

Barnes, Otis Avery, 1894-1985
Colorado College Professor of Chemistry, 1925-1962

SIDE ONE - CASSETTE ONE

FINLEY:

This is side one of two sides of tape recording number 8 of the Colorado College Archives Oral History Project. I am Judy Finley, and I'm interviewing Professor Emeritus Otis A. Barnes at his home, 2202 Wood Avenue. The date is January 19, 1977.

Professor Barnes taught chemistry at Colorado College from 1925 to 1962. He was active in the formation of athletics policy at Colorado College, and also, along with his wife, endowed the Barnes Chemistry Scholarships for students who are chemistry majors at Colorado College.

BARNES:

Good morning, Judy; it's nice to see you again.

FINLEY:

Good morning--delighted to be able to interview you in our Oral History Project. I have a nice sheet that you've filled out here about your education and background before you came to Colorado College. You did all of your work at the University of Illinois, didn't you?

BARNES:

Yes, I was there from 1912--graduated in '16 in Chemical Engineering, and then working as a graduate assistant, worked on my master's in Sanitary Chemistry, getting my master's in '18. I was sort of interrupted during the war, enlisting as a private in the Engineer Corps, and then getting out again inside of about a year. On account of a shortage of professors, I taught full-time for one year, then went back to being a graduate assistant, and finished up my Ph.D. under Roger Adams, who was one of the great organic chemists, and getting my Ph.D. in '22.

FINLEY:

And from there you went off to Utah to teach?

BARNES:

Yes, there was a vacancy at the University of Utah--the head of the department was taking a leave of absence to go to California to do some work, and I was hired to take his place as an assistant professor, and I remained there for three years, giving courses in organic chemistry.

I had a class composed entirely of girls who were home economic majors, which was a lot of fun, and I also had a lot of pre-med students and pharmacy students there, since the University of Utah also had a medical school and a pharmacy school there.

FINLEY:

How did you happen to come to Colorado College, a small liberal arts school after a big university background?

BARNES:

Well, previous to going to the University of Utah, during the summer months I had obtained a job working for the summer for the Illinois State Highway Department as engineering chemist in Springfield, Illinois, which is just 19 miles from my home. So after going to Utah, I continued to go back and work in the summertime for the Highway Department as engineering chemist until about 1927 or '28.

On my way back and forth, I stopped off at Colorado Springs. I was curious to see what kind of a school Colorado College was, because we had been--the University of Utah had been playing Colorado College in athletics, and I had seen some of their football teams, and I stopped off to see what kind of school it was.

It just happened that in going through the campus and seeing the chemistry department in particular, I met Dr. Douglas, who was chairman of the department, and he told me that there was going to be a vacancy here the following year, and asked me if I would be interested. I told him I was, so he took me over and introduced me to Charlie Mierow, who was then acting president. By the time I arrived home, I had an appointment! [chuckle]

FINLEY:

When you first came out here, then, in the fall of 1925, what were your impressions of the campus and the classroom situation for chemistry?

BARNES:

I can speak for the chemistry department, not for the rest. The chemistry department had adequate facilities in the way of rooms and lecture rooms and laboratories for all

the undergraduate training of a chemist. While there was only Dr. Douglas and myself and Mickey Warner in the department to do the teaching, it wasn't too heavy a schedule.

The only drawback that I could perceive at that time was that, financially, the college wasn't in too strong a position. For all the rest of my career at Colorado College, that held pretty much true up until the time that we got the Ford money, and then later, of course, the Packard contribution.

FINLEY:

Did you have adequate funding for chemistry equipment?

BARNES:

We had adequate for undergraduate training. The equipment was a little old, perhaps, but we made do. [chuckle]

FINLEY:

Can you describe the physical layout and looks of the old chemistry laboratories in Palmer Hall in your early days as a teacher here?

BARNES:

The chemistry department occupied practically all of the ground floor and the first floor of Palmer Hall on the east end. The freshman laboratories and the lecture and the department chairman's office were all on the first floor. My office was on the second floor, at the end of what is now the doorway to the east entrance of Palmer Hall. My classrooms were on the north and south of my office, and advanced courses were also downstairs on the ground floor.

I introduced one new course here in organic chemistry; that was Advanced Qualitative Organic Analysis, which had never been given here, and Physical Chemistry had only been recently started here by Dr. Douglas, and the equipment for that was not adequate. The equipment for my courses, I would say, was adequate. At least, I made do. In standards of that time, why, the equipment we needed was not what is required today.

FINLEY:

Were your classes small or large?

BARNES:

The freshman class was large, but I didn't teach the freshman classes. The sophomore classes, which I had--I had the sophomore and junior classes--were small, consisting

chiefly of chemistry majors, and at that time we also gave a degree in chemical engineering--or a B.S., I mean, in chemistry, which is a Bachelor of Science which had some engineering courses in it. It wasn't an engineering degree, really. The pre-meds, which, most of them were biology majors, but occasionally we had one that majored.

For instance, I remember John Mahalik [?], who was a football player of considerable stature for Dutch Clark at the time, from Pueblo. He got a B.S. degree in chemistry, went on to medical school, and became a doctor here in Colorado Springs afterwards. He was rather a strong character, considering what I knew about his background in Pueblo.

FINLEY:

Now, your colleague, Dr. Douglas, must have been quite an interesting person to work with. What are your recollections of him?

BARNES:

Dr. Douglas was quite strict about everything--smoking, drinking, using foul language or anything like that. As a matter of fact, most of the faculty when I came here were sort of, what I would say, leaning towards the Puritan side. The president, Charlie Mierow, of course, later became ordained a minister, at, I believe, Rippon College when he left here. [sic]

I remember one time one of the students who is a businessman here in Colorado Springs now, and majored in chemistry, walked into Dr. Douglas's office with a pipe in his mouth, and he was promptly bawled out! [laughter]

Another time, to show how the students felt about him, he came to class one morning and found a bunch of beer bottles hanging on his doorknob, which he was quite irate about, and promptly reported to the dean of the college and wanted something done about it! [laughter] Of course, nothing ever was done about it!

