LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Centennial History Project interview:
Henry Bodkin, Jr., 1943

June 8, 2010
MR. MICHAEL PETERSEN: So I would like to start with a little bit about your background and your decision to attend Loyola. I know you came of age during the Depression era and you entered Loyola in 1939, so how did the Great Depression impact your decision to attend Loyola?

MR. HARRY BODKIN: How did the Depression affect my decision?

MR. PETERSON: Yeah. Uh-huh.

MR. BODKIN: I never thought about going anywhere else because my dad had been involved out here for many years. Did you ever get a copy of something that I sent to Cynthia somebody? Did you get a copy of that?

MR. PETERSON: I think so. It was like biography kind of?

MR. BODKIN: Yeah, yeah.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah, no, I do have a copy of that.

MR. BODKIN: Okay.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah, and it—yeah, it talked about your dad's involvement, so I'll ask about that, too. So the—to your knowledge, was Loyola impacted at all by the Depression or?

MR. BODKIN: Was it affected?

MR. PETERSON: Yeah, Loyola.

MR. BODKIN: Oh, absolutely.

MR. PETERSON: Uh-huh. In what ways do you remember?

MR. BODKIN: Well, this property was given to them by Harry Culver.

MR. PETERSON: Okay —

MR. BODKIN: [Interposing] Culver City.

MR. PETERSON: The whole property or —

MR. BODKIN: [Interposing] Yeah, well, the original property, 100 acres. And then the Depression, they built two buildings. They built what is now Saint Roberts Hall and the Jesuit...
Residence, which we used to call the Big House, which was the residence for the guys who lived on campus. And then the Depression came along and they couldn't raise any money to build anything more. So when I went to school here, they had those two buildings and the little shack that had been the building for the contractors that built those two buildings. And shortly before I arrived in September of 1939, they paved Loyola Boulevard from 80th Street into the campus. And that was that. That's all there was. And they probably had about maybe 400 students at that time.

MR. PETERSON: Okay. And did any—where did they live on campus? Or did anybody live on campus or?

MR. BODKIN: Oh, sure. And they lived in the big house.

MR. PETERSON: Oh, okay. Oh, okay, with the—

MR. BODKIN: [Interposing] Yeah.

MR. PETERSON: Oh, okay.

[Crosstalk]

MR. BODKIN: —the Jesuits.

MR. PETERSON: Okay, everybody lived in there.

MR. BODKIN: That's right.

MR. PETERSON: All right, okay. So you attended Loyola at a time of like crisis economically and politically.

MR. BODKIN: Yeah, I started in September of 1939.

MR. PETERSON: Right. And so how did that—did the fact that Loyola was a Catholic and Jesuit institution come into your—come into play when you were—well, like you said, you were going to come here.

MR. BODKIN: Sure, that's why I went here. That and the fact that my dad had gone to Saint Vincent's College, which was the predecessor institution, and had been very involved with Loyola and the law school, where he had been on the original faculty, and he had been involved in the athletic program out here. And as I say, I had never thought about going anywhere else. And I probably could've gone anywhere I wanted to.

MR. PETERSON: Okay. So was it—what was it about Loyola that your dad liked so much and that you liked so much that you wanted
to come here?

MR. BODKIN: Well, he had—as I say, he had been involved with the institution from the onset because it succeeded his alma mater. And he had been involved when it moved out here. He had been involved with the establishment of the law school. He had taught at the law school. He had been very involved with the athletic program. I had gone to football games and the hockey games and basketball games since I was a very small kid. And I was a Loyola nut. And there weren't too many of them around. And I had gone to public schools all my life. I had never gone to a Catholic school because we didn't have a Catholic grammar school in my parish. It was a new parish when I grew up. And I got out of junior high school in February. I would've gone to Loyola High, but I would've had to either skip a—they didn't accept students until September, so I would've had to stay out a year, six months and so on. It would've screwed things up. And so I went to John Marshall, where it was in my neighborhood. And that was that.

