



INTERVIEW WITH

DAN COSTELLO

Member of the Oski Committee, 1947

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Oski Committee Member 1947
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Cheatham: My name is Dan Cheatham. I was the Drum Major of the Cal Band in 1957.

Costello: I am Dan Costello, Class of '51, went to Cal from 1946 to 1951. I went to high school in Oakland. I played baseball there and at Cal. I joined the TKE fraternity at Cal, the same one that Rocky Rockwell belonged to. I became involved with the Oski Committee, probably about 1947, and continued to work with him during that period of time.

Cheatham: Tell us how you first became aware that there was such a thing as Oski?

Costello: I became aware of Oski because Bill Rockwell, who was the original Oski, was a fraternity brother of mine. He started talking about it to me and suggested that I join the committee. Yell leader Herb Turnbow was also a TKE. Both of them worked on me and I became involved. I later ran for yell leader myself but I got started working with the Oski Committee.

TKE Fraternity and Veterans on Campus

Cheatham: Give us a quick description of the TKE fraternity during those years you were involved.

Costello: During that time a group of my friends were in the campus Masonic club. They decided they wanted to have a fraternity. They were all veterans. One of them had the Silver Star. Another was in the 101st Airborne... I mean, we had a veteran group. I was in the Army Air Corps. So they started thinking about a new fraternity rather than joining one that was already established. They found 3 gentlemen in San Francisco who had been TKEs before the old house burned down in the 1923 fire in North Berkeley. They rebuilt a beauty, which they then lost in the 1930s during the Great Depression.

These alums were located and they were interested in letting us reestablish a local chapter.

We started out by living in what was then a boarding house... We used to call it Mother Odom's. Rockwell was in that group.

I hadn't joined yet but some of my friends who were in that group came to me and I joined. That's how I got to know Rockwell, Herb Turnbow, and all the others.

After starting at Mother Odom's boarding house on Dwight Way, I believe it was... we had a very strong house. Really solid guys. We didn't do a lot of paddling and all that undergraduate nonsense. We were really adults compared to the youngsters that were then coming to the campus. We were only a few years older but we'd been through 10 years of experiences, in the meantime.

We wanted a house of our own and one of the guys was at a dance one night at the Theta U's, a sorority, when his girl let slip that they were gonna buy the Kappa house because the Kappas were moving ... they were going to build a new house. So this guy immediately, being very sharp, jumped on the phone and got a hold of Soph Goth and some of the men that had given the fraternity back to us. They acted very quickly and got a hold of the Kappa's and we bought the house. Bang! Just like that. That really established us on campus because that was a beautiful house. It had beam ceilings and beautiful plank floors. It was a great

house. So that's where the real feeling for the house began and where Rockwell and Herb Turnbow really began to get their feelings for the fraternity, for the campus, and for Oski. And I was part of that, too.

Cheatham: Those immediate postwar years were very special because of the large influx of veterans receiving GI Bill benefits. They had worldly experiences of all sorts involving travel, service in combat, etc., and set the scene for campus life. That is reflected in history of the Cal Band too. As a 10-year-old water boy for the Cal Band, I remember the excitement of those days myself.

Oski Committee

Well, moving on with the subject of Oski, what were some of the first things that you did as you became involved?

Costello: My role in the Oski Committee was to think up stunts and to organize them since I was too big to be an Oski. Oski always had to be a guy about 5'7" or smaller. That was the height limit in those days.

I had been watching the Oski for awhile and I sort of thought the stunts lacked excitement. I wanted to do something that was a little more burlesque and that would grab people a little bit. I thought people weren't paying enough attention. They were reacting to Oski but not the stunts. So we started doing things like taking a bucket of water and throwing it on the field and then the next time we'd run up to the rooting section and throw the bucket of water on the rooting section. They'd all scream, but of course, it would be only confetti, not water this time. If we were playing Oregon State, for example, Oski would chase the Beaver, or whatever. I can't recall all the exact stunts but they were pretty well received. The few that knew that I was involved with some of the stuff would always come up afterwards and ask me about it. We got a response from the audience and that's what I wanted to see.