FINLEY:

Was his rapport, then, with his students kept on a fairly formal basis, or did he have closer, informal contacts with students?

BARNES:

I would say it was pretty much on a formal basis. He was more, I guess, on a--he was an administrator, of course, for the chemistry department, and he kept it pretty well on a formal basis, more than I would. If I went into one of the

isolated laboratories and found a girl sitting on her sweetheart's lap, why, all I said was, "You better not let Dr. Douglas know about it" and walked promptly out!
[laughter]

FINLEY:

When you first came to Colorado College, where did you live?

BARNES:

I lived in an apartment on Weber Street at first, for about the first six months, and then I moved over to Hagerman Hall.

FINLEY:

Wasn't that a men's dormitory, also?

BARNES:

Yes, that was a men's dormitory entirely. The reason I moved over there was because there was plenty of room over there. I could have two rooms all to myself, and only a handful of students were living there. I don't know why more students weren't forced to live there, but it was a men's dormitory, and it wasn't full at all. Very few students lived there.

Most of the students, as I recall, living there were with the Weather Bureau, which at that time the Weather Bureau maintained instruments on the top of Hagerman Hall. The instruments for measuring the wind, the temperature, air pressure and rainfall, and these boys--usually there were three of them--slept there on the second floor of Hagerman Hall. They furnished these records to the Weather Department as well as to the local papers. I believe besides getting their room and tuition, I don't know whether they received some board or not.

I had some of these boys in class, because most of them--well, practically all of them that I recall were zoology majors. The Figge brothers were ones who graduated. One of them was medicine, and was head of the biochem--well, anyway, one of the departments of University of [can't understand] Medical School. We gave him an honorary degree.

FINLEY:

Why would it have been zoology majors who happened to be the students who had jobs with the Weather Bureau? Did they have some pull with somebody to get these positions?

BARNES:

At that time, Professor Gilmore, who was chairman of the zoology department, was quite a power on the campus, and I expect his influence had a great deal to do with it. I'm just guessing--it's an intelligent guess! [laughter]

FINLEY:

But there were several of these Figge boys who did this over a period of years?

BARNES:

There were two Figge boys. One of them became head of the bird farm--Colorado Bird Farm, which is outside of Colorado Springs here. Another boy by the name of Hess has a very good job in medical work at some school, and as I recall, it was Dr. Gilmore, who also later became mayor of Colorado Springs, was on the City Council, and had considerable influence. I'd say he was one of the stronger men on the campus.

FINLEY:

Did you know him well?

BARNES:

I was very well acquainted with him.

FINLEY:

Can you describe a bit about his personality and classroom manner?

BARNES:

He had a very outgoing personality. He enjoyed his work, enjoyed the students, and I got along with him very well. I can't say that's true for everyone, but I got along with him very well, I guess chiefly because I was sort of outgoing, too, and interested in athletics.

For instance, we had a chemistry basketball team [chuckle] which challenged the biology basketball team, and for a number of years, we played against each other. I played on the chemistry team, and Dr. Gilmore was out rooting for the biology team.

I remember one time, one of his students, by the name of Baggs, who became a businessman here in Colorado Springs--we called him "One-way Baggs" after he put a basketball in our net! [laughter]

FINLEY:

Gave you two points!

BARNES:

And the argument was, "Well, who got the basket?" I don't remember how it was settled. We won, anyway. Naturally! [laughter]

FINLEY:

Was there quite an interest in other faculty intramurals or athletics besides the basketball team at that time? Did you play--

BARNES:

Yes, there was. Athletic scholarships were supported at that time through grants from the college. I don't remember all the details. And there was also the Boosters Club, who raised money for some of these athletic scholarships. And there was a Colorado Springs group of men. They put on smokers quite often in Cossitt Hall. Dr. Gilmore was chairman of the Athletic Board at that time, in fact, the athletic representative.

So I got along with him very well. Some of the other faculty members, I would say, didn't get along so well. I can remember two or three who were--the student body knew very well who they were, because they wouldn't give an athlete a break! I always felt that they deserved a break, because knowing the time they put in on it, I always figured out that a good student would quite often get a "B" whereas he couldn't make an "A" if he was out for athletics.

I think that's true, even today, that a student goes out for a football team, or a hockey team, his advisers should be very careful in not loading him up with too heavy a schedule if he's going to be playing one of those stronger physical sports.

FINLEY:

It takes a lot of time. Now Bully Van de Graaff lived in Hagerman Hall with you during those years, didn't he? Was he the football coach at that time?

BARNES:

Yes, Bully came here as football coach. Joe Irish was athletic director; he was in charge of track. He was a quarter-miler, and Joe was scheduled to go to the Olympics, but he developed tuberculosis, and came here for his health, and sort of fell into the job here as athletic director. Bully came in--let's see, I believe Meade was football coach when I came here. But Bully came a year or two later, and was here for--I forget how many years--after World War II, anyway. [sic]

I remember the first football game I attended, in the fall of '25 was with the University of New Mexico. We played all of the--what you would call, in those days, locally, at least, the large schools. All of the state universities had much smaller enrollments, probably averaging somewhere around

a couple of thousand at best. So we were able to play them, especially with our recruiting program that we had there. So we were able to compete with them very well in those days. And when I was at Utah, the Colorado College team used to come over there and play us every other year, with their rooters, and march through the downtown area with their band. They had quite a respectable band in those days. We felt we were lucky when we were able to meet them.

FINLEY:

Were there always good crowds at the football games, and good support from the town?

BARNES:

I would say there was good support from the town. The facilities were not too good in those days. There were bleachers on both sides of the football field, and these were improved later. But they would put in extra bleachers if they expected an overflow crowd on some of the better games.