MR. PETERSON: All right. So the—so, yeah, Loyola is known for its commitment to social—

MR. PETERSON: —justice and academic excellence and the education of the whole person. And so that's what you were really looking for and that's—like those—

MR. BODKIN: [Interposing] I never thought about that. I was just going to go here because that's where I was going to go. Period.

MR. PETERSON: Right. Did those principles come into play while you were here? Did that—while you attended Loyola, did the—like the social justice aspect or the academic excellence—

MR. BODKIN: [Interposing] I never thought about it.

MR. PETERSON: Okay. Okay. The—so now I'd like to spend some time talking about the fact that you attended Loyola during World War II. Pearl Harbor was bombed in December of 1941. And so you were here. So what was the campus reaction to the attack?
MR. BODKIN: They had Japanese people farming the fields down below. Aside from the fact that Hughes had an airstrip down there and they were building the Spruce Goose in those two big hangars, and we went down and were throwing rocks down at the Japanese, poor Japanese farmers down there, which was pretty stupid, but that was the reaction of everybody. And there were—they had put in an antiaircraft battery right out by the football field. And they had a squadron of P-38s out at the airport and they were flying over the school all the time. And then in about February or so, and I slept through it, there was a report of a Japanese airplane overhead, so all of the antiaircraft batteries let go and it was a false alarm, but the next morning there was shrapnel all over the campus. That was—as I say, I slept through the whole damn thing. I never knew anything about it until we got down to the next morning, there was shrapnel all over the campus. But in answer to your question, I had been too young to have to register for the draft, but when the war came, when we got into the war—everybody knew it was coming—all bets were off and we knew that draft of no draft, we were going to have to go into the service. So we discovered that the Navy had a program designated V-7, which would allow college students if they signed up to finish college and then go to a reserve midshipman school and finish, get—and then be commissioned an ensign. So a whole bunch of us went down and—in January and enlisted. And—

MR. PETERSON: [Interposing] This was 1942, January, so right after?

MR. BODKIN: January of '42. And the — we were supposed to graduate in June of '43. But we discovered that we were going to have to go to summer school and graduate six months early, which we did and graduated in February of '43. We had to take a couple of extra courses — I think and some other course. I can't remember what it was. We graduated in February of '43. And within a couple of weeks, I think there were 13 or 17 of us got orders to go to midshipman school. And we didn't know—we were eagerly awaiting which one we were going to go to. There were four of them. There was one at Columbia, one at Notre Dame, one at Annapolis at the Naval Academy, and one other I can't remember where. So all of us got orders to go to Columbia. And about the 18th or so of February we all got on the train out at the Union Station and went to New York and arrived there as I recall just about on
Washington's Birthday in a snowstorm at Columbia. And we were there for the next four months, graduated on June the 16th, 1943.

MR. PETERSON: And so you and a bunch of your classmate—this was what you and a bunch of your classmates did or?

MR. BODKIN: Yeah. There were 17 of us.

MR. PETERSON: All right. And the—so was there any fear of attack on campus? I mean, there was the antiaircraft battery—-

MR. BODKIN: [Interposing] Well, we used to have blackouts, yeah.

[END MZ000014]

[START MZ000015]

MR. BODKIN: And, yes, and then sometime in early '42, a Japanese submarine surfaced up around Goleta, up above Santa Barbara, and shelled an oil refinery up there, lobbed a few shells at some storage tanks, and didn't do any damage to them. But that was the closest thing that happened. And aside from that and aside from the false alarm with the air raid, that's all that happened. But every now and then, there would be a blackout and we'd—all of the cars would have to stop. And I can remember several of those. Once I was driving through Beverly Hills with my girlfriend, taking her home, and once we were down at an event at Ocean Park and we had another one. We had to sit in the car there for an hour or so until the all-clear was sounded. And that happened frequently.