We would have a meeting sometime during the week before the game. Sometimes Oski would be there but he didn't have to come up with the stunts. That's what we would do. As you will see in a minute, not all the stunts directly involved Oski. He might be doing his individual appearance at the sidelines but committee members would be doing a stunt in the middle of the field. Oski would run out in the field and do what he was gonna do and then maybe at half time he might be at one end of the stadium and the stunt would go on at another part. So we'd be entertaining two parts of the stadium at the same time.

At meetings we'd sit down and have a bull session. Guys would come up with ideas. It was expected that committee members would have already had some kind of idea. Then we would hash it around. Little by little, with a committee of about four or five people... it turned out that only two or three of us, myself being one, would bring up most of the ideas. The others would help along but they didn't seem quite as productive.

The committee had a lot of leeway. No campus administrator came and laid down a bunch of rules. They just trusted us and we kept the trust. We didn't do anything lewd or anything that would be not acceptable to the University or the team. We kidded a few people but we didn't over-embarrass anybody.

Occasionally, we did recruit a few other people to come in and help. A couple of my fraternity brothers helped with a few stunts. Basically, we just used the four or five people because most of the stunts did not require more than that... Anywhere from two, to four or five people. That's all you really needed. They were not extensive stunts. They were quick, simple things.

Oski Persona

Cheatham: How the group of you perceive the Oski persona?

Costello: Oski was a real delight on the campus. It's really hard have a mascot do something that really goes over strong. I mean, you've probably noticed through the years that... You know... Crazy Crab for the Giants baseball team, and a lot of other mascots have just never gone over... No staying power... But somehow Oski went over like gangbusters and he always seemed to do the right thing. He had a devilish persona and used to do some wild things, but nothing really ever embarrassed the school. The fans loved him.

He didn't mind giving a bad time to the mascot of the opposite school but in recent years I've seen it go too far at the Stanford game. Once he knocked over the tree mascot, down at Stanford and all kinds of stuff like that.

The Parade of Lights and Miss Football

Early in the football season... For the first home game... Berkeley used to have the Parade of Lights and a Miss Football beauty contest. They brought in women from other college conferences and... I can remember my first game that I was there. There must have been 10 to 15 girls out on the field being introduced. They represented the Big Ten the Southeastern conference and all other intercollegiate conferences. Oski was devilishly running around among them. Finally they announced Miss Football. Well all of us and everybody that I knew seemed to think that there was another girl there by the name of Nell McGrew from SMU... she was an absolute doll... was more deserving. We were all disappointed that she didn't win. So while the Queen was getting her crown and everything Oski runs out in the field grabs Nell McGrew sweeps her up in his arms and runs up to the rooting section and holds her up in front of the rooting section and the place went bananas.

Cheatham: Yes, I can imagine, given a fully packed men's rooting section, as it was in those days... Many of whom were the older veterans that were talking about. That must have been quite a scene.

What Dan is referring to is... during that time period, the Berkeley Junior of Chamber of Commerce created a festival which they called the Parade of Lights. And they, as Dan said, invited the beauty queens from all the other conferences in the nation. They stayed in the luxury of the Claremont Hotel.

The concept was that the collegiate football season ended with the Rose Bowl in Pasadena with all the festivities that go on down there. So the Berkeley Junior Chamber of Commerce decided that they would start the collegiate football season in the manner I just described. When Miss Football was chosen, she got to ride in a convertible car in the Parade of Lights that was held in downtown Berkeley. After the parade she, and her attendants would be introduced at the bonfire rally at the Greek Theatre... The first one of the year. All the other princesses would also ride in the parade.

