

1968 U.S. Olympic Team Oral History Project: Transcript of Interview

Interviewer: Desiree Harguess

Narrator: Barton Jahncke, 1968 Olympic Games, Sailing

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[Desiree Harguess:] This is Desiree Harguess, a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin in the Institute for Olympic studies at the Stark Center for Physical Culture and Sport. Today is Friday, May 13th 2011 and I'm interviewing Barton Jahncke about his experiences in the 1968 Olympic Games. Mr. Jahncke can you go ahead and tell me a little bit about where you were born and where you grew up?

[Barton Jahncke:] I'd be glad to. I was born in New Orleans Louisiana, and I went to school here until the 8th grade in public schools. And then I went away to the Hill School in Foxtown Pennsylvania, prep school where my dad and brother had gone, came back to New Orleans my senior of high school primarily because I wanted to be able to sail. And then I graduated from St. Martins Episcopal School in 1957. And then I went to Tulane University, where I finished in four years and had a bachelor of business administration. Let's say I- I grew up in New Orleans because you know my parents were here and my whole family has been here for probably four or five generations. I really love sailing and that's what got me into the quest for a gold medal. I mean my dad finished second in the 1932 Olympic Trials, lost to a gentleman here in New Orleans named Gilbert Gray (??), who took my father's crew Andrew J. Labano (??) and went out and won the gold medal in the Los Angeles Games in the star class in yachting (??). And I always knew that kind of got under my dad's skin a little bit and I said well one of these days I'm going to win win a gold medal. And it's haunted me for years cause' I had this certificate that he had and I also had a great uncle Admiral Earnest Lee Jahncke, who was head of United States Olympic Committee before Avery Brundage. And he was really thrown out of office because he did not want to go to the Berlin Games, because he just didn't-- he was a military man and he just couldn't tolerate Adolph Hitler and what had go on with the Jewish community etc. etc. etc. So he didn't want to go. And so Avery Brundage kind of put the blocks to him and so he left the Olympic committee. There's all sorts of documentation about that at the Olympic Village.

[DH:] That's really interesting. I'll have to ask our librarian about that, she was the librarian and archivist at the USOC center in Colorado Springs for a while.

[BJ:] Well it was really quite a story and that was- growing up I heard of these stories and of course Admiral Jahncke was a great a sailor, my father was great sailor, my mother was a great sailor, and we race star boats, the Ludar (??) 16's, soalings (??), dragons, my first venue (??) was an eight foot little pram (??) that I sailed, and my first that I ever sailed on Lake Poxtram (??) I think I was six years old.

[DH:] Wow!

[BJ:] So I kind of grew up around it. And I loved it. And I loved the competitive aspect of it. And sailing—a lot of people think sailing is just going out and putting sun tan lotion on and having a cold beer and a sandwich, it's not. It's a very physical sport, it's an *extremely* complex sport, people don't realize that I-1 design racing (??) that means where everybody has the same boat and the same number of crew, like the star class in the Olympics, the dragons, the soalings (??), etc. And one of the things is that there's so many variables: the wind, the waves, the tuning of your boat, the interference or interplay that you have with a competitor or another boat. Again, there's so many variables that you have to kind of get all of this in cycle and it's fun and it's tiring too physically. You have to hike out—you know it's a lot of work. And you have to learn how to trim (??) sails and it's all practice and it's all competition where you—and it's also a lot of fun you just go and hang out and sail. But it's so peaceful and yet it can be violent when you get in squalls and things like that. But it's the competition and it's wonderful—I knew it would make my dad real happy if I did well at Yodding (??). And my brother was a good sailor, he's older than I am, and he used to crew for dad. And when I was littler, and then Edward sort of peeked, my older brother peeked out and he does it casually. But I always competitively raced. And then I was a member of the Southern Yacht Club in New Orleans, second oldest yacht club in the United States. And it's a beautiful place out on Lake Poxtrim (??). And there were a bunch of young guys – Buddy Friedrichs, Gene Wallett (??), Danny Colline (??), by the way all of these are people that have participated in the Olympics.

[DH:] Oh!

[BJ:] Also Click Schreck (??), and there were several others out there. And we had some members of the club that were you know silver hair guys, and they were sitting around. They were always proud of the fact that we had a gold medal hanging on the wall that Gilbert Gray (??) and Julie Labano (??) won in 1932. And they said well we want to win another gold medal. So they formed a syndicate—these gentleman formed a syndicate, commodore Nathaniel Curtis was involved and others. And I could give you a list of hundreds of names. And they went and bought a dragon class sailboat in Europe. They were twenty-six foot seven inch boat built and three men keel boat (??) that was an Olympic Class. And was built in Denmark up in Jutland Arhoos (??) by Borrison (??). And we got that boat back—they shipped it back to New Orleans on Likes (??) brothers Steve's ship company who are later worked for!

[DH:] (Laughter)

[BJ:] For forty-nine years. And we got in this thing and they said well how are we going to pick a skipper? How are we going to pick a team? So there were a lot of people that wanted to have Buddy Friedrichs, Click Schreck (??), and myself competing against each other. And well that would have been just a shootout cause' we were all killing each other racing against each other. And they said why don't we take the talents of all of them and throw them together in a deal (??). So they invited us to a lunch and they sat down and told us the story and they said you got about 15 minutes to make a decision. And then they said no we will talk to you tomorrow. So we sat amongst ourselves, Buddy, Click (??), and myself. And Buddy was the stock broker and he's deceased now with _____ (??) Friedrichs. Gerald Click Schreck (??) who was the third party on the boat was a sail maker who grew up in Pennsylvania then moved to New Orleans. And Click was a little older—his nickname was Click, actually that's his real name – Gerald Click Schreck. He came from a sailing family. His father, who was quite senior, had sailed on square wigglers (??) around the horn etc. from Germany, and he spoke with a very pronounced German accent for years. And so Click learned the sail making business from his father. His brother was in the sail making business. So we threw our talents together and of course I was in the steamship

business with Likes (??) brothers. And you know we got together and we were all good buddies except when we'd race against each other we were out to kill each other.

[DH:] (Laughter)

[BJ:] But we were good friends. Buddy and I ended up being fraternity brothers at Tulane and Click (??) was so busy working—he had gone to through high school down at Pensacola (??)—he was a great baseball player and everything. He did not go on to the University but he didn't need to because he really had a—he was really bright. And so we got together and we started sailing together in 1964 and we knew the Games, with the goal being to go for the gold—win the gold medal in the 1968 Games in Mexico. And it was a riot because we were all working but every afternoon we'd meet out at the lake at 4:30 or so, and we'd go at and practice and practice and practice and practice and then they had other gentleman who would race against us. And the word got out that we had this thing going, this campaign. So the club formed the Olympic Sailing Association of the Southern Yacht club, which is now called the Olympic Sailing Association at New Orleans. And it's a foundation—I'll tell you a little about that later—

[DH:] Uh huh.

[BJ:] How it's progressed but—so once we started sailing we knew that we—a lot of people began to—in these dragons a lot of people got together. And so you know we wanted to go race against those guys. And then somebody well were going to prove that their not the best. And we hadn't proven that yet. But we felt we were because we worked so well together. Buddy Friedrichs was a great helmsman, Click was a—he made all of our sales from Click Wreck (??) Sales in New Orleans, and I handled all of the floor deck and did a lot of the tactical assessment in—and I was sort of the eyes and ears on the boat and I did all of the hiking and stuff so that I could talk to Buddy so he could just drive the boat and he was the best at that. He was a fantastic helmsman. And we worked and sometimes we'd sail away and we wouldn't but two maybe three words. Sometimes there would be a lot of violent words when we—you know things got bad. So they had this syndicate, and then they had fundraisers (??) and everything, and you're not allowed to be paid, in those days you couldn't have sponsors, you couldn't wear a logo, you know you couldn't take foul weather gear or topsiders or anything from people. So you know—it was strictly amateur. But the world has really changed as you know.

[DH:] Uh huh.

[BJ:] But one of the things we did was we had to go places and sail. We had to race against other people. So we used to go over to Houston a lot and race against Bob Morspacker (??) who always wanted to—he was a very successful oil and gas executive in Texas. And his brother Buss Morspacker (??) American ___ sailor (??) then Bob went up to later become I think Secretary of Commerce in Washington. He was a really attractive guy and a fierce competitor. Well we competed with him for four years—and everywhere. We'd compete in Canada, we'd compete in Denmark, we'd compete in California, but a lot of times we'd have regattas in New Orleans—Morspacker (??) I don't think ever beat us in any final regatta, in other words I don't think he ever in the end at total score, which I think was—yet he drove us constantly to—you know he's a fierce competitor and really hated getting beat by the three young guys. And we were kind of proud of what we did. And then in '68—well let me tell you this. We went to Europe in '66, and we were in Denmark, and we won the European Championship against the best in the world. The former world champion, two former gold medalists, Ollie Bernson (??) and I can't remember the name of the other guy—oh Ken Constantine ____ (??). And it was really the top

sailors in the world. And Och Beerchson (??) from Denmark—these guys were the cream of the crop. We went over there and kicked their fannies.

[DH:] Laughter

[BJ:] I mean it was really something.

[DH:] Yeah!

[BJ:] And everybody kind of went whoa! This is interesting. And we kind of got on the—we were then the target. And one of the regattas over there—we were outside of the starting area waiting, and of the boats that we were competing against just came down and ran into us. And it was so obvious that it was—we were pocketed as somebody said. You know they wrecked our boat. And we had no recourse. We brought the boat back to the states—had it rebuilt in Denmark by the original builder, brought it back to the states and then never lost after that. Went to the Olympic Trials—very interesting we had the North American Championship, in that I think we finished second to O.J. Young from New Orleans, Osmond J. Young who had crewing for him John Dayne (??) who's the Chairman of wood (??) now Trinity Yachts (??), and Mark Leblanc (??) who is an engineer here in New Orleans. And because we were called over the line in one of the races which we weren't—but it was the judge's decision, and the real goal was to go and win the Olympic Trials. This was the week before like a tune up regatta. And so there was kind of a day of rest in this little orphan (??). We go out for the Olympic Trials and we went in and we get a call from Pensacola (??)—Click's father had died. And well needless to say the Olympic Committee said take the day—we're going to move the rest day in the regatta so everybody can, if they wish, go over to Click's fathers' funeral. So it was a terrible setback—emotionally, and you know of course Papa (??) Schreck was one of the finest old gentlemen you ever met. Very European, old German. And you know he was very proud of us but he was like a disciplinarian, as was my dad! Dad was following it all the way and Buddy's father Shelby Friedrichs was following it. And we had a lot of people keeping an eye on us because they had all contributed money so that we could travel with this tax-free foundation that we had. So you know they watched us. We had to be very discipline, we couldn't goof off, and one of the automotive dealers in New Orleans gave us a big ole car to drive. And you know we were very lucky, I mean we'd drive non-stop to California to compete, we'd drive to Toronto non-stop to compete, we'd go Texas on a weekend—go over on Friday afternoon get the boat ready for Saturday and then come back Sunday night so we could get back to the office. And it was a lot of work. And you know we had families, we had wives—you know sailing is a very, very selfish sport. It's like golf—it takes longer then golf cause' you've got to practice and then you're out on the water—you don't turn it off get in your car and go home—you've got to put the boat up, you have to maintain the equipment, you know things like that. And it was very emotionally draining for those four years. And once we qualified and we were first in the Olympic Trials, O.J. Young from New Orleans was second, Mospacker (??) was third—devastated, and we loved it. Then we came home and practiced a little bit. And the Olympic Committee was a little laidback back in those days. So we didn't get our uniforms until we got to Mexico and all that—we put the boat behind our—by that time General Motors had given us a Buick Convertible, cause' it was one of the heaviest and strongest cars they could find. They modified a few things cause' this boat weighed about six-thousand seven-thousand pounds with the trailer.

