?

81-years old?

81-years-old.

Well, most of all, it's given me some of the most beautiful memories that any human being has a right to have and I have met some beautiful people that are still my friends, even today, that I can't deny that's it's like for those people that belong to a fraternity that it's just a special fraternity of fellowship and friends that you-they're just very special, special people, but the memories are incredible. The best thing my father ever did to me, the best thing that my father ever did for me next to putting me to work at eleven years old at a service station, because that began to develop my character, was sending me to Browns. Even better than Paige. Paige was the first military school that he sent me. That was ok, but-

Where was that located at?

It was at west L.A. It was in west L.A. It was in a nice neighborhood, so you know, all that was swell. In fact, Hedy Lamarr, I don't know if you ever-

I know who that is, yes.

Hedy Lamarr's son was in-I had a little platoon, in fact I became company commander in D-Company because I was older than all these little puppies, you know, little, younger puppies and Hedy Lamarr's kid was in my little unit there. I don't remember him, I was just a kid then.

Yeah, you know that she got her money not from acting but from her electrical engineering. She developed-

I didn't know that. I think somebody told me that.

She had been in some huge electronic thing that even to this day that she-

No kidding? Hedy Lamarr did that?

Not only was she good looking; she was intelligent.

Oh, she was very pretty. In fact, if, you know, in my mind-I mean now and then because, you know when you get old, you forget names, like you can't believe, so I often think of like actors and actresses

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and I particularly focus on actresses not because they were sexy at all, nothing to do with sex, strictly to do with faces and I categorize them in my head, the days that would be my mother's era and maybe a little bit older, when I was a teenager and I'd be looking up at these Marilyn Monroe gals and then those that were in my age and then those that came after me and I remember those names. Do you know who's at the top of my list? Hedy Lamarr.

Yeah, mine too.

Yeah, Hedy Lamarr-

I mean look at me, I'm not anywhere, I'm 30 years younger than you and oh yeah, she was amazing.

Oh course a couple of others that came with her, Loretta Young was in her category as far as looks. You know the thing about Loretta Young, she continued on in acting on television until she was quite a bit older.

Like Betty White?

Well yeah, but she, Loretta Young, I keep her focus is because she was pretty, quite very pretty even when she was 50 and 60.

I know.

Of course, people used to say she was 80, but I don't think she could have been that old. She was probably maybe 60 though.

Man, so is there anything you think we've missed in covering Browns?

Well, the only thing that was unfortunate, I think that it's too bad that Browns didn't have enough money, because, you know, the money was limited in how you had to spend it if you were the owner of the school. It's too bad that, you know, all the coaches that we had for anything, they did a good job; they were great people. I've got no faults of any of our coaches, but if they could have had more time for training or if they'd some, maybe a couple of-at least one professional athletic guy, cause I remember this: I had a best friend there at Browns. His name was Bernie Miller. Unfortunately Bernie's dead now. He died at the-just turned 60, which would have been about 1990, I guess, about 1990. He's buried on...grounds. Bernie and I went to school together, but he was so much smarter then I guess because he was already there when I was attending Browns and we didn't become friends until after I became a senior and he was a part of the college company. He was one year ahead of me. And he was 16 or 17 years old and he had his pilot's license and he would get in his airplane and he would buzz the school. Hey, hi, Bernie, you know, we'd wave to him. Well Bernie wanted to go to West Point, but it just didn't work out for him, so he went to college and through the ROTC, he got his ROTC, but he was car-blind, but in those days it was computers, so he could memorize the charts and he was able to go to flag school and he became a pilot in the air force, a real one, except that in those days they had two pilots in an airplane, in a jet-pilot and the observer and he was the observer. So he got up to lieutenant-

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colonel, so he did good and I remember the funniest thing about Bernie Miller is that I'm driving to an appointment as an insurance man, I've been about your age then, yeah about your age. I'm going to Santa Sidno because I had, I still have, I have some motels insured down there, which is a pretty good size in count in fact.

It's not Niko, is it?

