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Gettysburg College

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Interview with James I. Tarman, May 5, 2000

Description

James I. Tarman was interviewed on May 5, 2000 by Michael J. Birkner about his years as a student at Gettysburg College, Class of 1952, and becoming the school's first public relations director. He discusses his experience as a history major, his extracurricular activities and his social life on campus, including how he met his wife. Finally, he talks about his dedication to the school as the director of public relations.

Length of Interview: 31 minutes

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Keywords

Gettysburgian, Phi Kappa Psi, Robert D. Fortenbaugh, Jim Hartzell, Walter C. Langsam, John W. Shainline, Wilbur E. Tilberg, Public Relations, Gettysburg College, WWGC

Disciplines

Higher Education | Liberal Studies | Oral History

JAMES TARMAN Oral Transcription

Note: [u] =unintelligible

* =unknown spelling

Michael Birkner: [In progress]. . . May the 5th, 2000, and Jim Tarman, emeritus member of the trustees in my office here in Weidensall Hall, and he was just telling me a story about being the College's first public information officer.

Jim Tarman: Yes, the title of the job was public relations director. Dr. [Walter] Langsam had just become president; he had been at Wagner College, and he decided that we had to have a full-time PR director. And up until then, somebody at the *Gettysburg Times* used to be a stringer for some of the papers, Paul Cessna, who was the alumni director's secretary, would do some publicity on the side and all that kind of stuff, and so I got the job. Now truthfully, there was somebody that was hired, but it only lasted like two or three months. Something happened, I don't know what happened, I forget his name. So I was kind of the first. And it was literally a one-person department.

Birkner: What were you doing before you got the job?

Tarman: I majored in history, and I was very interested in journalism too, because I had been co-sports editor of the *Gettysburgian*, and co-sports director of the student radio station here, WWGC, and so my first job out of college was working for the *Harrisburg Patriot-News*. And it's kind of interesting. I wanted to get into sports, but my first day on the job -- Jim Doran was the editor, and he said, "I'm looking at your stuff. We hired you because we saw you did well at Gettysburg," he said. "We'll get you in sports eventually." He said, "But you were a history major." And he said, "Do you know that the first nominating convention in this country was held at the Zion Lutheran Church here in Harrisburg? Nominated William Henry Harrison."

Birkner: He's right.

Tarman: Yeah. And I said, "No, I didn't know that." I said, "I should, I guess." "Yeah," he said -- and this is 1952, the summer of nominating conventions, Stevenson and Eisenhower that year, nominated. He said, "I'm putting you on this. You're going to do some features on that convention that was held here," and so forth and so on. And it was kind of interesting. So I did that for awhile. Then I did sports, and then from there, I went to -- I came back to Gettysburg, when a couple of my friends here called me and said, "Dr. Langsam is going to create a full-time PR department." So I had phone calls from Hen Bream, who was then the Athletic Director and long-time coach, Mildred Hartzell, who was a long-time administrative assistant to Dean [Wilbur] Tilberg. And a guy named Jim Hartzell, who used to work for the *Gettysburg Times*.

Birkner: I remember Jim Hartzell.

Tarman: Yeah, he's still around. And somebody else called at the time. But at any rate, they said, "Hey we all went into President Langsam's office and threw your hat in the ring for the job." And I said, "Well, I'm glad you did, because I'd like to have it." So I came back. I did general news, sports publicity, I did the catalogues. I put the whole catalogue out, the College catalogue, took people on campus tours, took people on battlefield tours.

Birkner: So you had a wide portfolio.

Tarman: I took them on battlefield tours, too. It was great. I helped put out the alumni magazine (I wasn't in charge of that), so it was really good, and then later, when I was here. . .

Birkner: Were you married at that point?

Tarman: No, I wasn't, and that's what I was going to say, why I like this building. My office for awhile -- I had offices in two different places -- I think my office at first was in the house right down here on Washington, with the white pillars. Then it became the ATO house. . .

Birkner: I know exactly what building you mean.

Tarman: I think my office was in there on the first floor for awhile. And then it was in this building, on the second floor, in that far corner where that elevator is now, there was an office right there. And that was my office.

Birkner: I remember that.

Tarman: Yeah, and while I was in school, that's where the *Gettysburgian* was.