[DH:] Oh my gosh!

[BJ:] So you were pulling a real load there.

[DH:] Yeah.

[BJ:] And plus all the sails and junk you put in it. And we left New Orleans one day, after we had won the trials, cause' we anxiously awaited to be notified whether—even though we won the regatta, by a sizeable amount, you have to invited to go to the Games, it's not just an automatic deal. So we waited around and I finally went over to the head judge and said "what's going on?" And he said "y'all are going to the Games." And then the phones started ringing—you know from Paul Smart, former Olympian, and Chuck Cober (??), who was on the Olympic Committee, and you know Dick Stern in Chicago—all great yachtsman, who were great sailors. And you know overseas people were calling—you know like "we look forward to seeing you in Acapulco"—cause' that's where we raced. And I'm thinking about some of this and I'm having recall, you know flashbacks.

[DH:] That's wonderful.

[BJ:] But it was unbelievable, because when we drove down and we got to Monterey, there was a Holiday Inn there that I think later became a casino years later, and we parked the boat—big beautiful—you know our boat was so fast. It was red and it was gorgeous. And we parked it under the Porkashare (??) in front of the hotel, and they posted guards around it—it was really funny. They had security and they stayed all night watching it while we went in and had dinner and then went to bed. And it was a big joke—don't drink the water but we could drink beer. I mean it was a riot. And then the next day we went down to the village, in Mexico City, and they had instructions—"if you run over cattle or anything don't stop just keep going. You know don't stop for anything. And we said okay god forbid.

[DH:] Why was that? Why couldn't you stop?

[BJ:] Well because it was a little bit treacherous in some areas and you didn't want to be arrested by some of the policia in certain places. So they said you know just be very cautious you know and this was right from some of the top guys on the Committee. And so we were careful. And we were just the three of us in the car towing this big boat. So you know some of the roads—they weren't real sexy roads like they are now, this is back in '68. So we arrive at the village towing this big sail boat in Mexico City. Now in Mexico City they were having problems in the streets, where you know there was some stressful things going on—where they were shooting people out in the streets down there. It was a lot of civil unrest down there. So you know were riding through Mexico City and you know we'd all been there before but were kind of looking around and it's kind of funny towing this big long boat, you know with the mass on top of it—with the top down! And we thought we were special. And we got to the village and they wouldn't let us in. So I got out my briefcase, which had mostly our—we had to keep receipts and write reports for the Olympic Sailing Association and keep records of expenses and all of that stuff for tax reasons and everything. And I happened to have a letter from our welcoming Committee Chairman in my briefcase. And his name was Lou Riley (??) who was married to the world-famous actress Delores Del Rio. You've probably heard her name. And she was like one of the most—we met her in Acapulco, she's one of the most beautiful, regal ladies I've ever met. She was a world renowned Mexican movie star, and just magnificent looking. And who then introduced us to Marl Obberon (??) down there, who had the most gorgeous jewelry I've ever seen in my entire life. But so I read this thing and I pulled it out of my briefcase, and once this guy saw that I had a briefcase and this letter in English—he couldn't read English—I said you know this is from so and so and so and so, and Buddy turned to me and said, "Colonel!" He called me a colonel. He said "Colonel! We have to hurry!" And they said, "Oh colonel?" He opened the gates and we drove right in. We had no credentials, nothing, okay?

We just had this boat, a car, and a sign on the back that said United States Olympic Team represented by such and such and so forth. And we got into the village and it was really modern and really neat. We parked in this secure place, and we went to the registration—I could still see it—we had to go get fitted for our uniforms, and that took about three hours. And these really uncomfortable loafers that they made us wear. But we got all of that. And then we stayed in the village for three days, just getting to know people. Ralph Lawson who was a great black athlete, George Foreman was down there, I mean it was fun—you know you'd see guys you'd seen in Sports Illustrated and a lot of the great gals were swimmers—Mickey White—and I can't remember but they were all fun. And they had—you know it was funny, we had great food and they had a party at like a casino that night in the village and then they had a ping pong match and Click got in that and he got to like the last round—you know he was doing really well. And it was like one big party! In the village!

[DH:] Fun!

[BJ:] I mean it was a kick! And everybody had on their uniforms—you know their warm ups and stuff. And it was a little chilly at night but in the daytime it was beautiful.

[DH:] How long before the Opening Ceremony was this?

[BJ:] The Opening Ceremony was—let's see—went to Acapulco with a boat, and then we—that's where all the sailing teams—that was the venue. And we got down there, and got all the boats put together and we practiced for a day, and then we all flew back on a plane from Acapulco to Mexico City and we went to the opening date.

[DH:] Oh!

[BJ:] And that was an experience I'll never forget cause' they had all of these officials running around and giving orders and half of the guys and gals who were there—they were having so much fun that they really weren't listening to them. You know we were all out of step (??), walking into the stadium—until we got to the door of the stadium—had our rick (??) red blazers and it was really neat. And were walking along there and they said “no cameras, no video” and here's Ralph Lawson—the guys that had been there before they had all of their video cameras and stuff like that. And it's the once thing I regretted that I didn't sneak a camera in. I was just a little too naïve. And then what we did was we got there and man people were yelling at us and George Foreman is in front of me and Ralph Lawson is on my left and they had—trying to remember this—oh Spencer Haywood the teenage basketball player from Detroit was there, he later went on and played in the pros—really a funny guy. And as we come into the stadium, we all got the step (??) and you hear this voice in the back—one of the athletes yells “Hey George!” To Foreman. He says “Get in the step (??)!” And you here this “I am in the step,” and everybody got in the step with George, and we walked into the stadium—he had this big smile, I can still see him—we walked into the stadium and the crowd went absolutely crazy—they were just—I've never heard noise like that, over a hundred thousand people.

[DH:] Wow!

[BJ:] I mean I got chills thinking about it. And you know we all got squared away and everything and all the teams came in. They went crazy when Mexico came in, I mean it was awesome. You know the colors and the flags and the music and the—you know were out in this big stadium, and you know the noise

was just great. And all of the sudden, I looked over and here are the British—they had their raincoats on!

[DH:] Huh?

[BJ:] And I was like, it's not gonna rain? I thought this is the British, can you believe this? They have umbrellas and they have raincoats and here we are on Opening Day Ceremonies—you know the Olympic Games.

[DH:] (Laughter)

[BJ:] Buddy looks at me and Click says “well you know they're the British.” They were all great guys and gals. All of a sudden they let the doves of peace go.

[DH:] (Laughter)

[BJ:] Okay? Now those are pigeons that are up at 8,000 feet you know? And they've been in the cages for three days and half (??) of them hadn't had any water and they're taking off and they're landing in the crowds. And course they're swirling around up there, and that's how we figured out why the British had on they're raincoats (laughter). Cause' they pooped all over everybody!

[DH:] Oh no!

[BJ:] And it was really funny, I mean all the guys were laughing and the gals were laughing at everything. And of course the officials are standing there you know? So after that we finished the ceremonies, all the speeches and everything. And you know as I walked out I saw my parents and my wife-first wife. And we were all marching out of there and then we had go out to the airport and get on an airplane and fly back to Acapulco because they had the Opening Ceremonies at Acapulco cause' they had a big torch in the city square in Acapulco.

[DH:] Yeah?

[BJ:] So we get on the airplane and they've got the Olympic flame in these gas fired lanterns—you could hear them (makes gas sound)—you know and I was like God were not going to have any oxygen on this plane. So they're below (??) and we land and everything then we *all* reassembled down at the town square—you know all of the competitors, and that wasn't that many. And it was one of the funniest shows I've ever seen. They had a runner come from out of town and—fine looking young man I can still remember—and they had local kids that participated, which was I thought so cool cause' you know it was probably the highlight of their life. And they were precious. And they all smiled and everything and of course they all got their uniforms—these velvet Adidas and Puma shoes and all of that. And we were all clapping hands with them and hugging them and everything. And then they take the flame from the city docks and they race them over by water-skiers behind speedboats and it was just chaos! I mean waves and all this stuff (??)—but they made it, and they lit the torch at the Club de Yachts (??), the Yacht Club over by the headquarters where the yachting event was going to take place. And they lit that, they had a circle of flags—you know a big ceremony there and by this time we were exhausted. But it was kind of a thrill you know? And you'd always see it on TV and you thought my god I just did it you know? And I thought well we made it! And then Buddy and Click and I got together, we had a couple of pops and ate and we said we need to have a little relaxation so we went and had a couple of martinis.

[DH:] (Laughs)

[BJ:] And we talked and we said well now tomorrow's the big day we've got to go to the whip (??). And we went out and it was very, very competitive. Now we had practiced and everything down there but it was so hot and humid you know we didn't sail the practice race the day before the Games started. And nobody could believe it. You know you guys aren't going to go out and sail? And were sitting up under the shade at one of these fat (??) roofed like tiki huts you know? Having a cold beer. And Buddy and Click and I are sitting there watching all these guys go out there ringing wet sweating and we said—one of the guys came right up to us and said "I can't you're going! I can't believe you're not going! And the team Captain Paul Smart came over, who was a former Olympian gold medalist—wonderful man star-boat sailor. And he was a little older than my dad so basically it was a reunion for them down there. And he kept—"you're not gonna go," and I said "Mr. Smart, do the Green Bay Packers scrimmage the day before the Super Bowl?" And he just turned around and walked off. And Buddy said, "I got to borrow that line." So everybody else that came up, they said "I can't believe you guys are going"—Buddy would say "do the Green Bay Packers scrimmage the day before the Super Bowl?" They all knew. And so it was really kind of a joke. You know? Everybody got a big kick out of it cause' we were having fun. And we were loosening up—we were getting ready to *really* get focused.