FINLEY:

What other sports besides football were popular among students?

BARNES:

Basketball was especially popular. We had winning teams in those days, and played all of the schools that we played in football. We played in the City Auditorium, and it was adequate for taking care of the crowds, usually, unless we were in the Rocky Mountain playoffs, and then we would have overflow crowds. One of the great attractions in those days, of course, was All-American Dutch Clark came here about the time--I guess the year after Bully came.

FINLEY:

You watched him play in some games--Dutch Clark?

BARNES:

I watched all of them! [laughter] I remember one game in particular when we played Denver University, when they were fielding a football team. The game was very close, and Dutch was an expert on the drop kick, which no longer is used. At least, I don't remember when it was last used. But at any rate, he was very adept at that, and he kicked a drop kick against Denver, and the referee said, "No goal." And he was a very good referee--I forget his name now, but he was one of the better referees. But in saying "No goal," he said it went over the goal post.

So Dutch went up to him and said, "Did you say it went over the goal posts?"

And he said, "Yes."

And he said, "Well, that's a goal." He said, "Get out your referee book and see if it doesn't say so."

So he got it out, and he rescinded his ruling and said it was a goal, and we won the match! [laughter] It gave us all a good feeling driving back to Colorado Springs! [laughter]

FINLEY:

I'll bet it did! Were there some minor sports in those days, such as boxing and wrestling, that no longer exist here?

BARNES:

There had been a little bit of wrestling, in a minor role, apparently. Track was in pretty good, but I don't recall any boxing. I think there was some boxing given in physical education for anyone who wanted a little training in it. But there was a nucleus around town that had wrestled for Colorado College, and I used to go over about three times a week to Cossitt and work out with the ones that were available. Some of the names I recall are Padgett, who is in the real estate business here.

FINLEY:

Oh, yes.

BARNES:

And a deputy sheriff here, or assistant deputy sheriff--I don't remember his name. But at any rate, there were some others here--one boy from University of Iowa who had been on the wrestling team; he was a mail carrier. And Hub Moody, who was a former wrestler--he was available. And we worked out.

Later on, Howard Waite came here as trainer for the athletic teams--he was from the University of Illinois. He graduated in physical education there, and he revived the interest in wrestling, and so between us, we got wrestling interested, and we fielded some wrestling teams for a number of years.

FINLEY:

What years would those have been--during the early thirties?

BARNES:

It was in the thirties sometime--up until the time Howard left. Howard went up to the University of Colorado as

a trainer up there with the athletic teams. Later on, he was named to the Trainers Hall of Fame--I forget where that exists now.

FINLEY:

I notice from your information sheet here that you had been involved as a wrestling coach--is that correct, at Utah when you were there?

BARNES:

Yes. When I arrived at the University of Utah, they didn't have any wrestling teams--hadn't been fielding wrestling teams, either, and I worked out there with some people who were wrestling, and then they wanted me to coach some wrestling, so I coached the wrestling, and they appointed me wrestling coach, and we fielded wrestling teams the last two years I was there.

I was also appointed to the Rules Committee on the NCAA, and I was on there for three or four years, until I came over to Colorado College. Since we weren't fielding wrestling teams here right at the time I came, I was dropped off the committee.

FINLEY:

I think we'll come back to athletics again later in this discussion, because I know you were quite involved later on in athletics at Colorado College.

But let's go back now to some of the people that you remember quite well. You've mentioned Dr. Douglas. What other colleagues were you close to, whom you'd like to describe a little bit?

BARNES:

I was pretty well acquainted with the librarian, Dr. Ormes, who was an ordained minister, and with Mr. Albright--they called him "Fuzzy" because of his beard. We had what they called the Colorado College Hiking Club, which would go out on Saturdays for half- to three-quarters of a day of hiking. I became very well acquainted with those two, especially.

I knew Professor Boucher of the physics department very well, since we required our major students to all take physics. I mentioned my acquaintance with Dr. Gilmore, of course. I knew Dr. Daehler very well--he also hiked with us on our hiking club. He was the chairman of the English department.

FINLEY:

Was this hiking club the Saturday Knights, or was this a different one you're talking about?

BARNES:

This was a different one. This was entirely the professors from Colorado College. Of course, if some students wanted to come along, there wasn't any objection, but as I recall it was entirely all a hiking club of Colorado College faculty.

FINLEY:

Had Mr. Albright been the major organizer of this group?

BARNES:

Well, Dr., or Professor Albright--he didn't have his--well, he got an honorary doctor's degree from Colorado College later. He was the faculty marshall in the academic parades, and he was an active promoter in seeing that we all got out to the hike. He would call us up on the phone, and see whether we were going or not, and he made any necessary arrangements. As we weren't staying overnight, the arrangements were practically nil.

FINLEY:

Was he a very imposing-looking gentleman? You mentioned that he had a beard; that was unusual, wasn't it, in those days?

BARNES:

Yes, it was quite unusual in those days, and he wore his beard real well. Some people don't, but--well, that's an opinion, of course! [chuckle] But it added to his stature, the beard, and he carried a little stick--I don't know what you would call it--in his hand when he was leading the academic parade. And he had on a little different robe from the rest of us. I don't remember what school he graduated from, but it was the type that they wore at that school.

FINLEY:

Did you have more academic processions in full regalia than we do now?

BARNES:

No, I'd say it was about the same number. Opening academic procession, the graduation procession, and others in between when they were making an endowment drive, or something like that. But they were few and rather far between.

FINLEY:

And he was the faculty marshall for a number of years, then?

BARNES:
Yes.

FINLEY:

I see. Perhaps you'd like to give a general overview of the changes over the years, from, say, the early thirties up through the fifties? There was, of course, a series of presidents you must have known well. What about President Davies?