The Cal Band would be up near the front of the parade, which actually went in a circular fashion on Shattuck Avenue, between Bancroft Way and University Avenue. In those days the Key System interurban train tracks ran up the center of Shattuck Avenue. All the parade units would enter simultaneously from the side streets, turn right, make one complete circuit of the parade route, and exit at their starting point. All this is well documented in other places. Well, Ms. McGrew from SMU was all part of that.

In 1957, when I was Drum Major, Mary Ann Mobley, from the University of Mississippi, was Miss Football. At halftime I got to escort her from one side of the field to the other in a show of impartiality. The following year she was crowned Miss America.

I that was the last year they had the Parade of Lights.

Costello: As I mentioned, Oski really went over well. That was really difficult to do that because all these veterans were a tough audience. I mean they were not gonna accept just anything. If it was corny entertainment they would of thrown it out and made fun of it. But they always had good feelings for Oski.

Rooting Section

I went to my first Big Game in 1946. Frank Wickhorst was the coach, a former Navy coach, and Cal got beaten badly by Stanford. Everybody in that rooting section got so mad they began tearing the seats out. They tore up all the wooden seats and they were handing these huge pieces of wood with rusty nails in them down over the heads of everybody and it was almost a riot.¹ It was just a really powerful happening.²

¹ See interview by Ludy E. Langer.

² This also resulted in a change of coach and Pappy Waldorf came on the scene the following year. NHC

So these guys had to be impressed if they were gonna go along with anything.

The rooters really got behind the team, and Pappy because they were very disappointed in '46. In 1947 with the same bunch of players, basically, Pappy won every game but the USC game. The following year (1948) they beat USC and went to the Rose Bowl (January 1949).

In 1946 feelings were high in a negative way and starting in 1947 they were high in a positive way. Everybody had a great feeling for the team and everything that was involved with school spirit went over well... Like the Oski Committee and the things that Oski was doing.³

In those days the organized rooting section was all male. They all wore white shirts and they stayed in the rooting section. The women were outside that. Maybe it was a good idea because some of the language and some of the stuff that went on in that rooting section was kind of wild. I mean if they didn't like what the referee said they would hold up some obscene sign and they did a lot of things that they weren't suppose to do. After a bad call they would chant, in a sing-song fashion, "The Referee has no father", casting doubt on his legitimacy. When there is a 10-yard penalty they would count off the yards and they say "You Bastard". But that stopped when the Ref penalized the rooting section once. They would also sing "Three Blind Mice" when they disagreed with the referees.

Oski didn't do this, but the rooting section did. But most of it was very positive. They really cheered loudly. When the yell leaders got up there, boy, they really followed the yells and did it. They really went at it. And there was a Hawaiian guy that came over and ran for yell leader and he introduced a bunch of Hawaiian yells. I thought they were ridiculous. But the students really responded to them. I remember we took the train down to see the USC game and this guy's leading all these people in the train. They got a big Conga line going and he's going, "Eeya. Eeya. Eeya. Go Bears!" and "Fight team, fight!". Hundreds of people yelling and screaming and going down the train and having a ball. That led up to the USC game which I talk about later.⁴

Every team has to have a star and in those days Jackie Jensen was pure gold. They called him the "Golden Boy". He had gone to Oakland High and I'd play baseball against him. I knew him personally because he used to hang out at Mosswood Park. We used to play ball together. He became a superstar. He was a great runner. In those days the Cal team was a running team. They didn't do much passing. Jensen became a super player plus he was a nice guy and everybody liked him and many worshipped him.

³ The team drew big crowds and football was a money-maker for the ASUC. It could even afford a junior varsity team called the Ramblers. NHC

⁴ The Bob Desky interview talks about some of the trips on the rooters trains. NHC

We went down to USC to watch that game and, of course, we wanted to come up with some good stunts for the Oski Committee. So here we are at the Coliseum. There must have been, sixty, seventy or eighty thousand people, I don't know how many but there was a lot of people. The Coliseum seated about a hundred thousand at that time.