[DH:] So is that really why you didn't compete in the warm-up race the day before.

[BJ:] Yeah we didn't have anything to prove, and we could break something. And you know maybe have a collision or break something. And plus hot has hell!

[DH:] (Laughs)

[BJ:] And humid, and you know when you're sailing a lot of races in a week, you know you really—you're out there in that sun for you know eight hours. And of course you've got hats on, you've got sunscreen, and you don't want to take too much water on the boat 'cause you don't want it to be heavy—and ice and stuff—well we did cause' it would melt. And so we stayed hydrated and we didn't take any food on the boat cause' you can cramp up and stuff. And we went out and we really got going well. And we had one race that we—and we were sailing against the same people we raced against in Europe and in Canada and Mr. Bierk (??) and his crew from Denmark, and then there was Paul Borowski (??)—the East Germans, who were all professionals, they were all engineers and military pilots and everything. And they couldn't go anywhere without their handler. But it was really a riot, we took them out in the car one day and man they got us (??) with the handlers—they had these prefix (??) that traveled or whatever they call them—proctors. And we took them we went down to some place down the beach in Acapulco in this big resort and had a few beers. But it was funny, one race we broke down. We were leading and we broke a fitting on the boat, on the out-hole in the boon (??) which is a fitting on the end of the boon that holds the clew (??) of the sail. And the sail pulled out of the groove on the boon, so we had to lower the sail, reread (?) it on the boon, hall it back up and then I had to lash the fitting on the back end of the boon. And we lost—I think we were down in like eighteenth place, and we came back up and I think we finished seventh or ninth I can't remember, but that's when we knew we had boat speed 'cause we were so far behind and we didn't even talk we just started sailing. I mean we were going to the whip (??). And people in the village in Acapulco, they had this computer thing where they would show positions of the boats at each mark. And it was like watching horserace, I mean we were going faster and faster and we just ran out of race time. You know we'd a kept sailing we we'd a caught them I'm sure. I mean I want to believe that. But then we go through—and what you do when you're sailing is you throw out you're worst race, and they award excellence by—you know it's like zero points for

winning—three, five points, seven, nine, as you go down—so you're penalized more as you fall down in the standings. Well hell, we don't even have to sail the last race—

[DH:] Oh wow.

[BJ:] cause' when we threw out our bad ninth place, we didn't even have to sail. But we said let's go sail anyway, but were going to stay out of the way of everybody. So we go out and we put a bunch of—oh what was it? Bohemia Beer in the boat with a little Styrofoam ice box and we went out and Click actually—he smoked and he brought his cigarettes you know which we normally didn't have in the boat—he'd hide them. And we go out and we win the last race. And so you know we won very handedly and we knew we would okay?

[DH:] Mmhm.

[BJ:] Cause' we were so focused on this thing. And I almost had this big letdown after the Trials, and then all of a sudden the light bulb went on and I thought you know just getting there is great.

[DH:] Yeah.

[BJ:] Not too many people get there. But I said—and once you get there you go through all of the falderal and the pageantry and you're looking at guys you've seen on television and in Sports Illustrated and you say oh my god this is something man you know? And the parade is just wow! And all of a sudden it hits you right in the mouth you know? You represent the United States of America. I'm sorry I'm choking up a little bit but—and then you represent New Orleans, you represent the Southern Yacht Club, and there were a lot of people in New Orleans who supported us. And then from all over the world. People who would make contributions and encouragement and things like that.

[DH:] Yeah.

[BJ:] And it was just—you know it was overwhelming. And then we got the boat all put up on the trailer and the cover on it and everything and we had like two or three days. And then they had the medal ceremony. That was a kick. And we had to put on our blazers and all of that stuff. And my parents and the Curtis'—Buster Curtis who was one of the founders of the Sailing Association in New Orleans and former commodore of the Yacht Club—they had rented Carlos Braniff's home, which overlooked the Club de Yachts (??), and his family—the Braniff family—they had developed airplane travel in Mexico. They were sort of the founders of all this and they were lovely people.

[DH:] And how do you spell the last name?

[BJ:] Braniff. B-R-A-N-I-F-F (spells it out).

[DH:] Thank you.

[BJ:] I think that's spelled right—but its Braniff. And here we have Delores Del Rio who's married to Lou Riley, and Merle Oberon (??) who I don't think was married but she had a very attractive gentleman on her arm. And everybody's there, it's really cool. All the flags in a circle and everything. And my parents were sitting right in the middle of the ring, across the parade down there. And then they had the podium see? (??)

[DH:] Uhuh.

[BJ:] And I'll never forget it as long as I live. The medals were presented and we got the gold and so forth, and Buddy looked at me, he said "well how come you got yours before I got mine?" I said well I was in order where they go from left to right okay?

[DH:] Uhuh.

[BJ:] And he said well I was the skipper! So we were bantering about this up there, and they gave us an olive branch in a box—you know it was really cool. And I said Buddy you ought to be glad they didn't give us a laurel reef (??) cause' he was losing his hair. And we were just kidding amongst ourselves up there. And of course the Danes were second, and the East Germans were third. But right after we got our medals and their playing the national anthem, my dad got up and walked through security and was walking up with his camera, and the security guards came out and were going to grab him. And I stepped off the podium and I walked over and I said no, no, no this is my father, you don't touch him. And I said he's going to take a picture, photo, photo (in Spanish) and don't touch him, in fact I don't even want you to picture (??) okay? Please gentleman, don't do that. So dad walked out and took a picture. And he said, "Wait a minute! We gotta get one more!" And he said "watch your lips!" You know and he was kidding—my dad was deaf so he wore hearing aids—so he couldn't hear anything and he smiled and then he walked up and shook our hands like he was an official and he said "well I'm glad to see you guys finally put it all together, all the stuff I taught you." And we said no kidding bud, no kidding bud. And then the guards walk him back to his seat and he got a big round of applause. And those were the only photographs we got of us getting our gold medals.

[DH:] Huh! (Surprised) Really?

[BJ:] Oh yeah. It was a riot, you know, it was a riot. And then we came back to New Orleans and it was just—I mean it was like we were heroes. You had to keep your head on straight. And everybody wanted to see the medal and you had to make speeches. And I had to go back to work and Buddy had to go back to work. And I kind of—I didn't sail for a year. I mean I said this has been probably the most selfish thing I've ever done in my life for my family you know? And I said you know I got to get my priorities straight again. And I'm proud of what I did and knew it made my dad real happy and my wife and my kids. And it was fun. And we had fulfilled this goal—we attained it. And with this obligation we had—we had a responsibility once these people starting sponsoring us you know? And I was with Likes (??) brother's steamship company for years and we were one of the finest American flag shipping firms and we went all over the world and everything. And next thing you know the phone starts ringing—Caterpillar Tractor. They want me to come up and make a presentation—DuPont, Wilmington Delaware, Monsado (??), St. Louis, Beckfull Corporation, San Francisco, Floor Corporation, L.A.—I mean it was amazing. You know these people were calling—come make speeches! And I was like, man I could make a fortune you know? But you weren't allowed to do any of that stuff in those days. And I would go and people would say—you know and I'd tie business in with it too. And Likes said you've got to make some sales calls while you're out there and everything. And so I'd go make it and I'd wear my blazer and _____ when I'd make the presentation and I'd talk about the same thing I'm talking to you about except I went into a lot more depth about the training and the commitment. And the buy in—really critical, 'cause there gonna be times when you're gonna hit a speed bump and you're gonna say ah the hell with this. And people think teams are happy all the team, you're not happy all the time. But you overcome it; you know what the goal is. And you know and so I had a lot of fun doing that. And then I did the same thing in London,

and then I did the same thing in Paris, when I was over there on business they'd say bring your metal and so forth, so I did that and that was kind of interesting getting through customs sometimes

[DH:] Why was that?

[BJ:] Well you know they—where'd the hell you get this?

[DH:] (Laughs)

[BJ:] You know it's a gold medal where'd you get this? You know? And I'd say I won it! You know? And they'd say in what? I kidded this British guy one time, I said I was a hurdler. You know I didn't look like a hurdler.

[DH:] (Laughs)

[BJ:] You know I was thin, but it was just crazy. And then I FedExed my mail pack and my uniform back to my house—my office rather, 'cause it was a hassle, I didn't want it with me and stuff. One of my kids lost it one time at show and tell, which was a riot. But it was a good experience and occasionally people would say we want to do something for you. We want to do something. I'd say well you can make a contribution to the Olympic Sailing Association of the Southern Yacht Club, or the U.S. Olympic Committee with the funds designated for yachting. And most of 'em said well we've already done that, we want to do something for you. And so they would send money to the—and a lot of times just the executives would do it but we'd get a corporate gift every now and then. And it would go into the pie, and since 1968 the Olympic Sailing Association has sponsored—let's see we had Andy Lovell, who went to the Olympics, and Catamarans and his crew, we did some guys in the—I guess there four seventies—the Little Dingies, Steve Bordowe and—I'm having a memory lapse here but you can see who they were in the records. And then we had Lovell again, and then we had this last time in Beijing John Dayne, who is now—he was the oldest guy on the Olympic team.

[DH:] Oh!

[BJ:] But he doesn't look it. And he's a chairman of the board of Trinity Yachts and his crew—Austin Sperry went over. They won the trials. I went out there and watched the trials with my current wife and my last wife, who is a University of Texas graduate and a great sailor. We went out and watched the trials and I relived the whole thing again, it was like bringing back the whole thing.

[DH:] Yeah.

[BJ:] And I mean it was unbelievable. I had flashbacks you know? But John was gonna be an alternate on our boat in '68 when he was a kid, in case something happened to one of us. And he just kept pursuing kept pursuing and he finally made it. And then he went over and he didn't make the final round and the Games in Beijing, but I think had he sailed the original boat that he had—that he won trials in, I think he'd a won it. It was a better all-around boat then the one he took. But it's been kind of fun, I get kidded every now and then that I have the original patch that was on my blazer. And everybody comes up and they say that's not the same blazer is that? I said no I just move it as the sizes go up. But I wear that with pride and I never tell anybody I won a gold medal, I've had people ask and I've said yeah I sailed in the Olympics and you know I never do a lot of talking about it. And I've had people call me about being on a speaking tour and I was obliquely approached one time by some people who were involved with the

Olympic Movement to maybe consider becoming involved in the committee activities and so forth. And I just listened to it, you know I didn't acknowledge it really. I was—I thought I was flattered. _____

[DH:] Yeah

[BJ:] And it's really interesting though because I think it was a goal that I set when I think I was in probably the seventh or eighth grade.