BARNES:

Professor Davies was a very outgoing man. He was one president that liked athletics. I knew him very well--I guess for that reason! He was also interested in national defense; he was in the Marine Reserves. I liked him very well. He was able to meet the public, and unlike a previous president, if he was invited in to meet some important man from the East, that was interested in giving money to the college, and he knew he was going to be invited to take a cocktail, why, he was the type to take a cocktail. That would be different from the preceding president. He made a very favorable impression, overall impression--perhaps not as favorable as President Mierow, with the clergy, but his overall impression was very good generally, I'd say.

FINLEY:

He was, perhaps, a better administrator than Mierow?

BARNES:

Well, that's hard to say. Conditions were so different. When President Mierow took over, times were tough. We went through a depression. When President Davies was here, the money situation loosened up a little bit, and that might make him look like a better administrator.

FINLEY:

World War II was on the horizon when Davies took over as president. Is there anything you particularly remember about the advent of World War II, and the way it affected him, and you, and the rest of the college?

BARNES:

I remember we were all very much concerned about it, and how it was going to affect us and so on. I was naturally concerned because I was a reserve officer at that time in the Chemical Warfare Service. The various clubs in the Springs invited me down to give talks at their meetings. I remember the Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary, and so forth. Being in the Reserves, and I know "Lefty" Davies being in the Marine Reserves, we were very much interested in whether we were going to be called out or not.

The Faculty Lecture Series, which consisted, at that time, of four series during the year, by the faculty,

concerned the war. President Davies spoke at one of the lectures on how an administrator looks at war. I spoke on how a chemist looks at war; the faculty religion man spoke on how a minister looks at war, and I don't remember who the other faculty member was.

But someone in Denver must have heard my talk, because I was invited to Denver to give the lecture over the broadcasting station from Denver. At that time, we didn't have the broadcasting facilities here.

FINLEY:

And you eventually went into the service, as did President Davies?

BARNES:

Yes, we were both called into the service. Tom Rawles, who was treasurer at that time, he was called in too. I was called in early in January of 1942 and came back to teach again after the war, in 1945-46.

FINLEY:

And President Davies came back here about the same time you did, after the war?

BARNES:

A little bit later. He had a job in Washington, and he wasn't able to get out--didn't get relieved as quick as I did.

FINLEY:

Perhaps we could go back then to the end of his term of office, and the change to President Gill. Can you describe the atmosphere around the college right after the war?

BARNES:

Right after the--when I got back, we still had a Navy unit here, and I had a cadet nurses' corps, unit, too, at Penrose, and they were taken right down to the college, and I had the last class we gave in chemistry to those girls in the Cadet Nurses' Corps.

I remember very well about five Japanese girls being in the class. They had been in a--they had moved a lot of the Japanese out of California into various camps. One of the camps was in southern Colorado, and these five Japanese girls were some of those who were displaced down there. I remember the best girl in the class was Japanese; the poorest one was Japanese, and the others were in between! [chuckle] That class had a reunion here about two or three years ago at Penrose, the graduating--

FINLEY:

This was a special nurses' program that--

BARNES:

It was a Nurses' Army Corps. They were in uniforms, and marched back and forth from Penrose down to the college. I remember when I met them for the first time, they all stood up, just like they were supposed to in the Army! [laughter] I told them they didn't need to do that any more, as far as I was concerned!

FINLEY:

What caused Davies to leave the college? He had just come back, hadn't he, and been here for a year or so?

BARNES:

Yes. I feel sure--however, I wouldn't go on record as saying this--but he had drinking problems, and while I wasn't aware of it--I don't know whether anyone in the Springs was aware of it, personally around here. I think he did most of his drinking in Denver, with the Chancellor of Denver University at that time. I'm pretty sure that that was one of the reasons. There were probably other reasons, too.

FINLEY:

President Gill came on the scene right after Davies--he was a person that you got along pretty well with, also, wasn't he?

BARNES:

Wasn't Charlie Hershey in there as acting president a couple of times?

FINLEY:

Oh, acting president, yes.

BARNES:

A couple of times. He used to say, "Always a bridesmaid, but never a bride."

FINLEY:

Did he want to be the president, do you think--Hershey?

BARNES:

I don't know. I don't know what his feelings were in that matter. He probably would have liked to have been, after getting a taste of being acting president a couple of times, but the trustees might have considered he was a little too old for the job, maybe. I don't know what the reason could be.

FINLEY:

So the trustees were the ones that hired Gill. Was there faculty input into this decision?

BARNES:

I don't recall that there was any faculty input into it at all. I think the trustees were looking for what some of the faculty chose to call a "stop-gap" president. It was right after the war, and of course, a lot of the retired general were accepting jobs as presidents or in various other administrative positions in various colleges, and General Gill was well-known here, having activated the division at Camp Carson. So the trustees thought he would be a good man for the job.

FINLEY:

Was he as interested in athletics in those days as you were?

BARNES:

Yes, he supported athletics to the fullest, and he was very interested in our having good athletic teams. He didn't do anything that I recall to curtail the recruiting of athletes. As a matter of fact, I know for sure that he favored the hockey team recruiting, because--well, maybe we can get to the hockey situation when we come to it! [laughter]

FINLEY:

Why don't we get into it right now? Wasn't that about the time you were getting involved with the Athletics Board and the Hockey Rules Committee and so forth?

BARNES:

I was on the Athletic Board at the University of Utah. I was elected by the student body to the Athletic Board over the state U.S. Senator who was teaching political science there at the University of Utah.

FINLEY:

Really! [laughter]

BARNES:

And I felt quite good over that! [laughter]

FINLEY:

But at CC you didn't serve on the Athletics Board until when?

BARNES:

Not until the first year after I was here, I was appointed to the Athletics Board.

FINLEY:

Oh, that soon? I see. I didn't know you had been on

it all those years.

BARNES:

Uh-huh, '45, '46, I guess. I was appointed as a member of the Athletics Board. Van Diest was a trustee member, and Charlie Hershey was acting president, and was on the board, and I believe Howard Olson was chairman of the board at that time. Joe Irish was on the board, as athletic director.