Birkner: See, this is the kind of thing we don't know unless someone gives us oral testimony such as you're giving. Now I tell people, for example, that the *Gettysburgian* offices, when I came to the College, and I was the editor of the *Gettysburgian* and was an editor three of my four years here, I told them that it was in the CUB on the very first floor where the grab-and-go is now. And they're surprised. Then we moved midway through my college years to the back of Plank Gym. Now the *Gettysburgian* office is in a different area in Plank. But unless you've got somebody to tell the story, just as you're doing, you don't remember this.

Tarman: Yeah, well, when I was an undergraduate it was there.

Birkner: That's interesting.

Tarman: And then of course later my office was there. Well, anyway, I was a Phi Kappa Psi as an undergraduate, when the Phi Psi house was right over here where the benefactors' wall is now. That's where the Phi Psi house was. It later became Stahley Hall, and then it was torn down.

Birkner: You mean the house itself was the Phi Kappa Psi house?

Tarman: Yeah, it was there.

Birkner: Then what became of the math and education building?

Tarman: Right where those benches are now, right across from the --

Birkner: Well, it became the math and education building when I was a student.

Tarman: Right. It was Stahley Hall, I think it was called. Yeah, I think it was -- math and education, right. And I used to say, "How can my old fraternity house be the math department!" I hated math. At any rate, my office was there, and I was standing in my office window one day, looking out that way, toward Glatfelter, the walk that goes across there, and I saw one of my fraternity brothers who was still an undergraduate (who I used to also publicize because he was a good football player -- in fact, he made second team Little All American). His name was *Frank Gagliardi, from Long Branch, New Jersey. And he was walking across the campus with this cute little brunette, who was an undergraduate. I was now working here, and I said to him the next day out at football practice, when I went out to cover it a little bit, I said, "Frank, who was that pretty coed you were walking to class with the other day?" He said, "Tarman, you stay away from her. You're too old for her. She's a nice young Italian girl and I don't want you getting near her!" he said. So I said, "Just tell her I'd like to just meet her sometime," because I knew I wasn't that much older than she was. I had been in the army, I was stationed in Japan right after the war, before I came back to school, but it wasn't that many years. So after about a week or so, I saw him one day and he said, "I told her. Her name's Louise Catalano, and I said you might give her a call. But I told her 'he's too old for you. Don't do that kind of stuff,' you know." So I called Louise. We had a blind date.

Birkner: Did she become your wife?

Tarman: Yup.

Birkner: That's a great story.

Tarman: Well, what's even better about it -- well, a couple of things. My home was in York, and so we drove down to York to dinner and a movie. And she's been accusing me ever since of

taking her down there under false pretences. The movie we saw was *How to Marry a Millionaire*. And she's been giving me [that sentence] forever. The funny part of it, this is a couple of good stories, I'm not trying to do this just for your tape recorder here. . .

Birkner: Don't even worry about that.

Tarman: Louise was a very good field hockey player. And she played on one of Gettysburg College's only two unbeaten teams. She played on one of those. In fact, that team was honored a couple of years ago at the Hall of Athletic Honor Banquet. And she was on that team. Grace Kenney was her coach.

Birkner: I know Grace Kenney.

Tarman: People don't talk this way anymore; Grace called her into the office one day and said, "It's come to my attention that you're dating a member of our staff." At the time, she was an undergraduate [u] especially the liberal arts, small church-related, and so forth. Louise said, "That's true." And Grace said, "Are his intentions honorable?" She said, "Well, I think so; he's coming to my home for Easter, meeting my parents."

Birkner: That is a great story.

Tarman: Then, after awhile, Dean Tilberg, I don't know if you've heard Dean Tilberg stories --

Birkner: Sure, of course.

Tarman: He was a real character. Glasses down here, that curved pipe. . .

Birkner: Did you call him Wifty?

Tarman: Wifty? Not to his face, but everybody called him Wifty. When he'd come into basketball games in the old Plank gym, the fraternities used to kind of sit all together in groups, and he was a great sports fan, basketball. He'd always come in and sit in the front row and right

as he came in the door all the fraternities sat across from him and in unison, "Wifty! Wifty!"

And he acted like he didn't like it, but I was told he loved it.

Birkner: I bet he did, I bet he did.

Tarman: One day, Mildred Hartzell, who was his administrative assistant --

Birkner: Yup, yup.

Tarman: I knew her. And since I knew Jim Hartzell, her brother, so well, because Jim worked for the *Gettysburg Times*, and he was one of the stringers that used to do a lot of the PR stuff.

Birkner: Was Jim also a Gettysburg grad?