[DH:] Wow!

[BJ:] And I didn't know how I was gonna get there, but it had just—the stars came together and Buddy and Click and I happened to be young, whippersnappers who were—you know we had some people with some vision and they said you, you, and you, your gonna do it, and we did it. And I think it's been kind of an interesting deal. The city of New Orleans was crazy, they went crazy when it happened. Buddy and I were elected to the Tulane Athletic Hall of Fame, Buddy is in the Louisiana Hall of Fame, I've been proposed but you know it's getting stale.

[DH:] Yeah.

[BJ:] But they had other Olympians down here, we always got together. Kim Malke (??) who's the basketball coach at Baylor, she's a wonderful gal—women's basketball coach—and of course we had—what the hell's the guy's name? He's a hurdler—Willie Davenport, who I think later died, he was a hell of an athlete—and they had a whole bunch of people.

[DH:] Yeah.

[BJ:] And we'd see each other, and laugh, and say my god your hair is getting white, and you know stuff like that. But I missed the reunion a couple of years ago in St. Louis, we were up in Michigan, I teach sailing—we have a summer house up there. And my wife's been goin up there every summer but one in her life and we're in our early seventies now. And so I teach sailing to these young kids on the lake.

[DH:] Oh that's wonderful.

[BJ:] And you know its cause it keeps me in it and they think it's cool you know? You know and that's sort of what I do. And I do a little consulting on the side, and people when they Google and stuff me they see—you know I'm not computer literate, I'm learning from my seven year old—seven years old (laughs)—I know how to turn in on now. But they've got me interested in that so I start doing things and researching things about sailing and yachting. And I think we just stood (?) a time—we were very fortunate, I think everybody that sails now, they're all professionals—you know they're either sail makers—actually (??) they do it full-time. And you know they took the dragons out of the yachting selection of boats, which was a big mistake cause it eliminated anybody over forty-five years of age to sail. And then they just removed the star class, the oldest and finest class of yacht racing sail boats in the world. They just eliminated that from the roster in sailing, which is ridiculous!

[DH:] Why did they do these things?

[BJ:] They just through it through legislation at the committee level, it's sad. I mean these are—you know the dragons were great, they were a little bit heavier boats, three-men, *big* activity in Europe and

in the Far East and less in the United States but in North America there were quite a few because Canada had a lot. And what they've done is I mean you could have an eighty year old guy sail a boat and he could have a crew of a couple of young bucks—thirty-five years of age—they could go out and win a gold medal in the dragons if they were sailing fast, but you can't do that in these little toy boats that everybody's racing now. So it's gotten to be a—you know I'm glad I got my medal when I got it because I don't think I could keep up today. You know that's all they do, they sail. They don't do anything else. And they're pros. And everybody's doing it all over the world, and they have sponsors and they—you know you need the money to make the game. And I remember one time when after the whole set of games and everything, everything was over and we had the final meeting of our committee, and I remember somebody said, "Well how much did it cost you to win this two-hundred and fifty dollar bronze medal that's dipped in gold?" Which they are now you know. And I think the Paris Games were the last time they gave solid gold medals, the Modern Games. And I said well you know I really don't know. And somebody said well you better find out—one of the committee guys. So I looked at it and everything, and I said you know, I don't think we're gonna tell you. I said, let's just say we did it in budget. And our budget by the way was really low and I'm not gonna tell you what it was, but some people spend our four-year budget in one year plus competing today.

[DH:] Oh I'm sure.

[BJ:] You know? I mean it was crazy. But I mean it was so much fun though cause' we had Henry Lloyd (?) the foul wedding (??) people, they make the greatest sailing ____ (??) wedding, and there's other great stuff—gill (??) and everything like that. They wanted to make foul wedding gear for us, we couldn't accept it because we were amateurs. Sperry Top-Sider, wanted to give us shoes, we couldn't accept them cause' we were amateurs. I mean it just went on and on and on like this, and I mean there were people—and we wouldn't cause' we signed this oath that we were amateurs.

[DH:] Yeah.

[BJ:] And why blow it by doing something stupid you know?

[DH:] Right.

[BJ:] And we had to drug-free—like we did drugs—I mean I smoked a couple cigarettes and drank a few pops, but we didn't even think about doing drugs in those days you know? I had an operation on my lower back, oh about twelve weeks before the Olympics, and Dr. Reicher Collie (??) operated on me, and he researched the entire list of drugs that they could give me for pain and or healing. I mean it was like a half a page long. Today it's probably a book!

[DH:] Yeah definitely.

[BJ:] And so it was—like somebody said you know it's when grass grew (laughs) you know? But it was a great experience.

[DH:] Yeah.

[BJ:] You know and I reflect back on it. And I always—when the Olympic come on I always get furious they don't show enough of the sailing, cause it is beautiful. But it's like watching grass grow if you don't

know anything about it. I've heard people say this is so boring you know? Well when you're on that boat though, you might only be going seven miles an hour but you think you're going thirty.

[DH:] Yeah.

[BJ:] You're right down on the water and you can hear the noise of the waves and you can hear the breeze going through the rig (??). And it's a gentleman's sport when we sail. It's changed a lot; I mean it's got a lot more aggressive now, younger guys. And they're gonna be pros, they're gonna grow up and be professional sailors the rest of their lives, which is great. I just want em' to win everything for the United States you know?

[DH:] Yeah. How long does a typical Olympic race last?

[BJ:] Oh about three and a half hours.

[DH:] Oh wow.

[BJ:] Now it starts earlier, leaving the harbor and going out to the sailing area and everything. It's about three and half hours, depends on the type of—cause they have Olympic courses and then they have—you see one with leeward, triangle windward, leeward windward. It depends on where the breeze is from and everything—how they set the marks out. And usually you have a couple of legs where you use the spinnaker, you know the multi-colored blue shaped sail, when you're going downwind or reaching—you know running parallel to the wind. But it takes about three and half hours. And you know there've been days when we've gone out there and there's no wind and we'll be out there for six hours, and then the breeze will come in and they'll shorten the race and you'll have a two hour race. Some of the smaller boats go a lot faster though, I mean there planting on top of the water and I mean I think the fastest we ever went on the dragon was downwind in Copenhagen one time, I was going about forty and I think we probably surfed to maybe fifteen knots, I mean it was hanging on—you know it was balls to the wall, I mean excuse me. I mean it was like whoa don't break anything.

[DH:] Yeah definitely. So the dragon is a three-person keel boat?

[BJ:] Yes.

[DH:] And what was the name of your boat in '68?

[BJ:] Williwaw (spells it out).

[DH:] Okay.

[BJ:] It had originally been named Blitzkrieg, okay? Cause Schreck is German, Jahncke is German, and Friedrich's (??) is German. And the Blitzkrieg, if you research it, it destroyed everything in its path okay? I mean you remember the Second World War Blitzkrieg.

[DH:] Yes.

[BJ:] Okay. And we had a meeting one day and somebody said that's a really strong name. And we said yeah it really is, it's intimidating. And they said well you know it might offend the French. And we went uh oh, we don't want to offend the French, we don't want to offend anybody.

[DH:] Right.

[BJ:] And so we said we're gonna change the name of the boat. And I said well that's bad luck. And my cousin Bill Seiman (??) who's chairman of the board of Seiman Plastics here on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, whose grandfather was admiral Earnest Lee Jahncke, Head of USOC and later Secretary of Transportation of Commerce or whatever—Bill said why don't you name it Williwaw? He said that's a storm that comes down and nobody knows where it comes from, and it just destroys everything in its path and then it disappears and goes away. We said, spell it! And we put on the stern of the boat in gold leaf and if you pronounced it Wil-ee-waw, Wil-ee-waw, that had sort of melodic, you know like waves, Wil-ee-waw.

[DH:] Yeah. I really like it.

[BJ:] Oh it's lovely. And you know people have copied the name, and used it elsewhere, but we put it on the map. And it was beautiful you know? So that was the boat that, you know, got us there. But it was a fast boat—Dragon US-231 and it was red, this beautiful red, that sort of had a little tomato in it. And he had teak decks, you know bare teak decks, and some beautiful furnish work. The boat looked like it was so special. I mean the boat was so special, because it was beautiful.

[DH:] What happened to that boat, where is it now?

[BJ:] Well what we did was we sold it—Buddy and Click and Tommy Dreyfus, from New Orleans, went to the '72 Trials out in California, in San Francisco. And I elected not to go. I said I'm gonna throw my chalk in the ring and ___ the practice. I've got a gold medal, I've got other priorities. My career was taking off in business and you know I had a lot more responsibility. Corporate wise and family wise and everything. So I said good luck. Anything I can do to help you. And they said oh its okay, we just want to make sure we didn't leave you out. And I said okay. Well, they didn't qualify. So then they sold the boat, the syndicate sold the boat to a gentleman from Philidelphia, I believe his name was Don Cohan (??), you're going way back here darling. That was the German Games, where they had all of the problems—with the Israel problem.

[DH:] Yes.

[BJ:] And I think he might have gotten a bronze medal with the boat, I don't remember. And then the boat ended up in California, and it was allowed to deteriorate dramatically. And they didn't take care of it. They tried to make it faster with certain things, which really didn't make it faster. And they just didn't take care of it. And oh I guess about four or five years ago, there was this big push to go find Williwaw—and you know we'll bring it back and put it in her 1968 shape. Well, that's like taking, I mean it'd be like taking Audrey Hep—some gorgeous actress okay, who's sixty years old and trying to put her back in the same shape, you know you just can't do it. And I went out to California and I found the boat. And I was so depressed when I saw it that—it was just a mess. And it was in the water—the guy hadn't taken care of it. And he taken a lot of the good—you know he changed stuff on the boat. It would've still been the fastest dragon in the world if it had been kept in that condition, the way we left it. And then I came back and I said you don't want mess with it, you don't want to throw any money at it. We ought to just remember what Williwaw as she was. And, "oh no man we gotta get the boat," you know a lot of kids who weren't even born then. And then there were some people who had some ulterior motives about it. I said I don't want to have anything to do with it. I said I remember Williwaw when we put her to bed

at night, I remember when we woke her up in the morning, I remember when we took her for a sail, I remember when we had to fix her, I remember when we had to touch her up, straighten her make-up her paint job. All of those things I remembered. And Click agreed with me. Now Buddy had passed away, at fifty-something he passed away, massive heart attack. And so Click and I said we're not gonna go for this. And we think we should have some input, so everybody listened to it. And then I got a phone call, and Marsha actually—my wife got a phone call from a guy in Texas. And he had bought Williwaw—actually the guy given to him, and they run sort of like—they're near Temple Texas, it's like an Amish Community over there but I don't think it's—it's like a commune but it's not a commune. And this guy had redone some sailboats and stuff, and he had redone another dragon, that was an English boat. And it was magnificent. And they relocate barns all over the country and take em' and set up for people—really neat guy.