No, it's not Niko, because he's already-he's on the other side of the border. I only had another guy that was rich like Niko, but was different kind of a business. It had business on this side of the border and that side of the border and I insured them on this side, but I'd go to his office in Tijuana and he was a Syrian guy, like Niko, Syrian, and I can't remember his name right now-Jorge was his name, but anyway, I'm driving down there to this appointment. I'm going maybe about 80 miles an hour, because that's the way I used to drive-80 and stop, two speeds: stop and 80.

Hardy, hardy harr.

So I've got this Lincoln, ok, silver Lincoln, it's silver like this. I don't know what year it was, maybe '80-something, mark 4 or mark 7, I forget which one, but it's that real cool looking one, so I'm driving down there. Ten in the morning, I'm going to this appointment and this car pulls up alongside of me on my right side, giving me the horn. I look over, I don't want to pull over. I mean, maybe this guy wants to do something, you know, pull a gun on me or something, you know, to hell with it. So I keep-I don't pay any attention to it and he keeps giving me the horn so I look over again and then I see a woman on the other side and a woman in the back and maybe a kid. I said, well whoever that is can't be that bad because it looks like a family or something. Maybe something's wrong with my car. So I slowed down and then he slowed down and then we slowed down even more and then he went ahead of me a little bit and then I pulled over; I said what the hell. And then as I got slower, I looked; I hadn't seen Bernie since about 1956, when he was a first lieutenant in the air force and he came to visit me when I was stationed at Point Lomely and Fort Rosegrants. He had come to visit me because we're both from Browns. You know, you got that fraternity thing, so anyway, we stop in the middle of the damn freeway going to south to Santa Sidno and we get out and we give each other a big hug; it's like the television commercial where you see that girl running and the guy running and they were running and hey Bernie I haven't seen you and we hug and his wife thought we were both crazy, so anyway, we agreed to see each other later and so I went to my appointment and so did Bernie; I don't know what Bernie was doing. Now, why did I decide to tell you that? I decided just to tell you about-Bernie became a lieutenant-colonel in the air force, retired and that's when, then when the real estate down-I wish-He would be a great guy you'd want to interview.

You know, you see this is the reason I'm doing this is because you guys are disappearing.

We are, I mean, everybody's dying. I think-

I mean the ones in San Diego, I'll have plenty of them from Glendora and I'm a little-I am biased. I'm more interested in San Diego than I am in Glendora.

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Well, you're right. I think the school was different. Maybe that's what we're kind of talking about here. Bernie-oh now I know what I was going to tell you. The reason I bring up Bernie, Bernie was a very special guy. His hair was white like yours is, but that was his natural color. He was a blond, okay. He was almost like an albino; he had blue eyes, very fair skin, like this oreo thing and he had white hair-well it was sort of blondish, but really white. Well this guy who was my buddy would go out with me-my senior year I'm running track, okay? And I wasn't as fast as like-first of all I used to run the 100, the 220, ended up running long jump and we didn't really have any coaches to train us, so we'd have to go out there and do our thing. We didn't know our left hand from our right hand. Well, Bernie would work with me because Bernie was faster and he was just, he was a natural and so Bernie was-could run a 10 flat or a 9.9 all day of the week. I would maybe run 10.4 if I was really lucky and everything was going-

If the wind was blowing?

-If the wind was blowing right and all that. Otherwise, I wasn't that fast, okay? But I was the fastest guy on the football team and I could stay on the football team even though I was the smallest guy, because I'm so damn fast you couldn't catch me. So that's what made me effective on the football team and I also-I could tackle pretty good too; I remember that. I don't care how big the guy was. Well we're over here and Bernie, Bernie ended up going to Fresno State and he did his thing there after he left Browns, but his last year, Bernie goes over to USC and puts together enough money, working, his mother, maybe he had a couple bucks, not much, but his mother was not rich, but I remember Bernie goes to USC and now I'm going to get to the point. He starts running with Mel Patton, the fastest man in the world at that time. Mel Patton beat Jesse Owens' record, which was 10.4 for eons, 1936 or '35, I don't know when.