Oski did some things around the field to warm up the crowd etc. I can't recall exactly... But I did something too. I dressed up like a Trojan soldier. I used a garbage can lid for a shield, a crappy looking sword, a silly hat with a little plume on it, some shower shoes. Tried my best to make fun of the Trojans, so I walked across the field and began marching up and down in front of the Trojan rooting section. Now there is a lot of people up there in that rooting section. They had about four yell leaders plus a bunch of cheerleader girls. They let me do this for a short time but pretty soon they decided I was insulting them, so all the yell leaders started running after me. I took off across the field back towards our rooting section. Well, all these yell leaders come yelling and running after me. Boy, if they'd have caught me I don't know what they would have done, but I wouldn't have liked it. Some of the people from the USC stands started pouring out of the field to come after me too. About that time the Cal yell leaders saw what was going on so they came to rescue me and some of the people from the Cal stands began come out on the field too. Boy, I thought to myself, "What have I started!" This could be a riot if both of these groups come together. But I finally escaped into the Cal side and everybody kind of came to a standoff and it just sort of calmed down.

It was a "run for my life" but everybody seemed to get a big kick out of that "stunt". It really made a big impression. They wrote about it in the *Daily Cal*.

Jackie Jensen and Rose Bowls

Anyway in that game, Jensen was a star. Cal won and went to the Rose Bowl the following January. [1949]

We played Northwestern and the papers were blowing up the two big stars. Art Murakowski was an all American fullback, or halfback, from Northwestern and Jensen was an all American fullback from Cal. The game was very tough and very close, but on one play Murakowski came right up to the goal line and he was hit. The referee said that he scored. And of course all of us felt that he was pushed back and that he didn't score. That score is what won the game for Northwestern. I talked to Jack afterwards. He, played both offense and defense, and he said, "no way" that guy scored. He said we hit him at the line but the referee claimed that he went over and scored and then was pushed back. Well, we'll leave that up to God. But anyway, that's what happened.

It was a great game and of course we were disappointed. We didn't win but Jensen played very well. The second Rose Bowl game after the 1949 season,

Jensen was also a star, but I think it was in the third quarter while he was carrying the ball, he pulled a hamstring. I remember him running and all of a sudden falling down without anybody tackling him and he was out for the rest of the game and that really hurt Cal's chances. They lost that game, too. But, again, it was a very close game.

Cheatham: Yes, those teams that Pappy Waldorf coached, involving not only Jackie Jensen but a host of other Cal Football stars, were very exciting games to watch. There was a lot of broken field running in those days and the fans went wild. Those were also very significant days in the history of the Cal Band having to do with the Band's appearance in those three straight Rose Bowls and the eventual change in the directorship of the Cal Band from Charles Cushing to James Berdahl.

Before we move on to some other matters, strictly about Oski, are there any other recollections you have regarding the rooting section and student life on campus of that era?

Fraternity Behavior

Costello: As I mentioned before, Oski had a great rapport with the student body and everybody else and I am thinking of something that fit him really well. There was a song called "Peggy O'Neil". It goes way back and in it they talk about her being a devilish little girl... Cute, lots of personality, and a sly little rogue. That was the persona Oski reflected.

Oski came up with some great ideas. He was brave, too. He would try things. Like this thing I mentioned with Nell McGrew. He was strong. He was an acrobat. He used to pull himself up in the goal post to greet the team when it came in. Everybody admired the things he did because a lot of them were difficult to do. You had to be quite an athlete to do some of the things he did. When Rockwell recruited, he chose athletes.