MR. PETERSON: Okay. But so—but was there any like—so how did the war impact Loyola itself like with the—was rationing—-

MR. BODKIN: [Interposing] Well, you—

[Crosstalk]

MR. BODKIN: —that was the biggest thing. They had gas rationing and I don't remember too much about that. I think they had sugar rationing and meat rationing and that sort of thing. And I know that before the war, Loyola had several fraternities. And then the Jesuits clamped down on them. And one of them accepted a Jesuit moderator and became what is—became known as the Aristonian [phonetic] Society. Another one declined to accept the Jesuit moderator and it went underground and it remained a fraternity without university sanction, Sigma Phi Zeta. And I was invited to
join that. They called them the drunken Zetas. And that was a high point of my career here. I really enjoyed those guys. And they had elected the last five or six or seven student body presidents in a row. And when gas rationing came along, they rented a—they never had a house. They rented a house right on the beach at Playa Del Rey, just this side of Ballona Creek. And so I lived down there with about, I don't know, eight or ten other guys that last semester and tried to save gas and so on. And then I got out as I say in February and graduated and went back to New York. But in answer to your question, guys were—a lot of them had been drafted. A lot of them had enlisted in other programs. And, you know, guys were getting killed and we would hear about it, guys in my class, people that I knew well were getting knocked off.

MR. PETERSON: So how did you—like how did you all stay informed regarding the war? Did you have radios in the dorms or?

MR. BODKIN: Well, I didn't live in the dorm. You'd hear about it at school. And then when we were in the service, Father Malone used to send out a periodic newsletter to all of the alumni and we would get that. And it would indicate what he'd heard about various people. Couldn't tell you where they were because that was pretty much confidential, but if somebody was killed or something like that — that, so you'd sort of keep up on that. And then some people you knew where they were or something — the ship that they were on and that sort of thing.

MR. PETERSON: Uh-huh. And then, yes, I understand that during the war, the campus was relatively empty because—

MR. BODKIN: Well, that's probably true. I mean, it was—I think they got down to the point where they probably had, you know, 50 or 60 students. I don't even know because I wasn't here. And by the time I left, well, I guess maybe when I was at school—

[END MZ000015]

[START MZ000016]

MR. BODKIN: —before the war, we probably had about 400 I'm guessing. And I think by the time I left, the number had decreased very substantially. I have no idea what the number was. But people were going off. And it was a different ballgame.
Mr. Peterson: Uh-huh. So do you remember how it—how the—like the shrinking population at the campus had—affected like the classes or the—or anything else on campus?

Mr. Bodkin: No. No, I can't remember much about that. I know that the athletic program, of which I had been very interested, they had—they played football and basketball in 1942 and that was the last year of that. Marty Brill, the football coach, had been drafted. And his last season was '41. He was drafted. And his assistant took over in '42.

Mr. Peterson: Okay. So athletics had to—for a while, athletics took a—was—

Mr. Bodkin: [Interposing] Well, yeah, yeah.

Mr. Peterson: —wasn't going.

Mr. Bodkin: I mean, of course, they had very good ice hockey before the war. Most of our players were from Minnesota and the Middle West because most of them had come down to play football. And skating was a sideline. USC had brought them all in from Canada. And those guys all got drafted and—when Canada got into the war in '39 and '40. So ice hockey really went downhill in a hurry.

Mr. Peterson: Uh-huh. Right. So you were obviously interested and involved with Loyola athletics. What—while you were here, what was your involvement? Did you play any sports or just?

Mr. Bodkin: I was the world's worst basketball player. But I was the sports editor of the Loyolan, so I was very interested in that. And I played intramural football, touch football, that sort of thing.

Mr. Peterson: Uh-huh. So you—so you wrote for the Loyolan. Like how was that at that time? Was it—you were the sports editor.

Mr. Bodkin: Once a week.

Mr. Peterson: Okay, once a week?

Mr. Bodkin: Yeah. It was a lot of fun.

Mr. Peterson: Okay. What were the hot topics that were written about often in the Loyolan?
MR. BODKIN: In the Loyolan?