'36 Olympics, yes.

Ok, Jesse Owens was the man and then Mel Patton comes in in 1953 and breaks that record at 9.3, 9.3 and Bernie's effort at that time was 9.5. Well Bernie was a natural and Bernie was trying to help me if he could. I think I would have been much-in all the things that we did physically in that regard, we could have done better if we'd had a-more was channeled toward the coaching to help that. I don't say that there was anything wrong with the guys we had. They did the best they could, because all of them were teaching history or science or something else and then when they had nothing-I remember there was a guy by the name of Major Horn in our-he had a son going to Browns, Dick Horn, I think. He and I played football my junior year. He and I, I played, I don't remember which bat played what. I think I played right, he played left, something like that until Dick Horn got hurt, and then Dick couldn't play anymore. I don't know if he hurt his knee or what, or maybe it was me who got hurt and I wasn't playing anymore, but I remembered major Horn then kind of dropped off, but he was a fulltime teacher teaching the junior school and he'd come out and he would help teach football and would wrap us, you know and he'd wrap your ankles and neck and what-all and stuff we had to do. So my point was-yeah, that's right, they leave at 4:30-but the main thing is, is that you-if they could have focused a little bit more, I think we could have had a better team in all of the sports, but they didn't pay any attention to it.

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Well I think Brown's emphasis was-

That wasn't their emphasis.

No, their emphasis was the church and the military school. I think they had that right and I think you have a point that if they would have saw the importance more of the athletic thing, I mean, I can look at it now because I've coached little league to big league baseball.

Well, you know.

That, in-plus the time has changed with athletes back then didn't get paid anything what they're getting paid now. All right, so-

Yeah, right, oh God. Nobody would even go into it. The biggest name in those (excuse me, in those) days was a guy by the name of Red Grange-

It would be nice, now I don't know if the school would have continued because of the problems in the '60s, anti-

Probably would have-

Plus the property that they had would have been hard to hold onto.

Never held it on because-

Well army navy's continued, army navy's continued there up in Carlsbath and they are running strong still.

Yeah, because there is a need for that kind of a school. Let me tell you something that sort of related to what we're talking about. Years ago, I think we still have the account. I have an account down at Platoon Vista. I don't know if the guy's dead now or not, but it was three brothers that owned a couple of markets down there and one of the brothers who I got to be close to had a son who today, today might be in his late 20s, maybe his 30s, so ten years ago at least, he attended that school-I think he graduated from it until the economy changed and then like I don't know if he graduated or if he couldn't stay there any longer, but anyway, the conversations that I had with him, his son, and also with the father, my account, they run that school a lot like we did at Browns. They have that code and all that stuff. I'll tell you something that also happened to me too. One of the other fun things to show you the difference, back to this fraternity thing-I make a lot of references to fraternity for lack of a better word, but the bonding that takes place between another guy that attended that school, let me tell you something else that happened to me-I tell you about the other time in my life that was so terrific. I was in the air force on active duty, on Fort Rose Grants from four solid years. Best four years other than Browns. And my job was personnel. I had to handle all the records for all the reservists, air force reserve guys in San Diego-

What was your rank in the air force?

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Staff sergeant.

Ok, so you didn't-you weren't an officer?

No, I was not an officer. Ok, so I was a staff sergeant and I handled all these records. And of the six or seven hundred records that we had, most of them were officers in the air force and a much (ok hun, take care)

[Hey Arnie, have a good weekend! Did you have another appointment coming in?]

Now, I'll put it to you this way, I was a pretty good athlete, I was not a great athlete, but I never-I always know to this day that I never became the best I could be because we just didn't have the training.

Right, I understand that.

Yeah, and that's what happened and then Korea came, I was going to some damn junior-by then, you see, my father went broke after I graduated from Browns.

I'm sorry for that.

Well I was too because he says-because I was ready to go to USC. That's where I wanted to go.

