

I. Why did he choose Colorado College?

- A. It was the proper distance from home (630 miles from Kansas City Missouri).
- B. It was non-sectarian.
- C. He had aspirations to make the football team.
 1. He was not recruited in advance.
 2. He did, in fact, make the team.
 3. The coach was Bill Heiss in his first year, then Robbie Robertson for the next three years.
 4. He was here for the worst year for the football team in the history of the school in terms of win-loss records.
 5. C. C. still played schools like Denver University in those days--- never beat them.

II. First impressions of C. C.

- A. Atmosphere of the campus.
 1. He arrived in the summer for early practice and it was very quiet. Once the other students arrived he found it very relaxed and friendly, except for freshmen hazing.

III. Freshman hazing

- A. All freshmen had to wear yellow courderoy slacks, black sweaters and yellow beanies until they won the first football game or until homecoming.
- B. There was a regulation against washing these uniforms.
- C. The girls wore green hair ribbons and paddles around their necks.
- D. There was a freshman-sophomore competition at homecoming.
 1. A tall greased pole with a flag on top was to be defended by the sophomores and the freshmen were to capture the flag.
 2. Riley didn't have to be in on it because he was on the football team.
- E. The hazing was losing popularity but the honorary club "The Red Lanterns" tried to perpetuate it.
 1. The Red Lanterns woke freshmen up in the middle of the night, made them sing school songs.
 - a. If the freshmen wouldn't do it they would get their heads shaven.
 2. Just after Riley graduated The Red Lanterns were replaced by the Blue Key.
- F. Soon after Riley graduated this type of hazing was dropped.
 1. He feels something was lost by this because it got freshmen together.

IV. Fraternities

- A. Riley had no intention of joining a frat when he came to C. C.
- B. He joined Kappa Sigma freshman year.
 1. He had a very negative outlook on frats when he arrived and pledged Kappa Sigma two months later.
 2. He changed his mind because he made friends with some Kappa Sigs in his dorm (Hagerman Hall) and on the football team.
- C. Fraternity hazing
 1. It was much worse than freshmen hazing.
 2. It went on all first semester, then Hell Week was the first week of the second semester.
 - a. Hell week was a week without sleep, lots of grubby activity, egg in your hair, running around the block with next to nothing on.
 - b. He recalls two men wearing ladies undergarments to Jay's restaurant to pick up some food.

V. Hagerman Hall

- A. Located where Rastall is now.
- B. Built in 1888.
- C. Riley liked it.
 - 1. Limestone and ivy on the outside.
 - 2. The inside left a lot to be desired.
 - a. It needed renovation but they chose to tear it down instead.
- D. It had always been a men's dorm.
- E. It was torn down a year or two after Riley graduated.
- F. It wouldn't have been a good dorm for ladies.
 - 1. It had 2 or 3 central baths.
 - 2. It lacked privacy.
 - 3. The corridors were noisy.
- G. It seemed to be largely an athletic dormitory when Riley arrived.
 - 1. It was a great fun-loving group of people.
- H. He remembers the dorm very fondly.
- I. Drinking in the dorm.
 - 1. Sometimes beer was brought in.
 - 2. There were head residents.
 - a. In Riley's first year there the Head Resident was a small rather quiet guy who was in charge of 240 lb. tackles and aggressive hockey players.
 - b. He wasn't very strict but didn't allow any blatant actions to go on.
 - 3. Riley doesn't recall any great abuse of drinking but there was a good deal of it.

VI. Drinking in fraternities

- A. "All the parties seemed to center around a keg of beer."
- B. The most enjoyable parties were in the canyons behind the Broadmoor.
 - 1. They put the keg in a cold stream.
 - 2. They built a fire, sat around it drinking and singing songs.
 - 3. A party like this was held almost every weekend.
 - 4. Song singing was a big activity at these parties.
 - a. Once Riley had to go to the girl's dorm and sing the Indian love call as a solo. He heard a lot of windows slamming.

VII. Academics at Colorado College

- A. Riley came with no particular major in mind.
 - 1. One day he was on his way to sign up for a major in English and on the way his friend talked him into going to listen to a psychology presentation.
 - a. That afternoon he ended up vice-president of the psychology club and with a declared major in psychology.
- B. Most psychology classes were taught by Dr. [Wm. A.] Blakely and H. Richard Van Saun. A year or two after that Van Saun left and Dr. [Doug] Freed came in.
- C. Dr. Blakely
 - 1. A psychologist with a Ph.D.
 - 2. Dropped out of Medical school for health reasons.
 - 3. Was very oriented to the M.D. approach.
 - a. Therefore his courses were very difficult and largely related to the physical aspects of the being.
 - 4. He was a very unusual man.
 - 5. He allowed a lot of freedom in his classes i.e. talking, moving around, etc. But if you abused this privilege, he had quite a temper.
- D. Tom Ross, English dept.
 - 1. He had the greatest influence of any professor on Riley.
 - 2. He gave Riley a strong introduction to the academic life.
 - 3. He was dedicated, exceptionally bright.
 - 4. He had a good way with students.