MR. PETERSON: Yeah, in the Loyolan, yeah.

MR. BODKIN: God, I don't know. They probably still have all of the old—I imagine in the library they must have copies of all of those editions from the word—from the very beginning. I don't know. I'd be interested in seeing.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah. The—do you remember if the war was talked about? Was the war like a hot topic, I mean, a topic on campus of discussion for the Loyolan and—

MR. BODKIN: [Interposing] I'm sure it was. Yeah. But the dean of—well, I guess his title was Dean of Studies, was a priest named Father John Connolly, who was a very good guy. He was known as Black John. He was a tough guy. But they used to have assemblies in what is now Saint Roberts. That's where the auditorium was. It faced the other way than it does now. It faced this way instead of that way. And people would—if they didn't—if there was something going on that they didn't like and they wouldn't show up, old Black John would be there dragging them in. I can remember that very well. And I can remember some occasions when they would have boxing. And they had some pretty good boxers in the school then.

MR. PETERSON: So your dad was involved in starting Loyola basketball. So you remember anything about that?

MR. BODKIN: Yeah, I remember as I mentioned in that article, they had hired Jimmy Needles, who had been the coach at USF—

[END MZ000016]

[START MZ000017]

MR. BODKIN: —after he had coached the Olympic team, the first Olympic team in American history, and they won the championship. And then they hired him here. And he started building a pretty good program. And when I arrived, he had had a good team the year before and two of his players were Pete Newell, who became very, very famous and just died within the last year or two. He had been the coach at USF right after the war and had won the big—what was then the biggest tournament before the NCAA became the big tournament. It was called the National Invitational Tournament. He won that two years in a row, this little podunk Jesuit school from San Francisco. And then he was hired by Michigan State.
He went back there and did very well, stayed a few years. And then he was hired by Cal. He came out to Cal and was very successful. He never lost. Jerry Norman, who was John Wooden's assistant and was a good friend of mine, told me that while Pete was coaching at Cal, Wooden's team never beat them, which is pretty good. And I brought—Pete came—was the keynote speaker for a basketball dinner out here about eight years or so ago. And so I brought Jerry out to—and his wife knowing that he was a Newell admirer. And before the dinner, I went over to Pete to—who I knew and said I brought an old friend of yours out, Jerry Norman. And he said oh, he said Jerry's the guy that put in the press that gave us so much trouble. And in a big article on Saturday about John Wooden, it mentioned the fact that Jerry was responsible for the press that Wooden had used so effectively, and two or three other places where he gave Norman a lot of credit, which he richly deserved and never got from John Wooden. But in any event, and the other guy, both Wooden and a guy who had played with him named Phil Woolpert, were in their fifth year at school. They had not had enough credits to graduate when they finished their four years, so they were still around on campus. And they became the freshmen coaches in 1939. And for about a month or so, I was on the freshman team, no good reason. And they were the coaches. Well, when Pete got the job at USF, he took Phil along as his assistant. And when he was hired at Michigan State, Phil became the head coach at USF and did very, very well. And he had the team with, oh, Bill Russell and KC Jones and won the NCAA tournament two years in a row and had the longest streak of unbeaten—consecutive wins in history until UCLA beat them during the Wooden years. So those two guys had both been disciples of Jimmy Needles. And they never—Loyola never gets credit for the fact that those two illustrious coaches came out of Loyola and learned their basketball from Jimmy Needles.

MR. PETERSON: So how popular was basketball while you attended Loyola, like Loyola basketball?