Tarman: Oh, yeah, class of '39. And she called me one day in my office here, and she said, "Jim, Dean Tilberg needs to see you, and he sounds like it's very serious." I said, "What's the matter?" She said, "I think it has to do with the fact that you're dating an undergraduate and you're a member of the staff." Actually, as a matter of fact, we were [going out] and neither of us ever dated anybody else after that first blind date. And she said, "He wants to see you this afternoon at two o'clock." And I said, "Am I in trouble? Am I no longer going to be working here?" And she said, "Well, he sounds very concerned." I said, "Okay." So I went over to see the dean, and he's in there, puffing a pipe; there's a lot of harumphing and he said, "Mr Tarman" -- he always called me 'Jim' before that, and I thought "I'm really cooked now." He said, "We have a very untoward situation" -- I loved that word: "untoward!" I said, "What's that?" "It's come to my attention that you are dating one of our undergraduate young ladies. What do you have to say about that?" I said, "Well, it's true." And he said, "Oh, very serious, very, very serious." I thought "Well, if I'm going to be fired, it's going to get the president in it" -- who was the president?

Birkner: Well, Langsam was president.

Tarman: Langsam, Langsam. And he said, "And not only that, something even more concerning." I said, "What's that?" He said, "It's also come to my attention" -- that was in the days when coeds still had hours. . .

Birkner: Oh yes.

Tarman: And we'd come back from dinner or a movie or something. She was in Hanson then, and we'd sit in the car in the back of the parking lot there at Hanson and visit a little bit until she had to be in, and then I'd kiss her goodnight. And he said, "And not only that, it's come to my attention you have been seen kissing this young lady goodnight behind Hanson Hall."

Birkner: Talk about in loco parentis!

Tarman: "In your car." He said, "What do you have to say to that?" I said, "That's probably also true." And then he really harumphed. He said, "Well, I've been thinking this through today.

There's really only one solution." He said, "Why don't you park at the tennis courts?"

Birkner: You weren't expecting that line! That broke the ice.

Tarman: Yeah, it sure did.

Birkner: Did you have any connections or see, up close, Walter Langsam, in action as president? I'm just curious if you have any perceptions of him you'd share. He was only president for two years, so for a lot of people he's really a wispy, obscure figure. But he was also a very strong personality, and I've heard some. . .

Tarman: He was a strong personality, I remember that. Now, I wasn't on anything that would have been then the president's staff, or anything like that. It wasn't organized that way.

Birkner: Did you go to the faculty meetings that he ran?

Tarman: I went to some faculty meetings, but not all of them. But he was very, very -- yeah -- kind of tough.

Birkner: Yeah. He rubbed some of the senior faculty the wrong way, because they were used to Hanson, you know.

Tarman: Oh, yeah, they were used to the Hanson that I was here as an undergraduate under, that Hanson.

Birkner: Right.

Tarman: Not Arnold, who came later. Oh, yeah, Langsam and the first Hanson, I forget the spelling of that -- O-N, I think the first one was. . .

Birkner: They were both O-N.

Tarman: Oh, I thought Arnold was E-N.

Birkner: No, they were both O-N.

Tarman: Well, they were as different as night and day. I mean, Henry W.A. Hanson, Henry William Arnold Hanson -- and I know all four names because as a pledge to the fraternity, one of my assignments -- was to get his full signature on an egg.

Birkner: He was okay with that, giving that signature?

Tarman: Oh, yeah, he was funny. He was a southerner. He had been from Virginia.

Birkner: Roanoke.

Tarman: And I loved the way he expressed himself on things. He was out of town one day -- and he was a Phi Gam, he was a Fiji -- and the Phi Gams were having a big kind of a reunion-type thing this particular weekend, it was a football weekend. And he put a call through to the College -- he was on his way back -- he hoped to get back in time for that -- and he couldn't get anybody. The only phone that rang was in the press box, when the press box used to be over near the student union building. The football stadium was behind there. And I answered in the press box, and he said, "Who is this?" And I said, "This is Jim Tarman," "Oh, good," he said,

"This is Dr. Hanson." And I said, you know, "What can I do for you?" And he said, "Tell me."

He said, "Have the Phi Gams begun gathering on the green?" I loved that. He talked that way all the time.

Birkner: He was an old Victorian gentleman, is what he was. His son is like that too.

Tarman: Bob? Bob's wife just died.

Birkner: No, I didn't know that.

Tarman: Yeah. The trustees never got a mailing about that, and I found out, I got a phone call in Naples from a longtime friend, *Murray Friedman, who used to live in Harrisburg and knew the Hansons real well.