5. Riley has maintained contact with him.
6. He took up journalism later, largely due to Ross' influence.
 - a. There was one journalism course taught by Keith Freyschlag.
 - b. Freyschlag advised the school newspaper "The Tiger."

VIII. "The Tiger"

- A. Riley started out as a reporter and later became the editor.
- B. He considers running a newspaper a lot of fun.
- C. He started out writing sports.
- D. For two years the editor had been Tom Pankau.
 1. He left a difficult act to follow.
- E. Then it was Jim Jacobs.
- F. Riley was after Jacobs.
- G. There was stiff competition for the job of editor in those days.
 1. Riley was pleased and honored to get the job.
- H. The editor was paid \$525/year which was the cost of tuition at that time.
- I. He had a good staff; they had a lot of fun.
- J. He started a column called "Riley's Roving Eye."
 1. He interviewed exotic young ladies who came to the campus and featured their pictures.
 - a. Marit Opsahl, a norwegian foreign student, was one of them.
 - b. Pam Battey was another.
 2. He didn't continue this column but wrote more generally about student life.
- K. Political Issues in the newspaper.
 1. They were called upon to write about National affairs
 2. They used "fill material" viz. canned articles from news bureaus.
 3. They took an editorial position on a revolt in Hungary.
 - a. Riley was very cautious about taking a position on these issues.
 - b. Once a canned article went into "The Tiger" about Eleanor Roosevelt which turned out to have been written by a communist front organization in California.
 - i. One of the "budding political scientists" on campus took offense and reported him to Senator Joseph McCarthy and the Committee on Un American activities.
 - ii. Riley never heard from the committee, even when he went in the army.
 4. There was a good deal of activity on campus and the newspaper was the best way to express it.
 5. Riley once tackled the Honor Council.
 - a. Dean Lou Worner took great exception to that.
 - b. Riley's criticism was that while the activities of the honor council were theoretically secret, people couldn't help but know if someone left the campus for honor code violations.
 - i. On the other hand they never expelled any one from C. C. that didn't deserve to go.
 - c. Riley had opposed some of the selections of Honor Council members
- L. A particularly humorous article which Riley wrote was about C. C. having too many queens.
 1. The article made him unpopular.
 2. There were a lot of queen elections on campus.
 3. Riley didn't think the campus had enough pretty girls for all the queen competitions.
 4. The article was stimulated by the election of a queen "who was not queen material."
 - a. He shouldn't have written the article so soon after that election.
- M. An article was about a group called Zeta---a fraternity formed for independents.

1. The Zetas had a handshake, a safety pin for a fraternity pin.
 2. They nominated a Zeta homecoming queen---a stripper from "The House of Oscar" and brought her on campus, paraded her around, etc.
 - a. The Zeta's convinced Sallie Payne Morgan [Dean of Women] and Mrs. [Evaline] McNary [Manager of the Residence Halls] to let their queen eat the luncheon at Cossitt but didn't tell who she was.
 - b. There were no negative repercussions on the part of the administration, in fact they considered it one of the more humorous things that had happened in a long while.
- N. There was a traditional rivalry with Colorado School of Mines.
1. There were always brawls with them.
 2. Someone wrote bad sayings about Mines on the roof of Cossitt Hall.
 3. There was a tradition at games against Mines of the winner tearing down goal posts or blowing up buildings.
 - a. Once Mines said they were going to tear down our goalposts, win, lose or draw. The game was close and at the end people from both schools got on the field and "had the biggest fist fight I've ever seen."
 - i. Even some football players were in on it.
 - ii. Riley had a broken jaw as a result of the previous game against Mines, so he didn't participate.
 - iii. They didn't get the goal posts that day but came back the next night at 6:00 and blasted it down.

IX. Homecoming

- A. Fraternities and Sororities decorated houses.
- B. They made floats.
- C. There was a parade downtown.
- D. There was a dance.
 1. It was the most popular dance of the year.
- E. It was difficult to get a really large parade.

- X. Riley was at Colorado College for two years while President [William H.] Gill was here, then two years with President [Louis T.] Benezet. What were differences in the atmosphere of the campus under these two presidents?
- A. Gill was a retired Army General.
 1. He started an R. O. T. C. program.
 - a. The program allowed students to finish their education before going into the army.
 2. The school was run more like a military organization than most schools, "but with a pretty loose hand." There was a great deal of freedom.
 - B. There was an immediate change when Benezet arrived.
 1. The changes were mostly positive although he took away some things which were good for the school.
 - a. He de-emphasized athletics.
 - b. He had such an academic approach which helped bring on the unkempt student of the sixties."
 - i. "When I visited campus one time there was a point when I didn't care if I ever came back...Whatever tradition had been here they [the students] seemed to delight in defying it."
 - ii. Riley refused, when asked in the 60's, to do some promotional work for C. C.
 - iii. It wasn't due completely to Dr. Benezet.