MR. BODKIN: Well—
the pier in Santa Monica. I mean, I can remember—I'm trying to think who told me this story. Well, I guess it was Pete Newell. Pete told a story about—damn, I can't remember exactly how it went, but the school was so poor, they didn't have much in the way of uniforms. And what the hell was it? I think he had fouled out or some damn thing, so he didn't have—they didn't have numbers on their shirts except they would tape them on. And he fouled out and Needles taped a new number on him and stuck him back in. This is down at—on the pier in Santa Monica. -- when I started, they would have their practices the first week or so at the El Segundo gym, El Segundo High School. Then they changed to Huntington Park High School from 5 o'clock till 7 o'clock. I had a car, so we had a couple of kids that had brought in from Texas. And they lived right on the edge of Beverly Hills. My folks lived in Westwood. And so I would go down and we'd practice for two hours in Huntington Park and then I'd drive these two guys back and go home. You'd get home about 9 o'clock or so. My God, it was awful. But—and they didn't, you know, they didn't have great teams when I was here, but they were doing all right. They were beating—they were able to beat UCLA, which did not have good teams in those days.

MR. PETERSON: Uh-huh. So just moving on to football, what was it like having a football team on campus?

MR. BODKIN: Well—

MR. PETERSON: [Interposing] Or was their football team—

MR. BODKIN: [Interposing] Well, Loyola did pretty well. They hired Tom Lieb. They tried to hire Rockne. And, of course, he was not about to leave Notre Dame. But he recommended his number one assistant, Tom Lieb, and they hired him in 1930. And he built up a very good program. I mentioned it in that article that I sent you. And they started playing some intersectional teams. They played Michigan State, they played Villanova, and they played—in additional to all of the local Pacific Coast Catholic schools. They played Texas Tech, beat them three years in a row before Texas Tech got into the Southwest Conference. They played Baylor and lost a couple of times. They played Centenary, which was then a respectable football school. It's not now. They played Hardin-Simmons, a little school down in Texas that had one of the greatest football players of all time, a guy named
Bulldog Turner that played with the Bears, Chicago Bears, for years, was All Pro and so on. And they did very respectably. And then one of the priests here, who they named a hall after, Lorenzo Malone, was instrumental in having Lieb fired and the football program went to hell after that until after the war when they hired Jordan Olivar. And then it—they had some—two great years.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah. So did having a football team make—like bring campus camaraderie—

MR. BODKIN: [Interposing] Oh, absolutely. I mean, that was the biggest thing, yeah, yeah. Everybody looked forward to that. And, see, they started out playing at old Wrigley Field down on Avalon Boulevard. And then Gilmore Stadium was built in about 1933 or so, so they moved over there and played there until it was torn down—

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[START MZ000019]

MR. BODKIN: —in—or at the end of the 1949 season. And then they played one year in the Rose Bowl. And that was the last year of football here.

MR. PETERSON: Okay. So did you—you grew up, did you grow up going to these sporting events as well.

MR. BODKIN: Oh, absolutely. Absolutely.

MR. PETERSON: And then—so after your graduation, I understand you went to—like in 1950, you were the president of the Roaring Lions?

MR. BODKIN: Yeah.

MR. PETERSON: Then from what I understand, that was Loyola's best football year?

MR. BODKIN: That's right.

MR. PETERSON: Nineteen fifty. Can you tell me about that?

MR. BODKIN: Yeah. I want to say, see, I got called back in the Navy in '51. Yes, 1950 was—it was the best year. It was Olivar's. He coached in '51. That's when they were in the Rose Bowl. I was back in the Navy, so I didn't see any of that. But in 1950, see, the year before, they had played
what was then the College of Pacific, which is now University of Pacific. They had a quarterback named Eddie LeBaron, who was a little guy, who was very, very good, went to—well, I guess it was the Dallas Cowboys and did very well in the NFL. And we went out there to Stockton and played them early in the season. And it was a sensational game, which I think we won like 37-35 or something like that. It was just back and forth all night long. And we were all set and the last game we played was against Santa Clara, which was not having a good year. And damn it if they didn't beat us. If we had beaten them, we would've gone to the Orange Bowl. Or the Sugar Bowl. I guess it was the Sugar Bowl. I'm not sure. But we lost it, so we didn't get that bid. And that was that. But we had beaten all our usual rivals. And I can't remember who else we played aside from the usual Catholic schools out here, at Arizona State probably and maybe Arizona. We usually played them each year. And that's before they got in the Pacific Coast Conference. But they were always very good teams.