Birkner: He told you that she had died.

Tarman: Yeah.

Birkner: I talked to Bob a year ago, and he gave me the impression that his wife was sort of a permanent invalid but that there was no expectation she was going to pass on at any particular point.

Tarman: She had been in some sort of a facility, I believe, for the last five years, where [u]. I see all these pictures out here. My first year as a freshman was Dr. [Robert] Bloom's first year.

Birkner: It would have been '49.

Tarman: Well, I was a freshman in -- '48-'49 was my first year.

Birkner: You might have got here before he did. I think he came in the fall of '49.

Tarman: Yeah, I had him the next year for -- he taught that tough first-year history course.

Birkner: Yeah, yeah, CC.

Tarman: No, not CC. It was history. The history of civilization, or something like that.

Birkner: Okay, and he taught that.

Tarman: No, I had Doc Arms for CC.

Birkner: That must have been an experience!

Tarman: Oh, that was great.

Birkner: What did he know about CC, he was a mathematician?

Tarman: He also taught dramatic arts.

Birkner: That's right.

Tarman: Yeah, he taught dramatic arts too.

Birkner: Well, then, he was a Renaissance man of sorts.

Tarman: And Basil Crapster came the second year I was here -- well, the first year I was here.

Birkner: I think Basil came in '49 also.

Tarman: Yeah. And then of course -- I never had Charlie Glatfelter, but Louise did.

Birkner: Well, of course Charlie taught economics those first few years.

Tarman: That's what Louise had him for. I didn't have an economics course. I served on the search committee that hired Dr. Glassick.

Birkner: Best decision you made.

Tarman: I think he was a good president too. Charlie Glatfelter might have been the chair of the search committee.

Birkner: Yeah, Charlie was.

Tarman: Yeah, he was the chair. And Mary Margaret Stewart was on that committee. Dave Cowan, who then taught physics, he was on that search committee. And I represented the Alumni Association, not the trustees. I was not a trustee yet. And seeing all these pictures on the wall. . .

Birkner: It brings back memories.

Tarman: Well, Dr. Fortenbaugh. Dr. Fortenbaugh, he was a minister too, and when he'd give the invocation sometimes I had to laugh. He was a gruff guy, very gruff. But he'd say, "God, bless this meeting!"

Birkner: It was like he was ordering God!

Tarman: You'd better, God!

Birkner: That's a wonderful thing to say. He had that intonation. . .

Tarman: He's really why I was a history major. I served in Japan after the war, two years, and I was in the military government team. And this was before I came to the College. And I was in the civil information and education section of the military government team and then the legal and government section for awhile, but I got to thinking I might want to -- I didn't know what I wanted to do -- I thought about public relations, I thought about journalism, and I also was giving premed a thought, or maybe even premedical, prelaw, I wasn't sure -- all that kind of stuff. In those days, all the faculty in the old Eddie Plank gymnasium, all the faculty would line up and all the freshman students would work their way down the line with name tags, and you'd meet every faculty member at the College, and they met all the freshmen. And I was working my way down the line, and I come to Dr. Fortenbaugh. [u] And he said, "I've been waiting for you." I said, "Why have you been waiting for me?!" He said, "You're going to major in history!" I said, "I am? Why?" He said, "Your second cousin and I wrote some textbooks together." You know about that.

Birkner: Yeah, my blunder.

Tarman: No, but he said, "We wrote textbooks together. You're a major in history." I said, "Well, I hadn't planned to." And he starts punching me in the chest!

Birkner: He wasn't going to let you go!

Tarman: And he didn't. I majored in history.

Birkner: That's a wonderful story.

Tarman: Yeah. And he did the same thing to Louise. Louise, when she was a freshman, the same deal, and of course, by this time, I hadn't met Louise yet, but she came down the line, and he said, "What're you going to major in? What'd you like in high school?" or something. "Why don't you major in history! You gotta major in history!"

Birkner: Did she?

Tarman: Yes, she did. Started out in phys ed and she took, I guess -- of course, she loved that field hockey -- and she took a year and a semester of phys ed and then switched to history. Then she taught American and European history -- grades 11 and 12 -- at State College high school when we first moved to State College.

Birkner: Now let me square the circle here, by asking you about how you left the job that you had at Gettysburg College. Where did you go from Gettysburg, and why did you choose to leave?