In 1946 when the veterans were coming back, a lot were pretty hard drinkers... reflecting their world adventures. The fraternities had some pretty wild parties. Actually, they handled the liquor drinking pretty well... considering... but the 17 and 18-year-old girls coming on campus were sometimes overwhelmed. All these guys were veterans in a lot of ways and these girls hadn't done a lot of drinking and they'd go to these fraternity parties and boy, there would be a lot of booze there. Fortunately there was no great problems with that, at least early on. Later there were and this was beginning to make the University get worried. I remember going to a fraternity party to pick up a girl after the party and I was watching guys come out of their house and a lot of them were bombed out of their head. One guy got on a car and started spinning donuts on the front lawn with his car and took off. There was quite a bit of that kind of stuff at that time, but most of it seemed to be somewhat controlled. But of course, later on there were some injuries. Some girl fell out a window at one time and got hurt. Eventually, they cut out drinking on the campus. Of course, that was very unpopular with the students.

Cheatham: In describing those times I recall people using the phrase that the students of that era “played hard but they also studied hard”.

The sociology of the students on the GI Bill is well studied. In addition to the misbehavior, which I suspect was mostly from the younger set trying to show off to the older set, there was also a feeling of maturity in the sense that they were serious about their studies. These were contradictory behaviors. I would also suggest in those days the fraternities were a very powerful force on campus and I suspect that, on occasion (during those early days while there was still a preponderance of vets), if things began to get out of hand, there were the older, more mature fraternity brothers who would step in and control their younger brothers. Without that internal control, I suspect there would have been a lot of problems. That older element is not present in the fraternities of the 1990s and glance at campus current affairs would reveal the need for more maturity.

Parades

Costello: We used to have lots of parades. There was a parade before the Big Game. When the Gig Game was played at Cal, all the fraternities used to decorate their houses.⁵

We’d have a big parade the night before and people would dress up in outrageous blue and gold clothing. And each fraternity house and living group would have a float. The float would represent something positive about Cal and negative about the other teams. I can remember my fraternity had a float one time... We had a bunch of men pulling the float and each one had on his back, like Oregon State 20-nothing, and UCLA 25-6, and they had all the other scores of the season. I was dressed up like a Stanford Indian because in those days Stanford was the Indians, not the Cardinal. I was on this kind of motor scooter with a tomahawk and I’d come up and try to tomahawk Oski, who was driving a stagecoach and he would hit me with a pie right in front of everybody. It was a big cream pie.

Cheatham: It’s true. There were numerous parades. There was also a homecoming parade. As I recall they were associated with the Cal vs. UCLA football game and was billed as the All-University weekend. The Band was always marching in some parade or another. They enjoyed it very much. In fact, the Band was very good at street marching, a skill which they no longer have because their energies and their marching skills are devoted more to the football field. Street marching skills were a direct consequence of military duty and compulsory ROTC for lower division male students. Also, a lot of the Cal Bandsmen marched in the ROTC Bands.

⁵ The merchants on Telegraph Avenue would also decorate their stores and the whole community had “Big Game fever”. NHC

Bonfires

Costello: Before the Stanford game they used to have a huge bonfire. There would be a rally and Oski would be there. The coach would come out and the football team would be there... Lots of students up at the Greek theater. It was a real blast.

Once again they would always push it a little too far. I remember that they were rebuilding part of a fraternity house. They were putting a new floor and all this hardwood was stacked out in front of the house. A couple of wise guys took half of this hardwood ... threw it in the bonfire... which of course was expensive wood and that was kind of a wild thing.

Going back for a moment to the parade before the Big Game, there was always a few wild things that happened. A Good Humor man used to come around and sell ice cream and stuff and somebody stuffed a rag in his gas tank and burned the darn thing up. That was probably the worst thing I'd ever seen happen there. Nobody got hurt, but they got a little carried away occasionally. I don't think that was of the veterans. I have a hunch that was a new kid on the block that went a little too far in order to impress someone, but I couldn't swear to that.

Side 2 Tape 1

Cheatham: I agree. I think there was a change in attitude that came as the original returning veterans were gradually replaced by younger kids straight from high school. Granted, the vets had their hijinks and juvenile streak. Some of them may look back on their behavior with embarrassment but overall I think that set knew right from wrong. I think the younger incoming students emulated them but with more abandon and little conscience.