MR. PETERSON: Uh-huh. And so you had talked about your fraternity, Sigma Phi Zeta.

MR. BODKIN: Yes.

MR. PETERSON: So like what kind of activities did they do? Or just what was that?

MR. BODKIN: All we did was we would have meetings on Monday nights at some guy's house and, you know, have a little beer and that sort of thing. And then before every dance, they'd have a—what amounts to a cocktail party some—at somebody's house. And that's about it.

MR. PETERSON: Okay. Was the fraternity affected at all by the war and the—

MR. BODKIN: [Interposing] Well, yeah. Everybody disappeared, you know. So I don't know what happened to it after that. And then after—well, after the war, I used to show up on Monday nights and I had a lot of friends that came back after the war and some friends that I made that I still see occasionally who got into the fraternity after the war. And then eventually fraternities were allowed back on campus and I think that the Zetas became part of an—of a national fraternity, so I guess they have fraternities on campus now, don't they?
MR. PETERSON: Uh-huh. Yeah, they do.

MR. BODKIN: And are they successful?

MR. PETERSON: Yeah, they're pretty successful, uh-huh. They're pretty big. And the-so regarding the-more of like the student population, was the-was it very diverse? Well, and were there any Japanese students on campus? Do you remember? Or?

MR. BODKIN: Very few, but some. I remember there was a-one guy who I think eventually became a Jesuit whose name I can't remember because I didn't know him very well. But I think thee was only about one black kid. I can't even remember his name now.

[END MZ000019]

[START MZ000020]

MR. BODKIN: And—but very few other than white guys and probably a few Mexican kids, but not many. So I would say in answer to your question, no, it was not very diverse. But that was I think typical of most colleges in those days.

MR. PETERSON: Right. Uh-huh. Were most people Catholic?

MR. BODKIN: I think so. I think there was very little reason for people other than Catholics to come here other than the athletes. And I would say that—and I'm just guessing, but I'll bet you that 1/3 of the student body were here on athletic scholarships. Maybe that's a little strong, but it was a high percentage, a high percentage.

MR. PETERSON: Okay. How important was Catholicism to student life on campus?

MR. BODKIN: Well, you had to take a religion course every semester and a philosophy course every semester, so you had four years of religion and four years of philosophy, which wasn't all that bad. And I guess that's no longer the case, is it?

MR. PETERSON: No, it's a lot less now. Uh-huh. And what was your major again? What did you major in?

MR. BODKIN: Political science.

MR. PETERSON: Okay. And so, let's see. Do you ever remember
writing—did you write any political science kind of things for the Loyolan ever? Or was it mostly just sports?

MR. BODKIN: Yeah.

MR. PETERSON: Okay.

MR. BODKIN: I can't remember writing anything but sports. I turned down the chance to be the editor-in-chief in my last year because I wasn't interested in the other stuff.

MR. PETERSON: Uh-huh. You just wanted to do sports. So after your—after you'd—were in the Navy, then you were in the Reserve until 1945? Or you were—like how long were you active in the Navy?

MR. BODKIN: Well, I was in the—I went in the Navy in—I went on active duty in February of '43. I got out in December of '45. I started into law school January the 2nd of '46. Got out of law school in March of '46. And then was—then I stayed in the—I joined the Organized Reserve for the money. And when I was in law school and stayed in after I started practicing law because I needed the money then to supplement what I was getting as a young lawyer. And then when the Korean War came along, I was recalled for two years to the day. And I got back out on April the 1st, 1953, went back to work.

MR. PETERSON: Okay. Why did you return to school to study law? And why did you pick Loyola's law school?

MR. BODKIN: My father.

MR. PETERSON: Okay. Was he also a lawyer—

MR. BODKIN: [Interposing] Oh yeah. That's what I say, he had been on the original faculty.