[DH:] Yeah.

[BJ:] So Marsha and I were going over to Brenham Texas one time and we have some friends that have a farm up there, and so we went to see him and we spent five hours with him. And I had photographs and color chips and all of the details of the boat. And when I got on the boat I cried, I had to kneel down on the boat and cry cause' it was just trashed. And whoever the last owner was, just—he was like a butcher whatever he did to this boat.

[DH:] Oh my gosh.

And he didn't take care of it. And it was like it would've been better had the boat—you'd cut the stern off, that was the only thing left on the boat where the name was back there and the only thing the color red. The rest of the boat was painted white. And it's better to just cut the stern off and make a coffee table out of it or something, cause' that's how bad it was. And you could see daylight through the deck, you could daylight through the strip planking in stuff in the hole. And I mean there were things that there broken that never should've been broken on that boat. And so the guy was just—I'm sure he was a great guy you know cause' he sailed but you know he just didn't take of her. And I mean it was like kissing your girlfriend goodbye for the last time.

[DH:] Yeah.

[BJ:] You know it was just—I love ya, I'll never see you again. And I'm staying away from it right now cause they've been working on it and trying to bring it back exactly like it was, but I'm not going to get swept up in this thing you know? Cause' I remember her as she was. And I mean I remember saying when my mother died, I remember everybody was there and there were a lot of young people there, and I said I wish all of you young kids could've known mom when she was young enough to sail with me and Buddy and Click and my dad and my brother and my sister—cause' she'd come out and race with us. And you know she was in her sixties, and still looked great you know? I said I wish I you could've known her then. Because she kinda became a little bit of an invalid towards the end. And so I said just remember the good times, take those with you, savor the moment. And remember what the car looked like when you bought it not when you had dented it you know? And the joy that it gave you. And so that's where Williwaw is now. But we had a big fire at the Yacht Club during Katrina, and all the gold medals were melted and you know we were allowed to get medals from the Olympic Committee years ago, so were having those re-dusted, but I have mine here. And you know I mean I've still got my warm-ups, I can't get in em'. And I'm not fat, I'm heavy. And I still have the shoes I wore in the parade (laughs).

[DH:] Oh wow.

[BJ:] Yeah their horrible. They had little plastic Olympic rings on em' I'll never forget it. And polyester blue turtle neck, it was really hot wearing that thing down in Mexico City.

[DH:] Oh I bet.

[BJ:] But I mean you know I gave my wife my Olympic parade blazer, and she's worn it once but she's a great sailor. You know she had it reversed, I've just found out that ladies button their jackets a different way. I didn't know that. And I've got my room here, I have a model of the Williwaw that a friend of mine did for me and I've got the medal in there and the pictures of Buddy and I've got the picture of Gilbert Gray (??) with us—he's the one who won it in '42. And I've got a painting that was done by a very famous artists over in Texas of us winning the last race of the Olympic Trials, it's gorgeous. And he allowed somebody to make a copy of the print and give to me. And I really love that. And I still have some mementos, but most of the trophies I've given to my kids and you know—

[DH:] Yeah.

[BJ:] And let them polish em'. And some of em' I gave to the club and they all burned up in the fire.

[DH:] Oh no. How did the fire start?

[BJ:] Well they had—you know in New Orleans the city flooded.

[DH:] Yeah

[BJ:] What happened was that they had a big title surge in the lake and what happened was the wave washed over the seawall and the club was outside of the hurricane barriers in the best location in the city, in the country I think. And it wiped out the laundry area downstairs where all of the linens were done at the club, and gas leaked up into the club. And it just infiltrated the whole club, and finally in the kitchen and in the bar there was an explosion, cause' of the pilot lights and stuff. And the whole club burned, we watched it on television from—we were up in Michigan in our summer house. It was awesome (??). I mean I said oh my god, were losing Lipton (??) trophies and you know I hope nobody's hurt. But you know it's gone. I mean this is a chapter since eighteen-something, gone. ____ (??). And it was sad. But now we're redoing it, all of my memorabilia I've given to Commodore Arthur Wynn (??), who's a fellow archivist and he's ____ (??). And he's—you know there cataloging everything for the new archives at the Yacht Club. I told him about you, and you know he's got everything. And I hated to let it leave my house you know but I know where he lives if anything happens to it, and he'll lose his left hand but he's a great sailor and a great guy.

[DH:] Yeah definitely.

[BJ:] They're just doing it for history and stuff, because there's a lot of history at the Yacht Club. Lot of sailors have gone all over the world. Gene Wallett (??) sailed with Danny Colline (??) and Pudgy McClure (??) they went over and sailed in Italy in the Dragons in the Italian Games. Gene's still alive, Pudgy died, Danny Colline's still alive—so we've got a lot of history.

[DH:]Yeah.

[BJ:] In Olympic Sailing and competition.

[DH:] Do you mind if I ask you a few more questions?

[BJ:] I've done a lot of talking, you turned me on and I don't know when to shut up. You can do whatever you want!

[DH:] Okay (laughs).

[BJ:] I'm at your disposal.

[DH:] Just to make sure I've got this right, so George Friedrichss was Buddy?

[BJ:] Yes.

[DH:] And Click was Gerald Schreck?

[BJ:] Gerald Click Schreck. We called him Click.

[DH:] Okay. I just wanted to make sure I had the nicknames with the right people straight in my mind.

[BJ:] Okay.

[DH:] And then just a couple more questions about specific kind of history things. Do you remember hearing about an Olympic Project for Human Rights or any rumors of possible Olympic Protests or boycotts during the '68 Games?

[BJ:] Yeah. Well let me be careful here. I heard it was a doctor, PHD from California, I want to say Berkely—I don't remember where—he's a big fine looking man, black guy, and I think his name was Edwards. And he was ____ hanging out with some of the sprinters, Tommy Smith, John Carlos, and there was another guy. And they were kind of cool you know? And when we got down to—when I knew they were special was when we got down there in the village I remember there were some guys that had little envelopes in their bags, you know what I mean?

[DH:] Uh huh.

[BJ:] And Buddy and I, we didn't get an envelope (laughs) you know? 'Cause we didn't have a lot of spending money but we think that the vendors had maybe slipped them a little something. But we didn't care, we were gonna go off and sail and have a good time. But we had heard something when we were in—after we'd gone to Acapulco and then we came back up for the Opening Ceremony, and there had been some discussion that we had kinda heard that there might be some kind of demonstration. And I thought with the security they have here, there's no way there gonna let these people from the streets of Mexico City come in and cause a demonstration—that's what I thought they were talking about. And somebody said no, no he said you know they got a few people hanging out down here that are _____ (??) and have an agenda. And I said well I'm out of here I'm going back to Acapulco. And then I'll never forget when they did the black love thing. And I thought God, isn't that amazing? If you really want to make a statement, what form would be better? When up there getting your medal, and of course Tommy Smith went right back on active duty I think in the military. I think he was in the army,

and Carlos I don't know where he ever went. He was a big strapping guy. But I think they might've gotten manipulated. They were California guys—they were always pretty aggressive and liberal. I mean to answer to your question we heard little inklings but we didn't tie two in two together.

[DH:] Yeah. So you saw the Black Power Salute from TV or?

[BJ:] Saw it on TV.

[DH:] Yeah. You saw it on TV at the time when you were down in Mexico City?

[BJ:] Yeah, yeah.

[DH:] And what were your thoughts or reaction to it at that time.

[BJ:] Well, you know. I mean I grew up in the New Orleans, in the deep south. New Orleans has always been a multiracial, multicultural _____. And I grew up among black people all my life. And I treat them just like I treat my family. Now if they give (expletive) (pause in recording) or don't deserve the respect I just ignore it and move on in my life. I was never—I knew there were racial tensions and things like that but I thought to myself, you know this really a statement that I think is gonna backfire. And I think those guys were manipulated by a third or fourth party. I think they were taken advantage of. And I think it fortunately the resiliency of the American public and the will that people have to survive and go forward, you know that's something the Americans—you know you won't take that away from them ever. I think these guys overcame—they made a statement and then I think they moved on in their lives to overcome maybe. Maybe that was a youthful move that I think if they'd handled it a little bit differently it— you know it really got a lot of attention! Some of it was very negative though. You know? And the Olympics, it's a special place. You're not supposed to—it's supposed to be a village of athletes, it's a no foul, no war venue. It's supposed to be a meeting of nations and athletes for fair play and competition. It's a festival. It's a celebration. And if you read the Olympic oath, you know it's sedius, fortius, altius (??). You know faster, higher, whatever. And then you read the oath when they read it to you. You know this is a special thing. And not many people get there. And not very many people win a gold medal, or medal. But it's a village, and there's a great sense of—you can feel the warmth and affection, and I think among the athletes I mean everybody has a good time. And its happy. And there's a great deal of respect among athletes because you made it. Okay. And that's a—hey, you made it. That's something. Were a fraternity. And I think that if you use that forum, maybe intentionally or unintentionally is a political forum in those times. I think that—you know there were a lot of people that were offended. I mean I made the comment when I saw it, I said “you know these guys, I wonder who put them up to it.” You know? And then I thought about that guy who was from California and whose gone on and survived bigger and better things I think. But I just got to put it out of my mind and when I got back to New Orleans I had many black friends that—you know we were in the long shore business and steamship business and we had a lot of long shore labor. You know the guys that used to work down on the docks, and they all remembered growing up in the training program and I went down there and they showed them the medal. And black and white they said “that was a bad deal man. You're only supposed to wave the American flag when you're down there. You know you're not supposed to do the black power and all that stuff.” And I said well, what a forum. You know, think about it. And so it depends on who you talk to. But it was just a chapter in the life, the games prevailed and they'll continue to go on. I think we got a better handle today in Olympic activity. I mean you know its political. You know you see what judges do in ice skating.

[DH:] Yeah (laughs).