Bert Ballard

While I was doing the interview with Rocky Rockwell, I was put on to Bert Ballard, who has provided some side notes to the Rockwell interview. Do you have any memories of Bert?

Costello: Bert was a very athletic guy and he was shorter than us so that he could be Oski and I recall him doing a lot of athletic things. He was a great Oski. I've seen him over the years since. In fact, I just went to a meeting of a group called Cal Spirit, which is a fundraising organization for the spirit groups. These are the yell leaders and the people that fire up the team and that sort of thing... including Oski. Bert was there with his wife and he looks fine. This was just in September in 1997.

Oski Over the Years

Cheatham: Tell us more about your undergraduate days.

Costello: Rooters used to sing Cal songs more and everybody knew the words, and the yells too. There were many traditional yells. I've been disappointed in recent years

because newer yell leaders would come in and instead of using the old standby Cal yells that have been there for years and years, they tried to go off and use something that they remember from high school or something else. Eventually, the rooting section did not respond as well to all that and I think that the power of the yell leaders over the rooting section has kind of disintegrated now, although they've got a good one there now. No one knows the songs as well as they used to. I think this is a result of the sixties and everything when you had a dislike of the establishment, a dislike of fraternities, and kind of a breaking down generally of the establishment.

I think that the simpler views during the '40s were more fun. The students were willing to get in and follow the yell leaders and were joining in with the singing and all that. There was more of that.

Gradually, as the years have gone by, I think Oski... his persona has disintegrated some. When he comes out on the field people sort of look at him and give him a second glance and they don't give him a third glance and he doesn't seem to capture the spirit of the thing as much as he used to. He's not as popular. I think maybe it would be a good idea if some of the new Oskis would sit down and maybe read these tapes and find out the way Oski has been in the past. Maybe come up with stunts and things that are gonna get that image back. I don't mean he's a lost cause. He just doesn't have the power and he's not the enjoyment in those early days. He used to really come in with a bang and get up on the goal post, cheer the team on as they came in, and then he would kind of disappear for a while. Then all of a sudden he would come out if something was going on out in the field, do what he had to do and get out of there. Then he would always do something at halftime. When he did his stunt then he would run around, shake hands with kids and all but he was always moving and always doing something and then he got out of there instead of just "hanging out". I think nowadays, Oski tends to kind of stand around and it's kind of dull. When a comedian comes out on stage, he doesn't stand around. He gets off when he finishes what he's gonna do. Comes in with a bang and comes off with a bang and Oski's not doing that. I think that you can't really blame the kids now. They don't know what Oski used to be like. So I think it would be a good idea if somebody could sit down with the Oski Committee and show them what's been done in the past, give them some ideas, and try to get somebody to carry that torch and change it a little bit and get back to the sparkling, effervescent personality that was Oski.

Cheatham: I agree entirely on that subject and I refer the reader to the original interview with Rocky Rockwell for expansion on this point. There was an appearance at the pregame and an appearance at the halftime. Chances were pretty good that you didn't see him in between and if you did it was for a very brief and specific appearance.

Costello: He would get the attention of the crowd. They'd be laughing and screaming at him and everything because he was a good comedian. Now, he just kind of walks

around, shakes hands with some children and signs autographs for the kids, which is fine. That's ok, as far as that's concerned, but that's not entertaining to the crowd. You need to do something that's a little more slam, bang that is gonna entertain the audience from both sides. The alumni would love to come back and see Oski...

Even though Oski did a lot of wild things and everything there was a line there. He seemed to always respect that so that he acted more like a clown than somebody who is playing a dirty trick on someone. You know, maybe the other mascot wasn't too happy with it but he never hurt anybody or never did any real damage. He did things in a kind of devilish manner. Once there was a girl there that had a skirt made of newspapers and he came and started cutting the bottom of the skirt off with a scissors or something like that. In fact, that was one of the stunts as I recall it. This girl came out in front of the rooting section and she had this, I guess it was the sports page of the newspaper all like a skirt, and Oski came up and started cutting the bottom of the skirt off and she goes running off. Things like that, you know. Little devilish tricks. No real meanness anywhere.