Tarman: I went to Princeton as assistant public information director and full-time sports publicity director. Well, I chose to leave because my last year or so here at Gettysburg -- that was in 1957 -- well, I had sort of moved out of PR; I still did a good bit of PR, but I was double-duty stuff, doing PR and admissions work. And Hips Wolfe was the admissions director then. So I did a lot of college nights for him in high schools, and I really enjoyed that, and he had an associate director of admissions named Jack Shainline, and Shainline was also an assistant football coach for a good many years, before he went into admissions. And I worked with Jack, and then it became obvious Jack probably didn't want to stay. Jack was going to move on someplace else, and he went to Columbia and got his doctors degree up there [u].

Birkner: Wound up in California.

Tarman: Yeah, he ended up at. . .

Birkner: One of the California universities. . .

Tarman: Yeah, Long Beach State and he was vice-president for student affairs.

Birkner: That's right.

Tarman: And I used to see him quite a bit through the years, because at Long Beach, the athletic department reported to him, and I used to see him at NCAA meetings. But anyway, Hips then wanted to groom me so that I'd eventually become the director of admissions when he left, when he retired. He was kind of -- it would have been Shainline. . .

Birkner: But you knew Shainline was going to go, and he knew it.

Tarman: And so I was getting more and more into admissions, nothing like PR, but there were a couple of things happening in PR. They had brought some people in that I didn't enjoy working with too much but [u]. And General [Willard] Paul had just become president, and for whatever reason, General Paul didn't like me. It wasn't a personal thing, but whatever it was -- I'm not quite sure -- it's just that he kind of made it clear to me that I probably had no future here in admissions, and Hips was very upset about that and so forth.

Birkner: Just a chemistry thing you think?

Tarman: Well, I don't know, he brought in somebody named Martin Cronlund -- I don't know if you remember him or not. . .

Birkner: Oh, god, yes.

Tarman: Yeah, that's who he brought in.

Birkner: And by the time I met him, he wasn't doing much for the College, I'll tell you.

Tarman: Well, anyway, so it looked to me like I wasn't going to be able to advance here in what I was interested in, and there was no place really -- I hadn't had any place else in mind -- but coincidentally, I was contacted by Princeton University. Well, I was contacted first by *Bob Paul, who was then the sports publicity director of Penn. He later became the director of communications and public relations for the United States Olympic Committee. But he's back in Philadelphia now, he's living in Marion, he'll always be a Penn grad. And he called me, and he said, "Jim, would you have any interest in going to Princeton?"

Birkner: Now, first off, how did you know Paul?

Tarman: I knew Paul because at Gettysburg, having done all the PR, a lot of that was sports PR, and I would see him at meetings. And he said, "Would you have any interest maybe to going to Princeton?" I said, "Well, Paul, [u] Princeton." I said, "Things are not working out here." I said. "I wanted to really stay at Gettysburg for my career, and I thought it was going to work out in admissions, I've given up some of the PR, I can't really slide back into that with any future in that, and so forth," and I said, "Why do you ask?" And he said, "I'll tell you why." He said, "*Dan Coyle is the director of public information at Princeton." And he said, "He's been asking around, they want to hire -- their guy's leaving, *Charlie Saunders, he's going to become the PR director for the new governor or something in New Jersey at the time," and he said, "He's leaving, and Princeton feels it's getting too inbred," and he said, "and they might not want to hire a Princetonian in a job they're creating which would be full-time head of all sports publicity but also assistant public information director for the general university." And he said, "Your name's been given to them by me," and I said, "Well, why'd you do that, Bob? Have you been watching my work or something?" He said, "You know what I told them? I said to *Dan Coyle and president [Robert] Goheen, tell him to look at the *New York Times* every Sunday in the early

editions that come out of New York, not the late editions when you have all the results and stuff, but the early edition. This guy Tarman's got a Gettysburg feature in there every Sunday, in the *New York Times*!" That impressed Princeton, I guess! Well, it was easy to do. What I would do every week was write a feature about that long, write it tight, tightly edited so whoever's working the desk at the *Times*, and I always put "Special to the *New York Times*" and it wouldn't be something I sent to anybody else, even though I sent others to the Harrisburg paper.

Birkner: Because you knew that that was going to give you more clout.