[BJ:] You see what the East Germans did, I mean look what they did to all of those little girl swimmers. They screwed them up psychologically and physically. There's all sorts of stuff like that. You have members of the national Olympic Committee who are getting kickbacks to vote. All these kinds of scandals. Course I think the new head of the rogue (??), I think he's a yachtsman, he's a hell of a fine man, and he stepped up to the plate on the drug situation. But I don't think they'll ever catch up with boutique designer drugs. I always said if they had boxing they ought to take the gloves off, and you know you can't do damage to anything but your hands (laughs).

[DH:] Right.

[BJ:] I mean I laughed—we were all down there and we always used to say “who do you think has the prettiest uniforms.” And course everybody would say “The British.” And oh my wife's going to have lunch with somebody and she looks absolutely stunning. Oh wow have fun.” I got a tall good-looking blonde wife (laughs), and a UT graduate. (Talking to his wife) Have fun darling, take your phone. Excuse me. But you know we all said the British cause' they had a different costume for every occasion. And it was fun to watch. But I still think the—I'm a red, white, and blue guy. And I think the British finish second. I felt we had the best uniforms. And warm-ups and everything. And I think they go crazy when they get all these designers you know Ralph Lauren you know and Milano Blonic (??) to make the shoes. And stuff like that.

[DH:] It's really changed.

[BJ:] Yeah. Big change. I'll tell you another thing too. You'll get a kick out of this. And this is—if you have questions go ahead but remind me to tell you how I met my wife.

[DH:] Umm no go ahead and tell me that first!

[BJ:] Well its interesting. You know we were commuting back and forth to Houston to sail, back between '64 and '68. And her late first husband Joe Huggins was a great sailor and a very successful business man. And a really, really fine guy. And he was sailing against us in the North Americans but he was putting together a business deal and couldn't sail in the Olympic Trials. But after we won the Trials, he told Marsha and some friends of his—were going down to watch Barton and Buddy and Click win the gold medal. Now I had met Marsha at the Houston Yacht Club on several occasions. And you know I was with Joe and everything and we were all good buddies. Well we go down to Mexico and we all of a sudden this tall very attractive blond coming down the pier. And she says “ _____(??), do you have a pen(??)?” And I said I certainly do and I(??) say what she had on? She had on a coconut straw hat with a kind of a bandana around it. She had on four(??) sunglasses. She had on a white lak (??) shirt. She had a Guatemalan belt on an off white linen shorts and a pair of top siders(??). And a straw purse. I can still see her! And I didn't know where to pin the pen(??). I knew were to pin a sarari(??) in a fraternity pen(??) but I pinned it on her collar. And then I didn't see Marsha for years after the middle ok?

[DH:] Yeah.

[BJ:] I got a divorce after thirty-nine years of marriage. Marsha had been divorced. And I ran into her in a restaurant here in New Orleans, Mr. Bees Restaurant owned by Cindy Browning. She was having lunch with a friend of mine who I had gone to school with. And—I went over and sat down, forgot all my customers that I was having lunch with, and talked to them for five hours. From lunch time all the way

through dinner and everything. And when my divorce was final I called Marsha and said we have to have dinner. And she said it'd(??) be fun. And when she came to New Orleans to stay with Sharon Griffin who's past away, she had the little pin on her collar—that I had given her at the Olympics.

[DH:] Wow.

[BJ:] You know the kind the athletes swap?

[DH:] Yeah!

[BJ:] And I thought things were looking up.

[DH:] (laughs)

[BJ:] And we've been there married fourteen years.

[DH:] Aww(??). That's a wonderful story.

[BJ:] Yeah and she's a great sailor. She and Joe sailed a boat that they had— they built a yacht in England and sailed this beautiful boat, Lone Star, around the world and now her son has it, one of her sons. So she's a sailor. Which was great you know?

[DH:] Yeah.

[BJ:] But you had other questions.

[DH:] Thank you for sharing that story with me. That's a wonderful story. Sure put a smile on my face.

[BJ:] Yup. You know. It was a happy time.

[DH:] Yeah. So, just a few more questions. Did you ever remember getting a letter from the Harvard Crew Team back before the games in '68?

[BJ:] The Harvard Crew Team?

[DH:] Um-hm.

[BJ:] — My God—(breathes, whoo) You know you're talkin'—

[DH:] (laughs) A long time ago.

[BJ:] You know, forty plus, forty pounds later—It was a life(??). Maybe I went back through so much stuff I mean was it a questionnaire?

[DH:] No, it was a letter regarding—that had a formal statement of its sympathy for the black athletes and—

[BJ:] I don't remember that.

[DH:] Ok.

[BJ:] I don't remember that. It was a lot going on. You know what I mean.

[DH:] Yeah, definitely. Definitely.

[BJ:] Don't get me started on Ivy league schools.

(both laugh)

[DH:] So what are your memories of the athletes from the Soviet bloc? I know you talked a little bit about the East German.

[BJ:] They were great guys! I mean either they were all pros but they were great guys! Once you get down on the field you know? Once you get into the arena, it's me against you! And—I mean remember the big weightlifter Ja Matenski (??), had the big stomach?

[DH:] Yeah.

[BB:] And he won gold medals at how many Olympics. He is one of the funniest guys in the world! _____ (??) I went to the Montreal Games took my high school coach who used to tell me say "Barton, sailing and yachting is like—it should be written about in the social page. It should not be written in the sports page. So I took him sailing and he changed his mind. And he saw my training schedule and all of that but I took him upto the Games in Montreal with his wife who was my civics teacher in the eighth grade! And we walked around the village, and you know, I gave him a _____ pen (??) and I had some passes that I had got through somebody and I mean I had him on the playground at opening ceremony and he said "Barton all these guys are just like young kids out here having a great time." And I said but when the gun goes off, they're gonna be pros. All of a sudden, your whole attitude changes. All of a sudden, it's like (imitates gun cocking noise). Now I gotta go win the race. Now I gotta lift up the biggest weight. But I introduced him to Ja Matenski(??) and so he arranged for us to come behind the scenes up there where they were lifting weights. And here's my high school coach who was my idol. And I was afraid of him all through high school cause he was so discipline tough. I've just respected him. He walked up and he said to this guy, he said, "do you mind if I touch your stomach?" You know cause he had this big bulb(??) of stomach. Well it was as hard as a rock! And I looked at Coach Porter, Anthony Porter and said Coach, I'll bet that's the first time I've ever seen you really kinda—hang loose. And he said, "Boy, there's a lot you don't know about me, son." Just like that and he—then you know I'll talk to you. We were all married. But there was some precious little girls running around the Olympics and they're all athletes. So they're toned and they're shootin(??) when we're in the village in Mexico City. They're all sittin around the swimming pool in their various stages of undress, you know, sunbathing and all of that. And you walk around and they were all, what are you doing? What do you do here? What do you do, you know? And well, I'm a diver. I'm a—what are you? I'm a sailor. What? It was really interesting. And you met so many people. The Russian guys were cool though. Some of 'em were really cool. I mean some of 'em were really, really cool. They were—and I knew some of the sailing guys. Pennigrin(??) and some of those guys before. They were *guys*! They were gentlemen! Most of them they had people watching over 'em all the time. We took a big kick outta to get them out of the car and take it off. But they were *fine*! Athletes are athletes. They're still kids and they train and they're sportsmen, you know?

[DH:] Yeah. Did you notice any of the affects of the altitude in Mexico City, the high altitude there?

[BJ:] I heard couple of guys say that it took 'em a little while to get acclimated. But then when I watched Bob Beamon(??) do his long jump and broke the record by what three and a half feet, I thought, God Almighty. You know, that's a super human effort. I think it might have affected—but everybody's swimming in the same water, you know what I mean? Everybody's breathing the same air. It's like somebody said in sailing, "is your boat faster than their boat?" I said, you know, I think so, but we make the difference but everybody's sailing through the same waves, through the same wind. And same way with runners and all those people. They're all breathin the same air! It's who trained better and who got the breaks.

[DH:] Right. You talked a little bit about doping and drug testing earlier, but do you remember anything about hearing about a disqualification for drug use during the '68 Games?

[BJ:] I don't remember. I think maybe there were some people that were sent home but we never knew what it was for. I don't think there was anybody in the yachting venue. But I think there was—they talked about somebody was sent home but I don't remember anything about that. We were so far removed from what they refer to as the athletes. We were sailors, you know? We were athletes too but we're(??) the sailors. But I don't remember any following around about drugs.

[DH:] Did you have to do any testing for performance enhancing drugs after you guys won the gold medal?

[BJ:] No. they said you should be prepared to have to tinkle in a jar. And we said bring it on! And in fact we were laughin' cause the last race we had about twelve beers on a boat, ok? And then we were sailing and Buddy said, "God, I hope we don't have to tinkle in a jar." We'll have boating while intoxicated, you know? But we didn't have to do that. They were—maybe they asked some people, I don't think anybody did, down there. Sailing people, you know, it's not a drug induced—you're not really enhanced by your performance by drugs.

[DH:] Right, right. So the guy that was sent home, I believe he was a Swedish pentathlete—

[BJ:] I remember some guy that they sent home. I just remember. And I think he had taken like a—something to calm him down.

[DH:] It was alcohol.

[BJ:] Was it? I don't remember. It was something that slows you down. So your hands don't— you don't do your part right and everything, it slows you down. Like a depressant or something.

[DH:] Yeah. Supposedly he drank some alcohol and that was considered cheating to calm him down or make his hands steady during the shooting portion of that event.

[BJ:] That's a no no.

[DH:] Yeah, yeah! It's a good thing you didn't have to pee in the jar. (laughs)

[BJ:] Well I mean, you know, you were sweatin' so much down there. You were pretty dehydrated at the end of every day from sailing. And we'd go in and they had the iced tea and lemonade and we'd have a

couple of s_____aces(??), with dinner. But that was about it. We didn't drink a lot of heavy alcohol. Sailors are known to have a few pops every now and then.

[DH:] Right, right. So did you hear about anybody in sailing having to do the drug testing?

[BJ:] No. And it was a small village. We were stayin' at the Hotel Caleta(??), or something like that.

[DH:] So you said when you had the back injury and you had surgery there that the doctor was gonna make sure that he wasn't putting you on any banned drugs or anything like that.