MR. PETERSON: Oh, uh-huh, at the law school.

MR. BODKIN: At the law school.

MR. PETERSON: Uh-huh. And even though you concluded studying at Loyola in I think 1948, was that the last year you studied at the law school.

MR. BODKIN: I got out of law school in March of '48.

MR. PETERSON: Okay. But you—you've continued your involvement with Loyola.
MR. BODKIN: Oh yeah.

MR. PETERSON: Like I think you were a Marymount College regent, then LMU trustee, and then you were the president of LMU's Alumni Association.

MR. BODKIN: Well, I would've been except I got called back in the Navy.

MR. PETERSON: Oh, okay. So you would've been, but you didn't actually get that—

MR. BODKIN: [Interposing] No.

MR. PETERSON: Okay. That was—okay. And then the—and so what was it—what is it about Loyola that caused you to be so involved over all of these years?

MR. BODKIN: -- because I liked it.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah. The—okay. And what kind of—what changes have you seen at Loyola? As it, I mean, became Loyola Marymount.

MR. BODKIN: It's fantastic. I mean, it went from a little place with the two buildings I talked about. And then after the war, the first thing that happened was they built some Quonset huts. And then they started building buildings. And by the time—

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[START MZ000021]

MR. BODKIN: --they hadn't built much. I guess the—they built Malone Center, whatever they call it, and they built the Foley Hall, where the communications arts building is, and Pereira Hall, the science building. Those were the—some of the first ones that I can remember. And the one they named after Brother Pereira over there back of—oh, toward the swimming pool, you know, I'm trying to think of the name. I think it's—see, Brother Pereira was a Jesuit brother who used to take care of the grounds. Very nice guy, big, burly Italian that everybody knew and loved. Just a nice guy. And when he died, they named a building after him.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah, they have the Pereira building, yeah, yeah.

MR. BODKIN: Yeah. And so that was one of the first ones they
built. And then they built the—I've forgotten the names of these buildings now, but the two that you go in between to get down to the Doheny.

MR. PETERSON: Oh, yeah, I think it was Huesman and Sullivan.

MR. BODKIN: Yes, Huesman and Sullivan, yeah. Yeah. So they were among the first that were built after the war. And then they built the three dorms over there towards the Bird's Nest. And the apartments back over here where the—what was originally the headquarters of the nuns, Foley. Not Foley. Leavey. Leavey.

MR. PETERSON: Oh, okay, Leavey, yeah. And then, let's see. Were there any other just besides, I mean, there was like besides the building physical part of the campus, where there any other—like any other major—like what were the other major changes that you can remember happening? I mean, obviously there was the when girls came to campus in—

MR. BODKIN: [Interposing] Well, yeah. What year was that?

MR. PETERSON: I think that was '73?

MR. BODKIN: Oh, when they—first of all, they brought Marymount in and they were running separate institutions on the same campus for a couple of years and then they merged. What year was the merger?

MR. PETERSON: I think '73 was the merger. I think before that, they had -- the same campus.

MR. BODKIN: Yeah, and—well, I can also remember being in—at a dinner when Father Whelan, who was then the president, announced that they were going to build the chapel.

MR. PETERSON: Oh, yeah?

MR. BODKIN: Yeah. I remember where that was. That was down in a restaurant on Western Avenue. I remember that very well. And that was a great, great night. And—

MR. PETERSON: [Interposing] And so was that during your time as—what position did you have within the school during that time?

MR. BODKIN: Oh, I don't know that I had a particular position. I was just an interested Loyola alumnus and—
MR. PETERSON: [Interposing] Uh-huh. Okay. And then I know that you served on the commission for the Commission on the Future of LMU—

MR. BODKIN: [Interposing] I did, yeah.


MR. BODKIN: Uh-huh.

MR. PETERSON: Can you tell me about that? Like did your commission set specific goals or?