Tarman: Well, I knew that in that early edition, they have holes to fill, and if they don't have to mess around editing the darn thing so tightly, and I did have luck, I was in there almost every Sunday. And that was mentioned all the time. Here, Langsam in the presence of people used to say, "Oh, he's in the *New York Times*, Gettysburg. . ." I said, "There's no trick. You write it tight, get it to them by Wednesday, when they start making up their early Sunday page. Get it to them early with "special to" and he said, "I told them wow! You're to tell Goheen too. This guy gets in the *New York Times* all the time." Well, I guess that impressed them a little bit, but it wasn't hard once you get to Princeton to get in the *New York Times*.

Birkner: But what you're saying here, I don't want to miss a beat, is that once this initiative was made by this fellow from Penn, you told him you would indeed entertain some interviews. And then you interviewed, and it went well.

Tarman: And I got the job.

Birkner: How long did you stay at Princeton?

Tarman: I was only there about a year, because I really liked the athletic part of it, I like sports, I like sports PR. And you know, there aren't a whole lot of history Phi Beta Kappas from Gettysburg in sports publicity around the country! But I still liked it. Because I'd been on sports

here in the undergraduate stuff, and that's half the reason I liked Princeton. I had planned to stay at Princeton too, but -- it was a great experience, Princeton, it really was. One day I found this letter in my mailbox from a guy named *Jim Coogan, who had been the sports publicity director at Penn State. And he said, "Jim, give me a call when you get a chance. [u]

Birkner: But now I have to get a letter to Charlie Glatfelter in the mail by a quarter to four, because after that the post office won't do it.

Tarman: I talk too much.

Birkner: No, no, keep going, I want to hear this story.

Tarman: And he said, "Give me a call if you have a chance." So I called him. And I knew who Jim Coogan was, but I had never really spent the time with him, he was on an entirely different level in sports, and so forth. And he said, "Jim," he said, "Some changes are taking place here at Penn State." And he said, "I think you like sports PR, don't you?" And I said, "Well, yeah, I do." And he said, "Well, you know, whether or not you know it, you were in a couple of panels at the various sports information and information and PR meetings around the country on all levels," and he said, "You represented Gettysburg a couple of times on these panels, talking about PR" -- on what would now be called a Division 3 level, but there were no divisions in the NCAA at that level -- and he said, "You did a good job, and I've been watching you," and he said, "I know you got the Princeton job, so that meant you must have done a pretty good job at Gettysburg, and I was correct about that, and you got the Princeton job," and he said, "Change is taking place here, I'm going to become the top public information man here at Penn State." And he said, "I'm going to replace a guy named *Lou Bell, who's going to full-time teach journalism now, because he has a health problem, and he wants to get out of administration, so I'll be full-time public information director," and he said, "I've already talked to two or three people, but you're one of

the ones [u]. He said, "Penn State's really going to go more big time in the football program, they're going to go intersectional. . ."

Birkner: This is '58?

Tarman: This is '58. And so I interviewed, and I took the job. And that's how I left Princeton.

Birkner: Pretty nice series of bumps, though, in your career.

Tarman: Yeah, I was at the right time in the right place.

Birkner: That's what most of life is, if you've got any -- I don't know, I guess I'd say if you've got ability and some ambition, it is to be in the right time at the right place too; you've made quite a career.

Tarman: Well, even after I got to Penn State, I still had to deal with the trick of doing those early Sunday features for the papers. I had a call one day, from this guy named Budd Thalman, he's now at Penn State, he's associate athletic director. I hired him at Penn State. But he was at the naval academy for years as their top PR director in sports. And he used to call me on the phone. "You son of a bitch! You're in the *Times* again yesterday morning! How do you do that?" I said, "I'm not telling you, Budd." So I thought, "If he can't figure it out. . ." So one day, he mailed me -- he must have had his photo day for lacrosse and other spring sports -- a picture of him in a suit, and he had a cigar in his mouth with a lacrosse stick, posing, and he said, "Get this in the *Times*!" Of himself! So when he finally came to Penn State, he said, "How'd you get the *Times* all this time? Tell me now."

Birkner: You had the right idea, you really did. One of the things I'm glad about is just that you have good memories of Gettysburg and have been committed to Gettysburg College. I'm an alumnus, as you know, and. . .

Tarman: What was your class?

Birkner: Seventy-two. And I came back briefly to teach while I was writing my PhD in '78, and then I left for another 10 years, and did other things, including journalism, and then came back in '89 to replace Charlie Glatfelter or to succeed him anyway, in teaching the methods class, as well as twentieth century history. And it's been a good run; I have my frustrations. I have a question for you, but I'm going to have to turn off the tape to ask it.

Tarman: Has that been on all this time?

Birkner: Of course.

[End of tape]