Cheatham: I would add one other point. I think the stunts should be coordinated with the other spirit groups so that they won't compete with time allocated for other activities or catch the other spirit groups off-guard.

Life After Cal

Dan, I'd like to thank you very much for having spent time with me to give us some additional background on the history of our favorite mascot. For my final question, would you give us a brief synopsis of what happened to you after your graduation?

Costello: Those years I was at Cal... '46 to '51... they were really great years for me. I did not have a lot of confidence when I came to Cal. I didn't have any idea whether I would be able to do the work. I have never been a great student. I'd always passed everything but going to Cal gave me a lot of confidence.

Part of it was a whole thing about Cal. Not just the studies. The teams, the interrelationships with the people I met. It was really very maturing for me because people all over the world were there. People from all over the country. Kids that I'd known before and those that I hadn't known before. During that period there was a lot of pride because Cal's football team was great. Pappy Waldorf was a legend. The Bears went to the Rose Bowl three times in a row.

During that period they also won the National Championship in baseball. I played baseball there, but I wasn't in the Championship team. They were good in almost all sports and of course there were the Nobel Prize winners too. I was just amazed at all this. And President Bob Sproul was a special person too. And also the caliber of the people at Cal was so much higher than the high school that I'd gone to and the other places that I've been. It was a great revelation for me. I really

enjoyed it and it gave me a great deal of confidence. I think it really helped me for the rest of my life because it gave me the confidence that I needed to be successful in business.

I was always interested in medicine and dentistry but I finally decided to go into sales. When I was a junior at Cal, I decided to become a pharmaceutical sales representative, so I finished Cal and went to work for a fine drug company, Lederle Laboratories, which is owned by American Cyanamid & Company. (Dr. Lederle had a lot to do in WWI inventing different vaccines for the soldiers.)

Anyway, I worked for them for 36 years. I had a very successful sales career with them. Very enjoyable.

During the middle of that time, I left for about six years and became a stockbroker. That was quite an experience because all my education had been towards medicine and science and here I went off on to finances. I went back to Wall Street. I was one of the oldest guys on the block. Most of the kids were in their 20s. I was in my 40s and I felt somewhat intimidated. But the confidence that I've been able to gather from going to that great university worked for me and allowed me to succeed.

The bottom line of that was, six years later when I finally left the business, of those thirty people that were in that class, there was only three of us left and I was one of them. So I felt good about that. It was a great experience.

Cal was a great place to go. I've continued to be interested in the University. I continue to go to the games and I was at that meeting of the spirit groups in September. I was just totally energized by meeting Glen Seaborg, a Nobel Laureate who was there. I shook his hand and I said, "You know Glen, you are the most important person I've ever met." And he just looked at me, was very humble, and said, "Oh, don't say that." People like that are amazing. The things that they are doing up there in the hill... the atomic physicists... they're cracking atoms... they're in the forefront of all the great things. You're very proud to have gone to a University like Cal.

Ceatham: Dan, thank you very much. Those were very moving words. One of the things I'm discovering as I go about doing these oral histories is that these feelings are shared by a good number of other people. There seems to be a connection with Cal, as our mutual Alma Mater, that is a very strong bond. I should mention that just a few weeks ago, the appropriate international body, whatever the name is I can't think of it right now, has officially recognized the element Seaborgium, which Glen Seaborg was instrumental in discovering. The history of this is that it was an on-again off-again thing and apparently it's finally on again.

Costello: Yes. Glen said it was official now.

Ceatham: One thing that always fascinates me is that Seaborg is an anagram for... GO BEARS!