[BJ:] There's always been talk about—there's a lot of stuff they ask you. Do you do *drugs*? Are you an alcoholic? Are you a wife beater? They don't want immoral guys or outta control guys representing the United States. And the sailing fraternity is even more close. These guys police each other! I consider most of the sails ive sailed against in the world gentlemen. There maybe a few I don't want to associate with. But I had a polynial(??) cyst on the base of my spine. And it was painful. And it was a problem. If they called a jeep seat in the military in the second world war. It's one of the last areas of your body that closes when your body is formed and everything. And then it's the base of your spine. And it was a cyst. And they drained it a couple of times, and then he said we gotta cut it out of here. And so the normal procedure of doing it, I wouldn't have healed properly in time to go to the games. So he did a radical kind of thing. And then he told me, "you're gonna have some discomfort, so forth, so on" and they used some kind of antibiotics or something to help it heal more rapidly and stuff. And the surgeon here in New Orleans was a yachtsman, Dr. Riechler Colli(??) who's now deceased. And he said, "I'm gonna check and see what you can take and what you can't take." Because if you experience some discomfort with this thing—well it was still healing a little bit when we got to the Games. It wasn't like I could go out. I didn't have any pain or anything but it wasn't *completely* healed. Usually they heal it from the inside out but they had to do it from the outside in. To closure, you know? And I never saw it 'cause I couldn't look back that far, but he finally said, I'm gonna give you these antibiotics, they're approved. He went through the list and everything and he said I'm not gonna give you any pain pills. And I said, I don't need 'em. But the antibiotics I think were something that was like you get it over the counter or something. It was like liquid Neosporin. But you took it internally. We never had problems with drugs.

[DH:] Where did the doctor get the list of banned substances, or possible banned substances?

[BJ:] Well the offices in those days were in Park Avenue in New York, the headquarters. And I think he contacted them through there. They weren't calling us friends yet(??). They put 'em on to somebody, I forgot who the hell it was. And I think there were also a couple of doctors that were team doctors, that had been named and I think Dr. Colli(??) had talked to them. But there was some central place. I remember. And he said, "what were extensive, you know, the banned substances?" But I think they had cannabis and stuff like that. But we never did any of that stuff. I've never smoked a joint in my life. Maybe I'm missing something, I don't know.

[DH:] (laughs) So you said earlier that you remembered hearing about the civil protests by the Mexicans there before the Games and how some of them were shot. Can you tell me a little more about that, and if you noticed any residual effects or aftereffects in Mexico City or in Acapulco while you were there?

[BJ:] No. There was no activity down there. There was none. They were students mostly. I remember my dad and mom; they were down while they were in Mexico City. They stayed at the Hotel—what the hell, it's right in the Zona Rosa(??). It's a wonderful little hotel. I can't think of the name of it. And my old man

said you know there's a lot people running around here. And my mother said, "Yeah, they're shooting at each other." My dad couldn't hear 'em with his hearing aid. And he said, "We're outta here." And they left the next day. But they were goin' anyway. Genave Hotel is where they stayed. Genave.

[DH:] Genave?

[BJ:] Yeah. G-E-N-A-V-E (spells it out). Everybody goes to the University because of that beautiful library with the mosaics. I love Mexico. It's a tragedy what's happening today but the people are so nice over(??) there.

[DH:] What were the people like when you were there?

[BJ:] Wonderful. They were wonderful. They have rhythm and they love good food. And they smile. Even the—I don't like this term—the less fortunate, we'd go through Acapulco and we'd be just dressed—we didn't wear our uniforms all the time. And we'd go through town and we'd go to out of town. 'Cause we weren't allowed to use our cars. We'd sneak it out every now and then. So we got one of those pink jeeps that they had at Los Br (??) and I said wait a minute, there's the (??), we went and got the pass key that open starts them all. (laughs) We ripped off the key. And we'd just see one on the street. We'd go and get in and drive it where we wanna go and bring it back. We didn't get in trouble or anything. And the guys who ran the Las Breces(??), they knew we were doing it, but they never scolded us. As long as you guys are careful, it's ok. What a life, you know? And it was fun, it was like a festival. But these kids, they'd come up to you and they'd hug you and I love children. I have ten grandchildren. Little people are just the best. That's why I still teach sailing and I'm seventy-two plus, right now. The Mexicans were fun, and the music, and their costumes. They had bullfights. We went to bullfights in Acapulco. And then they had cat fights where Olympic athletes would jump in the ring. I jumped down there in the ring, you know! And I'm standing there and of course—this is really stupid—the guys were—and the Mexicans went crazy when they'd see us. And they'd laugh 'cause we'd laugh at ourselves. They were wonderful! There was no beggin' goin' on. There was no panhandling goin' on. They were just lovely, fun people. The street people and all the way up to the halves. They took school vacation during the Olympics. And they assigned three little girls, to each sailboat to help run errands or do anything. They were all, maybe, less than 12 years of age. And they called 'em groometes(??) and they were all from pretty nice families and then some of them from less fortunate families and they all had these cute little uniforms. They had little denim hats, little white blouses, and little denim shorts, and little blue tennis shoes. They were adorable! And o' course, we made sure they all had tins and I made sure they all went home with souvenirs. We brought some stuff from New Orleans to give to the groometes, 'cause we knew they were gonna be there. New Orleans t-shirts and stuff, you know. They were there every mornin'! They were precious. And(??) came, we won the gold medal. I've never seen kids that excited. And my wife—of course we had 'em on the boat and we had 'em with medals around their necks and we did all of that. And they were funny. And a lot of times they would speak Spanish among themselves, they didn't know that we understood a little bit, but we never led on. They would talk about us, and they would laugh among themselves. They were like young, pre-pubescent, little girls. They were like little kids! And they were cute. And I can remember, one day we were overboard cleaning the bottom in the harbor in Acapulco. All of a sudden there was this tremendous crowd, came out to watch. And I thought, My God, look at these people. They're crazy standing out there in the heat. We get out of the water and one of the cute little groometes(??) comes out to us. She says, "Mr. Jahncke, y'all are very popular." And I said, well thank you. She said, "You drew a big crowd." I said thank you. Did you arrange that? She said, "No. The barracuda did." (laughs) The barracuda in the water, the fish! So we didn't tell Buddy anything. He was out in the (??). So we told Buddy, Tomorrow you

clean the bottom of the boat. (both laugh) Click and I sat on the dock and Buddy got out in the water and cleaned the bottom of the boat. Now the big crowd. And Buddy says—he hadn't been down there to see the crowd—he says. "How you like that. I'm the skipper and I draw a big crowd." And the cute, little groomete(??) said, "Mr. Friedrichs, barracuda." And he goes, Buddy we praise the. And he had a potty mouth and he let us have it(??). And we said, It would've been fun! We'd see how fast you could swim. But the people were great though. I mean everywhere you went. There were old shops down there, you know all the junk they sell? The little kids would ask us, "____(??) pen?" You know, do you have a pen? And sure, I gave everybody. And I went and got more and gave 'em to everybody. It made 'em happy.

[DH:] Yeah. Can you tell me the name of the hotel again, where you stayed in Acapulco?

[BJ:] Oh I knew you were gonna ask me that. It was the Hotel—its right up the hill, overlooking the morning beach—Hotel, I can't remember. I can still see it. Overlooked the pool. It was the Hotel—see it was right down by the yacht club. It wasn't out by Las Briesus(??) and everything, it was outside, towards the airport. I can't remember the name of it. It might have been the Caleta or something like that.

[DH:] Caleta?

[BJ:]C-A-L-E-T-A. I just can't remember.

[DH:] That's ok. If you remember you can just shout it out. (laughs)

[BJ:] Ok.

[DH:]So did you get to go to any of the other events?

[BJ:] Well, opening ceremony, closing ceremony, village experience. But we were primarily down there to sail. And we did not get to go to anything. 'Cause we were in Acapulco and everybody else was in Mexico City. But it was ok, I mean, I did that later when I went to the LA Games and when I went to Montreal.

[DH:] Oh, that's wonderful. So how did you hear about, or did you see on TV about Bob Beamon's jump?

[BJ:] Oh they had it on TV and they would show highlights. It was really cool. And then there was a constant feed. Everybody kept up with—a lot of the officials were great. And the Mexican officials were very fine gentlemen. They were fantastic people. You could say what's the temperature, and you'd know in 2 minutes, you know?

[DH:] Oh wow, very helpful, huh?

[BB:] Oh! They were hosts. They were wonderful hosts! We treated them like we were invited into their home with great respect. For *years*, I would hear from people. I wrote everybody thank you notes when they(??) would help us. I was young! I was born 1939 and this is '68 so I was a puppy. A lot of these people were older than we were but I heard from for years—they'd come through New Orleans and give us a call. It was great. People kept up with my parents. My parents were really attractive looking couple and the entourage from New Orleans, that were down there to watch the races, they were all attractive

people. It was fantastic. It was like, I felt like, I was part of the community when I got down there. Not just 'cause I was an Olympian. I felt like we were accepted as family as well as guests. I'm travelling all over the world, _____(??) and I knew. I've been many many different cultures. You have to be respectful. In Mexico, they think they're volatile. They're lovers. They're very peaceful. They have a great sense of pride and they're cool and calm. They make you feel like, Hey, we're gonna have a good time together, and we're glad to have you here. And that's what we felt like!

[DH:] Good! Where did you eat or what did you eat while you were there?

[BJ:] Well we had, in the hotel they had a big dining room. All the athletes that stayed in the hotel would, you could go down into the dining room and you could have breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They had a big buffet, you know? And you could get any kind of eggs you wanted. It overwhelmed me when I went to the one in Mexico City, the big village. I've never seen that much food. At the hotel, it was nice. It was like just going to a really nice hotel in Acapulco and _____(??) and having a—they had a buffet, but if you wanted your eggs or you wanted waffles or anything like that and—it was fresh, all day long. Crab meat or fresh fish, or you know. The only thing I didn't do down there was drink the water. They had bottled water, but I didn't even drink that unless I opened the bottle. 'cause I didn't wanna get the la Tortugas(??), you know? 'cause there were a lot of guys that did.

[DH:] Did anyone from your crew get sick?

[BJ:] Yeah, Click got a little bit. He had diarrhea. And they gave this medicine and uhm—I better be careful telling this story—but they gave him this medicine that was this little bitty jar! Little bitty thing, you know. The guy said, take one teaspoon of this every six hours. You think Click Rex(??) is gonna walk around with a teaspoon? So Click just takes a swig out of it and then kills it in two treatments, ok? It was supposed to last like three days. Well you know what the reaction was. He was like, he was locked up for life. He said, "I can't sail today!" I said, Crack(??), you gonna sail today. Cause he had just the opposite effect. So we went to the doctor and the doctor fixed him all up and it was funny as hell. He said, "Click, next time, I'm not gonna give you anything that you have to administer yourself." We laughed about that. But it was a Swiss doctor that was on the team down there. He'd laugh, he thought it was so funny. But none of us had—I had a little queasy stomach one day, I get seasick. And it was hot and everything and I was dehydrated a little bit and I got a little queasy. But I didn't take Dramamine or Merozine(??) or anything like that, I just drank some bottled water and I drank some, it was like 7up but it was really like ginger ale. And I ate some coke, soda crackers and I was fine. It just took a day.