CC had just the previous year finished a very good football record by beating the University of Colorado, which they hadn't played for a number of years previous to that. But by the aid of the members who were attending CC from the Navy unit, why, they had a good football team.

FINLEY:

You mentioned that Gill favored recruitment of hockey. Can you describe the growth of the hockey program in those post-war years, and your involvement in it?

BARNES:

I remember the first hockey game I went to. We played the University of Illinois, which I naturally attended, and surprisingly, we beat the University of Illinois. I'm not sure, but I believe that Vick Heyliger was coach of the University of Illinois at that time. He later became the outstanding hockey coach, college coach at Michigan, but he did coach at the University of Illinois.

Your father knows this better than I do, about the hockey situation. But the first hockey games were played here, beginning in 1938, I believe. There was a young boy here by the name of Ernie Young from Canada, and he was a hockey player, and he recruited a number of so-called skaters from around town, sort of a pick-up team. I believe they might have called it the Coca-Cola Team--I'm not sure what they called it. It was financed by someone, and they only played what teams they could find around--town teams which weren't very strong teams.

But the next year, when he came back from Canada, he brought along three men from his hometown who were hockey players. The ones I remember especially were Jack Chamney and Chick Ross. Oh, yes, and there was also Spike Wilson. Jack Chamney later became manager of the Stratton Home. Chick Ross became manager of the Broadmoor Ice Palace, and I don't know what happened to Spike Wilson, except that he tried to enlist in the American armed forces, and was turned down on account of his eyesight, and was turned down by the Canadian forces for the same reason. But imagine a man able to play hockey--and the reason they called him "Spike" was because he was able to get the puck in the net--and imagine somebody being turned down on account of his eyesight!

[chuckle]

Of course, you remember Professor Penland, no doubt. He was turned down when he tried to get into the Officers Training Corps, on account of his eyesight. I believe that's what he told me.

FINLEY:

I see. At what point did the Broadmoor and the El Pomar people get involved in the hockey at CC?

BARNES:

Well, these games were played, of course, in the ice arena there. It used to be a riding academy, but Penrose, when he was back East, saw some of the hockey games, and had it transformed into an arena for playing hockey. And the early games were played there--that's where I saw my first games. The hockey program at CC didn't amount to much before the war, outside of those early games, that I just mentioned.

But then after the war, there was a young man in the Air Force by the name of Cheddy Thompson, and when he got out of the Air Force in '45, he was made hockey coach. He was a Canadian, and he was a very good recruiter. He began recruiting hockey players, and the Broadmoor furnished the money for recruiting hockey players at that time.

FINLEY:

Were the academic standards lowered to admit hockey players?

BARNES:

Well, at that time, I would say that they might have been overlooked a little bit [chuckle]. But at any rate, Cheddy Thompson, being a good recruiter, built these teams up to where they were almost unbeatable, because being from Canada, he recruited the players from Canada. As far as Colorado and the surrounding states were concerned, there were very few good skaters that could compete with the Canadians, or for that matter, in most other parts of the United States.

So, along about '48--well, previous to '48, Cheddy's teams were playing the Big Ten teams in Dakota, and the University of Colorado, who didn't have much of a hockey team, and California, Illinois, Michigan, and so on. And they began beating most of them, including California.

In 1948, Cheddy was instrumental in getting the National Collegiate Athletic Association to stage playoffs to determine the champion college hockey team in the United States, and got the Broadmoor to underwrite the cost of it. It was held for the first time in the Broadmoor Ice Arena,

and for ten years thereafter, it continued to be held there. The Broadmoor was quite interested, of course, in underwriting it, because it had a lot of fringe benefits.

In 1950, Colorado College having developed such a strong team, we played in most all of those early playoffs, for something like ten or twelve years. In 1950, we had a championship team, which, up until that time, we hadn't been able to become the final winner in the playoffs, but in 1950, we became the first national champions. On that team were such outstanding men as Tony Frasca, Omar Brandt, Ron Newson, Ron Hartwell, were some of the outstanding figures.

FINLEY:

These were all Canadians?

BARNES:

These were all Canadians, yes. The entire Colorado College team as a whole were--or at least 90 percent were Canadians, I would say.

FINLEY:

Wasn't there some questioning of the emphasis on hockey at this time, with the all-Canadian teams?

BARNES:

Well, there wasn't in Colorado Springs, naturally [chuckle] but some of these Eastern schools that came out here to play, like Boston, and Harvard, and those teams--they began to wonder why Colorado College was in the playoffs every year.

It had us a little bit worried here at Colorado College, because the NCAA had been known to slap some pretty stringent penalties on various well-known colleges for not being amateur athletics. Here was little old Colorado College with under a thousand enrollment, being in the playoffs every year. So we were a little bit concerned.

I had become chairman of the Athletics Board in the meantime, and the feeling was that we should be real careful about the quality of the players we recruited from Canada, because these rumors were getting around that we were going to be investigated.

So the Athletics Board came to the point where they were a little bit reluctant to recruit a player that was too outstanding. So this was the time that the question of recruiting Red Hay and a boy by the name of McClusker, and Wishart, and some of those good players which later played.

And so I talked to Juan Reid, who was director of

athletics at that time, and he thought too that we should be rather careful about recruiting some of these players that were so outstanding. So I, knowing General Gill was quite concerned about our good athletic teams, and wanting to promote them as much as possible, I went to him personally, and asked him if it would be all right if I went out to the Broadmoor and talked to Charlie Tutt about this situation. He said, "Go ahead."

So I went out one afternoon, and I didn't run into Charlie Tutt, but I did run into Thayer Tutt, and I asked him what he thought about it. He said, "I don't know, but let me ask my father about it."