Oh, you and me both.

Yeah, and then, you know, my dad went broke unfortunately; my parents were going through a divorce and all that, so I didn't, you know, Korea came, and it was a way to get the hell out of-

Dodge.

Dodge. Very well put. It was my way to get out of Dodge because the fighting between my parents, things were not what they were. I had gotten used to going to Browns and living in that ghetto, which sucked. I wanted to get the hell out of there. So that's why the military has been a place I've always had a very high esteem for because it did a lot for me and it helped me-Browns, well Paige, Browns and then the military, got me going.

Ok, so let's go back to where you were. We were talking about you're in control of all these officers and all this service record...grants.

Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. Thank you, yeah. Ok, so I handled all these-ok now I got it, now I'm back on point. So I handled all these records and you know, because there was only nine of us guys there; we had a colonel, two captains-one captain in charge of education, one captain in charge of administration, he had a secretary, and then there was a few of us enlisted and they had a total of nine and so my particular job was personnel, so I handled all these records of all of these civilians who had been in World War II and most of them were officers because the officers got a better deal-

You bet you do!

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-As a reservist than the military-than the civilian, I mean in this than that. So it wasn't, so if a guy was a truck driver or something, you know, he wasn't going to get off work and do this, where another guy who's maybe a professional-we had a lot of professionals that would come and do their thing with the air force reserve and what we did is we had classes three times a week and then on some weekends they'd go up to march air force base and fly their airplanes and all that kind of stuff in those days. Ok, so, I became very well acquainted with almost all of those officers particularly and what was unique about that good fortune was that these guys were literally in a city of only about 4-600,000 people in those days. We're talking about 1955-1959; the city wasn't any bigger than that; it probably was closer to 400,000 than it was to 600,000 and I'm talking about the whole area-

-County.

-Whole county, yeah. So anyway, these guys were the absolute movers and shapers of San Diego-San Diego. And here I am, I'm thinking I'm going to get out of this thing eventually and I'm going to go become a civilian and what am I going to get into? And so I'm thinking about what-and so I met a lot of different guys of different occupations and in the course of all of that, I met a couple bankers. One guy almost became a very, very good friend of Bank of America; he was the manager of the Ozone Beach branch, he was a full colonel in the air force reserve and of course, he was my father's age at that time. Well there was another guy who was much younger than him, a guy by the name of Tom Sefton. Tom Sefton was the grandson of the founder-

I know Tom Sefton.

Huh?

I know Tom Sefton.

Ok, then you knew him. Well he and I, I got to work with him. I handled his records because he was a captain in the air force reserve.

He was a crazy old coon!

Well he was then, as he got older! When I say older, I'm gonna give you a reference to that.

Here's the thing: Tom Sefton is the grandson of the man who started San Diego Trust and Savings.

Correct, we're talking-

I wanted to make sure when we use it-

We're talking about the same guy. Ok, well now Tom Sefton, in the 50s was not an old cooke and he was a captain in the air force reserve and he was-and I remember talking with him later on even after I was out of the air force when he was running the bank and he was not a-he was not off his rocker. However, I will give you this-I will give you this: later on after he retired and he had gone through that horrible divorce and he was, I don't know, he was living someplace in Coronado, because I know my wife

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and I would go to brunch there in one of those hotels-not the Del Coronado, it was another hotel that he was staying at and I remember meeting him and he was-he was a little bit off his game, but you know, he was older then. He should have been my age that I am today, because he died shortly after that. He was quite a contributor to army and navy academy.

Yes, he was.

And he later on identified with Army and Navy when Browns disappeared.

Which is sad, we lost, I don't know, you know, this academy and Arnie, I see how important this is to you guys. I really do. I'm starting to feel how important this was for you guys.

Yeah, it was and under-I can't think of any circumstances, when you go back to the 50s when they finally closed it down to today, 50 years or 60 years later, that the school lasted, being the way San Diego's become populated and how valuable the property has become-

Yeah, they'd had to have-definitely would have had to move.