2. The year Riley left C. C. was the N. C. A. A. Hockey champion and two years later C. C. lost every game.
 - a. This was a difference in the athletic outlook.
 - b. The football team didn't do as well either.
3. Benezet got to know everyone on campus.
 - a. He knew the student leaders by name.
 - i. Presidents of fraternities and sororities, etc.
 - b. He tried to get to know Riley as editor of "The Tiger"
 - i. Benezet invited about 20 people holding offices on campus to his home. They met his wife for the first time and she knew them all by name from studying yearbooks, etc.
 - ii. A new drama professor, [William E.] Mc Millan, ran the dorms. He gave them excerpts from "Pygmalion" in Benezet's living room. This was Benezet's way of getting to know these students and letting them know what he expected of them.
4. The school was proud of what Benezet did.
 - a. Upgraded C. C. academically.
 - b. A lot more good students began to come to C. C.
 - c. It became more difficult to get admitted to C. C.
5. Benezet put Riley's class through 3 days of "Area Studies."
 - a. This ranked the students in their expertise in Humanities, Social Science and Natural Science.
 - b. This was in addition to comprehensive examinations and the GRE.
 - c. Programs were reconstructed on the basis of these exams.
6. Benezet brought great honor to the college.
 - a. He brought C. C. to where it is today, i.e. a very high rank among small liberal arts colleges.

XI. Changes in social standards, rules and regulations.

- A. It was appropriate in the fifties to have strict visitation hours, etc.
- B. The freedom for young people now is evidence of sophistication of society.
- C. Some people can't handle dropping restrictions.
- D. Many people believe that co-ed dormitories are one of the better things that has happened.
 1. Riley went to University of Oregon, one of the leaders in co-ed dorms, after C. C. and "earned my keep" running one of the dorms.
 - a. The dorms weren't co-ed yet but they had a common dining area.
 - b. Men and women were thrown together here, whereas they were "forced apart" at C. C.---didn't even eat together.
 - c. At Oregon, there was only one panty raid that year. The mystique had left the ladies when they saw them in the morning without make-up, etc.
 2. In the 50's at the "witching hour" when the girls had to be in, there were passionate scenes of couples embracing, saying good night, which doesn't happen any more.
 - a. Once Riley kept a girl out two hours late and nothing happened to him but she got "campused" (lost her privileges) for 6 weeks.
 3. When mothers sent their daughters to college in those days they expected the college to look after the girls as the mother would have.
 4. These restrictions were appropriate for the time.

XII. The underground newspaper "The Gadfly"

- A. It wasn't as much of a problem to Riley as editor of "The Tiger" as it was to the next year's editor [Robin Reid].
- B. Riley knew who was putting "The Gadfly" out.
 1. They were hyper-intelligent people."
 2. They weren't within the social structure of the school.

3. One was in a frat and wanted to print the entire secret ritual of the fraternity in "The Gadfly."
 - a. His compatriots didn't let him do it.
4. Another wrote a story which did not get printed in "The Gadfly" but which Riley read. "And if you can think of the worst word you ever heard in your life that was the name of the main character."
- C. "The Gadfly" was intended to shock and poke fun at the system.
 1. Riley thought they went too far.
- D. The following year they stole the copies of "The Tiger" which the students had paid to have published and replaced it with the Gadfly!
- E. There were lots of good funny articles in it.
- F. It didn't really hurt anyone the year Riley was here, but he would have been distressed if he had come under the pressure they exerted on the editor the next year.
- G. The students objected to "The Gadfly" in editorials to "The Tiger," although the first year it was kind of a fun thing.
 1. The campus mood wasn't ready for them to go as far as they did the next year.
 2. The administration didn't do anything.
- H. It was the beginning of a mood that was growing.

XIII. The 1960's

- A. Riley traveled to various campuses a lot in the 60's and was saddened to see lots of good people and good institutions suffer from activism in the same manner as C. C. suffered from "The Gadfly"
- B. One of the University of Oregon presidents died in the sixties, presumably from suicide.
 1. He had been under great pressure from student activist organizations.
- C. Campuses suffered all over in the 60's.

XIV. What influence did C. C. years have on his later life?

- A. C. C. had and still has very strong influence on him.
- B. Not many from his family had gone to college and many students came from the same type of background.
 1. There were students from 47 states and six countries at C. C. and having never been out of his neighborhood prior to coming to C. C. the college had a great impact on him.
- C. There is a sophistication that exists at the school which you don't run into in a large school.
- D. Students can do anything they want at a small school, become president of a fraternity, etc.
- E. All these learning experiences have helped him in everything he has done.

XV. Post Colorado College years

- A. Riley lives in Tacoma with his wife and two boys.
- B. He was briefly in the advertising business after getting his journalism degree.
- C. He went to work for one of his clients, a builder and eventually became president of a building company.
- D. He's involved in Real Estate Sales and Insurance
 1. "A busy, interesting, sort of wild business."
 2. Not anything he ever thought he'd get into.
 - a. It makes him wish that Dr. Benezet had changed the curriculum because he successfully navigated his way out of C. C. with no business or accounting courses.
- E. He's lived in the Northwest for 16 years.
- F. They play golf, tennis, curling; they haven't gone back to skiing.

and