And by the time I got home, why, Thayer was one the phone and he said his father said, "Go ahead and get them. If you have to get two hockey teams, why get them!" [laughter]

And so we then did recruit Red Hay and McClusker, and Wishart, but also there was a brother of Ronnie Hartwell, who was one of the better-known hockey players up there, and we recruited enough of those lesser hockey stars, along with the bigger stars, so that we had a little more than what we usually recruited in the shape of Canadians.

This was while Cheddy was still here. Cheddy resigned in '55, I believe. No, I guess this was about the time Cheddy resigned. Cheddy resigned in '55, and we had quite a time choosing another hockey coach, and we finally got a man by the name of Bidecki, who was a Canadian. He came here in '56, and of course, in coming here in '56, he had these good hockey players, like Red Hay, and McClusker, and so forth. They got to the playoffs, but they didn't make a very good showing.

But the next year, they made a good showing, and they won the NCAA playoffs, so we had the champion team again in '57.

FINLEY:

At what point was the WCHA formed? Weren't you involved in some changes here, in policies?

BARNES:

Well, I went to several of the meetings, and we changed the rules around a little bit. They became a little stricter, because by this time, Denver was also fielding a good hockey team. Murray Armstrong had come there, who was a former coach of Red Hay's, if he had been hired as a coach for Denver a year earlier, Red Hay probably would have played

for Denver instead of--

FINLEY:

Colorado Springs.

BARNES:

--because he brought most of his team--he coached a sort of a semi-professional team up there in Canada.

FINLEY:

What kind of rule changes did you put in then?

BARNES:

One of the rules they put in was that anyone that had signed a letter of intent with any professional hockey team in Canada would be considered as a professional, and not an amateur. Also, anyone that had accepted pay for participating in an athletic contest of any kind. Those were more or less changes we had to put in on account of the NCAA had put them in.

And so one of the things I had to do was to, when the list of our recruited hockey players--I was given a list of the recruited hockey players for the following year, I had to write in to Canada and find out whether any of them had signed a letter of intent. In most cases, except one, they hadn't, but one of the ones that Bidecki had signed had signed a letter of intent and so we couldn't use him, even for playing golf. He was a good golfer.

A brother of his, who in spite of the fact that we had given him four years of college education without him doing anything except help coach the hockey players, why, his brother went to Harvard instead of coming here--they recruited him. We tried to recruit him, but he didn't come here.

FINLEY:

Hmmmm. Well now, this changed the control over the WCHA, out of the hands of the coaches more into the hands of some faculty?

BARNES:

Faculty athletic directors, yes.

FINLEY:

I see.

BARNES:

In other words, the president, being the top man, is naturally held responsible for what goes on within the college. He depended on me, naturally; if I certified the eligibility of someone, why, while he'd take the blame, the blame would come on down to me, just the same as it did in the Calley case, of killing the Vietnam people.

FINLEY:
I see.

BARNES:

So it's a chain of command, who get the responsibility in this case. And in this case, the faculty athletic director at the University of Michigan lost out in 1957 in the championships--they were here to play, and they had four of their players declared ineligible. When I investigated them, I found out two of them had signed letters of intent, and two of them had accepted money, which caused the Big Ten to declare them ineligible for football, and then later allowed them to play hockey.

FINLEY:

That must have put you in the hot seat! [chuckle]

BARNES:

Well, I contacted Father Crowley, who was chairman of the NCAA Athletic Board Eligibility Committee, and gave him the information and he said, "Absolutely! Anyone who's ineligible for one sport is ineligible for all sports, and you don't forgive them."

FINLEY:

I see.

BARNES:

As you said, it put me in the hot seat, because here again, the chain of command comes down. I was the one who declared them ineligible!

FINLEY:

Oh, great! [chuckle]

BARNES:

Upon the say-so of Father Crowley! [laughter]

[Tape change]

FINLEY:

Professor Barnes, on side one of the tape, we were discussing hockey at Colorado College, and the changes in the policy of the WCHA in the mid-fifties. By that time, President Benezet had come on the scene at CC, and I'm wondering if you can describe his attitude towards hockey, and his involvement in sports?

BARNES:

President Benezet--make no mistake about it--he did a lot for Colorado College, but the athletic situation, he had a different philosophy from the previous presidents about athletics. His philosophy was that an athlete should have only equal rights with other students, as far as fringe

benefits were concerned.

I believe it was about this time that an end came to athletic scholarships at Colorado College in the case of football, basketball and so forth. In the case of hockey, it was a different situation, since the hockey players were recruited--well, of course, they were recruited by the college, but financially, their scholarships were paid for by the El Pomar Foundation on Colorado College's own terms. In other words, as far as admittance, scholastic ability and so forth were concerned.

President Benezet got here about the time we had that championship team, and he saw some of the hockey games, and I suppose he thought they were even more brutal, maybe, than football. But at any rate, at our Athletics Board meeting, he gave the Athletics Board an ultimatum that we were not to recruit any more Canadians. So from then on--that was the '57 team, what was left of it--that was the last of our good hockey teams. And we haven't been able to be in the NCAA playoffs since then. I believe I'm correct on that.

Now President Benezet's philosophy may have been all right in feeling that the athletics at Colorado College--and other colleges, for that matter--should be for U.S. citizens only, especially in the NCAA playoffs, but the other schools that we were playing didn't feel that way about it, and Denver University continues to recruit strong hockey teams, as well as North Dakota, and Wisconsin, who is now in the league, and so forth. Their teams are made up of a majority--or a large number, at least, of Canadian hockey players. So I would say that beginning about 1958, athletics at Colorado College has been on the decline as far as quality is concerned.

FINLEY:

I take it, then, that you disagreed with Benezet's decisions on this matter?

BARNES:

When he put his motion up to a vote, I voted against it, so it was not unanimous. [laughter]

FINLEY:

I see! Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about Benezet, or your own career there in the late fifties?

BARNES:

Well, he was the sort of person that had his own ideas, and if you didn't agree with those ideas, why, you were sort of on a blacklist as far as he was concerned. That's my own opinion, and I'm sure that other people that I've talked to feel the same way about it.