[DH:] Yeah. That's interesting, you're a sailor and you get seasick! How has that affected your sailing?

[BJ:] It's 'cause I have—it's only affected me a couple of times when I've been racing offshore in ocean races, on big boats. Or if I go deep sea fishing. I mean I've only been that about three times in my life. But later in my life I got used to—I would get Merozine(??) which is what the astronauts use. It's not sold over the counter anymore. It was for a while but it settles—I have very acute inner ear balance and I've done all these tests that pilots do and everything for visual. 'Cause that's what it is. One is lying to the other. In your hearing and then the canals and everything. If I get seasick I just lose my cookies(??) and I'm okay the next day. But it's embarrassing. And you're miserable when you're seasick. You make everybody else miserable too.

[DH:] Yeah. I've been seasick before.

[BJ:] Oh it's horrible. It's just—(laughs). It was embarrassing though, you know? (Laughs)

[DH:] Yeah. So Bart, for you personally what was the most meaningful part of participating in the '68 Games?

[BJ:] Well, it's a combination of things. It's attaining a goal that you had set out to do, doing it with good friends and shipmates, the thought of representing the United States of America in the city of New Orleans was an overwhelming responsibility. (Choking up) Excuse me for a minute.—(Deep breath out) And it haunted me until we won the gold medal. I said, "We gotta to do this right. We *have* to do it right." 'Cause we didn't wanna let anybody down. There was *so* much stock put in us, locally. And there were so many former Olympian yachtsmen who sent us telegrams and 'we wish you every success' and 'we're following you' and wow, wow, and you thought God, I don't wanna let anybody down, you know? Much less myself!

[DH:] Right.

[BJ:] 'Cause we made a lot of sacrifice. And I knew what joy it would give my father and my mom. And my brother and my sister of course, but my dad particularly, you know? 'Cause he was my mentor in sailing. He taught me how to sail, when I was five years old. But it was something. It stroked our egos a little bit and all that but I can still feel the hair on my arms going up when they played the national anthem, when they came down, you know, after we had gotten our medals. And on the back of my neck. (Choking up, voice wavering) I got very choked up, in _____ (??) I was supposed to do that. But it was real, it was a wonderful experience.

[DH:] Uhuh. It'd be hard not to get emotional during that experience.

[BJ:] Oh! It was really something. I can see it! I can see my mom and dad and my first wife sittin' out there. I thought about my little girl in New Orleans. She was like three or four I guess. And thought it was a kick! Daddy was goin' off to sail. And maybe he'll quit 'cause I was gone a lot. But she was proud of it(??). It was no one you just represented in the United States and you were charged with the responsibility to do the best you can. They didn't say you had to win. They said you wanna report yourself in a manner and fashion to which the United States would be proud. And I think we fulfilled that, that commitment and that expectation. And I saw it all around me with the other athletes. They were all kids! We were all young. And we were a little older than a lot of 'em but they were havin' fun but they were there for a purpose. And they were some that knew they weren't gonna do well, but they were gonna put their heart out on that line. I mean I talked to one gal down there, at dinner one day. She said, "I'm not up to par. I'm not performing like I should in my training here." And I said, "Guess what?" I said, "Maybe it'll all come together when you get there." And she was one of the divers. And I think she won the medal. And she was a cute little blond girl but she wasn't happy with where she felt(??) in training. But she did it. And she was so proud. She was just a child! She was probably sixteen or seventeen years old. You know, what a ____ (??). Did I answer your question?

[DH:] Yes. You did. You did. Thank you so much. What one piece of advice would you give to today's Olympic hopeful?

[BJ:] Well I think you have to know what the, you have to establish a goal. You have to know your limits. You have to maintain a sense of reality in your program, in your training. Don't cut any corners 'cause it'll come back and bite you. And be aware of, you know—maintain composure. There gonna be ups and

there gonna be downs and don't peak too early. You wanna—peak is when you hear that(??) gun go off, you know? But I think it's—a lot of people don't know what commitment is, what it takes. And I see athletes that they've survived on just their physical ability. They're able to really explode and run fast but they don't have the psyche to keep it disciplined. Then they don't take care of themselves. So I think the thing is set a goal, you have to plan it! You can't just go out and throw your jock strap in the ring and win. You gotta train. And I'm a somethin'— we knew we were good but we had to stay focused. We *knew* we were good. There were some others, as good. But we just out gooded them, you know? We out sailed them. We couldn't have gotten there without Bob Marsacker(??) and all the fine sailors that we competed against in Canada and Europe and California and Houston. We couldn't have made it! They were all good! They were all good guys or they wouldn't have made the trials, you know? We had real competitors here in New Orleans that drove us: OJ Young(??) and his crew, Roy Trondel, Dwight Lebraum, Jean Walete. I mean these guys were all good sailors. And boy you didn't _____(??) with your eyes. You had to hustle. But we had this plan. And we had milestones. And we had discipline (??). That was hard, because you have three personalities in the boat. Buddy was like a racehorse, a show horse. When you put him out in the ring, his ears would perk up, and his eyes would flare, and his nostrils; he's a real volatile (??) guy. And Click was sort of this calm, cool, easygoing guy until somebody made him mad. And then it was like he was driven. And I'm sort of chief of protocol in our syndicate crew. I made sure that we didn't step on any toes. I did a lot of the logistics management of the group. I made sure we didn't leave the screwdriver at home. I made sure we didn't have too many extra lines in the boat that weighed too much and I was sort of the housekeeper for the documentation and stuff. 'Cause that's what the committee had asked me to do, the sailing association. And I said, I'd be glad to do it. It was fun! I learned a lot. But you had to stay really disciplined, in this thing.

[DH:] Um-hm. So this oral history project is part of an attempt to preserve the legacy or the history of the 1968 U.S. Olympic Team. What does your participation in the project and the preservation of the Team's legacy mean to you?

[BJ:] Oh I'm flattered that you would call me. I'm flattered to participate. It brings back a lot of fun memories, talking to an intelligent young lady who's askin' bright questions and I love to hear the sound of my voice when I talk about sailing. (DH laughs) 'Cause I love it! I mean it's a part of my life. It's a thing where I thought, My God, when that gentleman called me. I thought, how did he find *me*? And we chatted and he said, "You're gonna hear from a young lady who's an archivist in Austin, Texas." And it was really a kick. And sure enough, we hear from you. I'll answer whatever question you have. And I'm flattered. I enjoy going back and singing about Admiral Jahncke. Doing research on that. Every now and then I'll go back and have to get _____(??) to help(??) me do it 'cause I'm not a computer literate kinda guy. I'll go back and I'll find out, well, what happened to this guy? What happened to that guy? I'm sure you're gonna talk to John Marshall, and lull North(??) and some of those guys. You ought to call Click. I don't have my book here. You ought to talk to Click though.

[DH:] Ok.

[BJ:] You gotta second? I'll go get my phone book.

[DH:] Sure!

[BJ:] Hang on just one second.

[DH:] Alright. (Movement)

[BJ:] Need a ____ (??). It's a big bone of contention(??) around here. I'll be right—can you wait one more second?

[DH:] Sure!

[BJ:] _____ (??) And I grabbed the one that doesn't have Click in it. Alright young lady, let's see what we got here. Schreck. He's a great guy. You'll laugh.

[DH:] (laughs)

[BJ:] He's a kick.

[DH:] Good! I look forward to speaking with him.

[BJ:] What?

[DH:] (More audible) I just said I look forward to speaking with him.

[BJ:] Yeah, he is a sail maker. And works with his daughter down there. Alright, lemme give it to you here. It's 850-207-1383. Now that was his cell and I think it is still. Lemme give you the office. 850-457-3339. Ok now let me give you his address. It's S-C-H-R-E-C-K, ok?

[DH:]Um-hm.

[BJ:] The address is 6100 West Fairfield Drive. Suite A. Pensacola, Florida. 32506. And if you talk to him, he owes me a phone call.

[DH:] That was 32506?

[BJ:] Yeah.

[DH:] Ok. (laughs) Alright. Well hopefully ill be able to call him sometime this summer and as far as your transcript goes, we, I hope to have this interview transcribed by September at the latest and then we would send you a copy so that you could look over it and if you wanted to, you'd be able to add an addendum in brackets to the transcript in order to clarify or correct anything that you felt that you wanted to add to or—

[BJ:] Or maybe delete (laughter). Oh yeah! Listen! I'm leaving for Michigan on, next week.

[DH:] Ok.

[BJ:] And I'm a be at a house up there for, till probably October. I'm gonna be teaching sailin' and gonna take care of(??) grandbabies and all that, this summer. But I'd love to read it. I'm all over the place, I'm sure, my God.

[DH:] No actually, it's been a very cohesive and wonderful interview. Thank you so much for taking the time to tell me your stories. And I, you said you love to hear yourself talk about sailing but I really love to

hear your voice talking about sailing. (BJ laughing) And I love your accent and I really enjoyed your stories today.

[BJ:] Well I'll look you up when I'm over in Austin.

[DH:] Oh right! I would love that.

[BJ:] We come over there a lot.

[DH:] That would be great!

[BJ:] Yeah. They, my, stepson, Wade Huggins, he's a graduate—I love Austin though. I just hope they keep it funky, man.

[DH:] (laughs) Yeah. Me too.

[BJ:] Where are you from originally?

[DH:] I've been in Texas for most of my life. In Austin, for fifteen or sixteen years now.

[BJ:] Were you born in Texas?

[DH:] No, I wasn't. I was born in Colorado Springs actually.

[BJ:] Really? I've been out there. (DH laughs) I went to the village out there. Is that how you got involved with this deal, through Colorado Springs and stuff?

[DH:] No, just through, because I'm a student at the University—

[BJ:] I got you—

[DH:] Yeah.

[BJ:] Well make sure they give you a good grant, young lady.

[DH:] Okay. (laughs)

[BJ:] Make sure they give you everything you need.

[DH:] Alright.

[BJ:] Well you're sweet to call and have a great weekend and stay in touch!

[DH:] I sure will! And I'll be in touch through email if that's ok.

[BJ:] Yeah. You've got, my wife does that at bjahncke@cox.net(??).

[DH:] Okay.

[BB:] You're sweet. I enjoyed chattin' with you. Brought back many fine memories.

[DH:] Oh good! I'm glad.

[BJ:] Good luck on your project.

[DH:] Thank you!

[BB:] Bye-bye.

[DH:] Bye!

End of interview, end recording

This transcript of Barton Jahncke's interview for the 1968 U.S. Olympic Team Oral History Project provided by:

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