But in spite of that, you can't say that President Benezet was not a good influence for Colorado College. He helped to build up the facilities. Perhaps they would have come anyway, no matter who was president, if he was a good president, but at least you can't say that he was a bad president. Except, in my own opinion, the athletic situation is not as good as it was before he came.

FINLEY:

I think now we will leave the athletic situation, and discuss a little bit more about people you remember, particularly chemistry majors that you remember over the years. And then, will you go on into your own role in assuring that Colorado College can provide scholarships for chemistry majors, and how the endowment of the chemistry scholarships came about?

BARNES:

Colorado College has graduated a great number of students that have made their mark, and I am, of course, personally acquainted with the ones who have graduated majoring in chemistry, as well as, to a minor extent, in biology and physics, since they are so closely related. I'm satisfied that as far as the curriculum is concerned, the training that a student gets at Colorado College, who majors in one of these three sciences, is as good as he could get anywhere in the state of Colorado.

I feel that Mines does as good a job, and I therefore would say that both Mines and Colorado College are about on the same level as far as the quality of their instruction is concerned in the same curriculum.

In chemistry, I'd like to mention a few--the ones I just can quote off the cuff. Tom Pelican, for instance, who has just recently retired from the Colorado Interstate is a chemistry major, and he was also one of our outstanding football and basketball players, as well as a track man.

I recall the Cogan brothers--there were three of them, and they all, after graduating from Colorado College, went back East and took work at MIT, and then they were all employed after they worked there, with Standard Oil. Jerry Cogan was a tennis player at CC--you see I'm bringing athletics again into all these things--[laughter] but, you see, it's my feeling that the athletes are not all bums, by any means, and I'm sure that your father, Juan Reid, would agree with me, because he did a lot of coaching of these so-called bums that a lot of the other people like to refer to when they think about athletes.

Jerry Cogan became one of the very important persons with Colorado Interstate, and is now, or was over in Belgium as sort of a vice president over there. John Cogan, who was a football player, is in New York City in the research department, and Chuck Cogan was in charge of the Standard Oil refinery up at Casper, Wyoming.

Another chemistry major I think of is a local boy--see, these are all Colorado residents. The Cogan brothers were local residents; Tom Pelican is from a little town down south of here. Dick Stacy was a local Colorado Springs boy; graduated and took his doctor's degree at the University of Colorado, and he's now down at Freeport in the Greater Bahamas with the Sintex Corporation, and is in charge of the plant down there.

And other local residents--a boy by the last name of Sonnenberg, a local Colorado Springs boy, is in Puerto Rico, in charge of salesmanship of the Carbide Carbon Corporation. Chuck Owens, who had a Carbide scholarship here, is head of the chemistry department at the University of New Hampshire.

A lot of the doctors in Colorado Springs are students which I had in class; some of them were chemistry majors, like Doug Corley, who is the best anesthetist in Colorado Springs, is one of them. He was a chemistry major.

And then I think of Dr. Lindeman, who is one of the outstanding surgeons here--open heart surgery and so on. Dr. Little--they worked together as a team. As a matter of fact, I had all three of those on a major operation on my throat here about eight years ago. I insisted on having Doug Corley as my anesthetist--[chuckle]

FINLEY:

He knew how to handle the chemicals, eh?

BARNES:

Yes! And Dr. Lindeman, whom I had in class just before I was called to the Second World War. He was called out, too--he was in my class at the time. He's performed about seven operations on me--one major and the others minor; at least, I consider them minor, but they could have been major. Dr. Little assisted Dr. Lindeman. And there are a lot of others around that I could name here in the Springs, whenever I happened to be in the hospital and hear the names mentioned, why, of course, they are recalled to me right away.

Chuck Owens, a Wichita boy who had a Carbide Carbon scholarship in chemistry, is head of the chemistry

department--did I mention him before? I don't believe so.

FINLEY:

You did, but you didn't give many details.

BARNES:

He married his sweetheart from Wichita, who was one of our medical technology girls, and he's head of the chemistry department at the University of New Hampshire, and has done an outstanding job.

Several others of our graduates--a boy who took his master's here is the head of the department at Boston University. Another one is head of the chemistry department at Bradley University. And so on, so that I am satisfied now as some of these memories become rather decadent, of course, that we did do a good job in our teaching.

And while I didn't feel particularly proud of the job I was doing at the time, I just felt like I was doing--I always insisted on getting the fundamentals across, and I figured the advanced work could always take care of itself, when they went on to advanced schools. But if we could just hammer in the fundamentals, why, they'd be able to do a job [chuckle].

And I think it's proven true in my philosophy as far as teaching is concerned. I enjoyed my teaching, although I didn't consider it as a job; it was just something that I enjoyed. And when I left Colorado College, I didn't take my teaching home with me--I left it down there. [chuckle]

FINLEY:

Now your endowment of the Chemistry Scholarships, I think, has been a major contribution that you and Mrs. Barnes have made to assure that the future chemistry majors at CC will have good opportunities and a good education. Can you tell us how that came about, a bit of the history of it, and what it involves at the present time?

BARNES:

Having been in World War I, and World War II, and realizing how Germany expected to win the first World War by hurling over so much high explosives that no nation could stand up. Germany, of course, had favored the development of the chemical industries to the point where Germany was considered a chemical nation.

Then we got into the first World War, and they started using poison gas against us, and we had practically no chemical industries in the United States. DuPont, sure, existed, but all they did was have a powder factory, for making black powder.

But we were able to develop the industries on a sort of spur-of-the-moment, and they grew up inside of two years, to the point where we were able to compete by the time we went into World War I, we were able to furnish the high explosives, which is a chemical industry.

Then in the second World War, Germany expected to win it by the surprise effect, and we were able, again the chemical industries were able to come to the front, and just overnight, since we had already developed our chemical industries during the period between World War I and II, where we had a strong chemical industry in the United States, they were able to, overnight, just with a few changes, to go into production of things like mustard gas, and the other things that Germany was depending on to help win the war the second time.

So when I got out of the service at the end of my part in the second World War, I started teaching again at Colorado College. I had realized by this time the importance of science to us as a nation in keeping the United States strong in defense. In the words of George Washington, I have always felt that in time of peace, we should be ready to defend ourselves in case of war.

We never had been able to attract too many strong students to Colorado College in the sciences. We had been able to get a few, some of which I have mentioned, but never in the number that I would like to have, teaching, because if you have a certain number of good students in your class, it helps the morale, not only of the teacher, but of the class as a whole.

So I began thinking about what I could do about helping to recruit some of the stronger students to Colorado College when they graduated from high school. I decided that perhaps we could some way stimulate this by giving scholarships in chemistry. I talked to several of the administrative officers, including the treasurer, about it, and they said, "No, you can't do that. You can't restrict a gift, an endowed gift, that way."

It just happened that one of the trustees was a corporate lawyer in Denver by the name of McCreery--Donald McCreery, and one of my financial advisors--I had begun to dabble a little bit in stocks and bonds--one of my financial advisors at this time was a firm known as E. W. Hughes and Company, in Colorado Springs.

The Hughes brothers were former athletes of Colorado College, and Walt Hughes was coaching the freshman football

team at the time, and he wanted me to--I happened to mention I was interested in stocks and bonds. He told me I ought to go up and talk to his brother and sister-in-law, which I did. I mentioned one time that I'd like to do this to Mrs. Arlene Hughes, and she didn't say anything about yes or no about it, but she mentioned it to Donald McCreery, the trustee, when he was down one time, because he was one of her clients.

And he said, "Well, sure it can be done. You tell him that if he wants to do it, to see me and I'll set it up for him."

I was interested in doing this because--now, this was several years before the National Science Foundation was started.

FINLEY:

What year was this?

BARNES:

This was in '52.

FINLEY:

In 1952?

BARNES:

Uh-huh. And so I had several meetings with Donald McCreery, went up to Denver, and then to get the final setup, it was during one time when we had a hockey game at Denver University, and Juan Reid and I went up to Denver to see the hockey game. Donald McCreery invited us out to Cherry Creek Country Club for dinner that evening, and I more or less completed the setup there for this scholarship. We finally got it set up to meet my satisfaction, as well as Mr. McCreery.

So at Christmastime in 1952, there was a hockey game at the Broadmoor, and we had this agreement between ourselves and the trustees of Colorado College, which Mrs. Barnes and I signed. And I--coming back from the hockey game, I stopped off to see General Gill at his home, and I gave this agreement to him.

I told him, "Here's a Christmas present for Colorado College you can present at the next faculty meeting." He said he'd be glad to present it, which he did, and the trustees accepted it, and agreed to carry out the terms of the conditions which were set down in there.

So right away, we recruited a student from Ogden, Utah, by the name of Blanpied, Bob Blanpied, and he was our first

scholarship holder, and he graduated four years later. There is a little bit of an odd thing, in a way, but in that graduating class, there were four outstanding men, including Blanpied, who were commissioned in the ROTC as lieutenants, and so here, again, throughout my life, or my career, apparently athletics and national defense, in a way, played an important part.

Since then, we have gradually added to the fund which supports these scholarships, until now we have at the present time, twelve outstanding graduates, high school graduates, who are chemistry majors at Colorado College, and last summer--we have added a summer research program, by the way--and last summer, we had three of these students who were also doing the summer research program, and we are planning on adding to the program now a program to pay the cost of bringing outstanding scientists to Colorado College to give lectures.

FINLEY:

I see.

BARNES:

It's in the process of being cleared by the Treasurer's Department--all these things have to go through the Treasurer's Department to be approved, because these scholarships are all tax-exempt except for the excise tax, which is four percent of the income, at the present time.

FINLEY:

Well, you foresee that this will go on for many years to come, then?

BARNES:

Yes, it's a non-revocable trust, and one thing I'm proud about it is it sort of beat the National Science Foundation to the punch in what they have done. They realized the importance of having the National Science push the training, which helps to facilitate trained men to take care of our important things which have taken place in our national defense, such as the things that have gone on in the last twenty years, at least.

FINLEY:

Well, that's very interesting history of your Barnes Scholarships, and I'm sure that in the future, some of the chemistry majors will be interested in listening to this tape, to hear your voice in person telling how it all came about.

BARNES:

By the way, I might mention in passing that these are open to students to intend to major in chemistry, and of course, it'll take care of them for the four years, unless they change their minds. Now a number of them have done that, and of course, the attrition is rather small, but we have them change. At the end of their sophomore year, they have to declare their major, and some of them have changed their minds.

One boy, I remember, changed his mind and decided to major in mathematics, and then later on he went to Princeton, I believe, and got his Ph.D. in physics there. Others have changed their minds and gone into history. One believed in God, has changed his mind and gone into religion! [chuckle]

However, these students, with the exception of one or two, have stayed, and remained at Colorado College and graduated from Colorado College, so I don't have any regrets about these ones that we recruit who have come here, because even though they go to some other curriculum, they are an asset to Colorado College, which is important, too.

FINLEY:

Yes, certainly. Well, I think at this point, Professor Barnes, we'll close the interview. I've taken a lot of your time this morning. It's been very pleasant and worthwhile, and I'm sure this tape is so full of good information, it will be very interesting for people to listen to in the future.

Do you have any final comments?

BARNES:

Well, I have great hopes for the future of Colorado College, of course, for the future, and for our nation, and I just hope that I haven't seemed just a little bit egotistical, maybe--

FINLEY:

Not at all!

BARNES:

--about my part! [chuckle]

FINLEY:

Not at all! Thank you very much!

BARNES:

You're welcome!

THE END