MR. BODKIN: Raising money. That was the whole purpose of that. The guy who was the vice president for Fundraising, and I can't think of his name now, came up with the idea for that commission, which was a good idea. And the whole purpose of that was to stimulate interest, which led up to that first big fundraising drive, which was a success. And—

MR. BODKIN: —it was just to generate interest in Los Angeles and the university. I can remember some of the initial meetings of that group. And when did you say that started? In?

MR. PETERSON: Nineteen eighty-eight.

MR. BODKIN: Yeah.

MR. PETERSON: So in retrospect, how do you think your affiliation with Loyola and then LMU has impacted your life?

MR. BODKIN: Well, I don't know. I've enjoyed it a lot. And I hope I've made some little contribution. You know, most of my friends are gone these days. Not many of the guys from my class left. But I've known—as a matter of fact, when the last president retired or announced his retirement, I wrote him a letter and told him that I had known all of the presidents since Father Maher. It was Father Maher, then Father Duce, then Father McQuillan, then Father Whelan, and so on. And I've known all of them. And Cassassa, Merrifield, Loughran. And with the possible exception of Charlie Cassassa, I think that Bob Lawton is the best of the bunch. He was terrific. Is he on campus these days?

MR. PETERSON: I'm not sure actually. I don't—I honestly don't
MR. BODKIN: I don't think he is.

MR. PETERSON: I don't—yeah, I don't think he is either.

MR. BODKIN: I don't know.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah, what about—like what about him did you think was so?

MR. BODKIN: Lawton?

MR. PETERSON: Yeah. As compared to the other presidents, like—like how he ran things or?

MR. BODKIN: Well, of course, I've sort of been out of things since I left the board. And that's been quite a while ago. But from what I've seen of him, I just have a very favorable impression. I think he's a—well, I liked all of them. I liked Loughran, I liked O'Malley. And as I say, I knew all of these guys. I knew them probably better. I had more to do with them than I have had with Bob Lawton. But I just have a higher regard for them than as far as their performance on the job than the others. And, of course, Lawton, I mean, Charlie Cassassa, who was one of a kind.

MR. PETERSON: Uh-huh. So as you've known all of the presidents, has the—like the message of the university or the goal, has that stayed consistent or?

MR. BODKIN: Well, I think it's improved a great deal. I mean, you know, nobody took the university very seriously I think in Los Angeles until the last 10 or 20 years because it was a very small institution. And now it's much different—the size, the scope of the programs that it offers, and the reputation, and, of course, the law school has just done very, very well. And another guy that never gets the credit that he's entitled to is Father Donovan, who was the regent of the law school and who really is the guy that built it out of nothing. And he generated a nationwide—

[END MZ000022]

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MR. BODKIN:—reputation for this little school.

MR. PETERSON: Uh-huh. So what do you treasure most about
attending Loyola? Like—

MR. BODKIN: [Interposing] About attending Loyola?

MR. PETERSON: Yeah.

MR. BODKIN: Oh, boy, I find it difficult to answer that. I just think that it gave me a good education. It, you know, being a Catholic, I think that was very important to me. I have no—I just find it very difficult to answer that question.

MR. PETERSON: Okay. Like what are your fondest memories of the campus? Or of your time at Loyola?

MR. BODKIN: The high—the biggest social event of the year when I was at Loyola was the Saint Pat's Day dance, which was always at the Riviera Country Club. And it was always a drunken brawl. It wasn't a brawl. It was a big—and I belong to Riviera now. I played tennis there for years. And I never walk into that place that I don't think about those events. I think I went to three or four of them. I'm not sure of that. Well, only three because I was gone by the time Saint Pat's came around in 1942, or '43 I should say, yeah. But—and the football games and the hockey games, those are the things that I remember best. But—and the Zeta events, which I thoroughly enjoyed. And, of course, as I say, that was all underground. And I made a lot of good friends. So that's the story.

MR. PETERSON: All right. And the—so is there anything else you'd like to talk about or anything we've left out of the discussion that you want to—that you think is worth talking about your experience of Loyola over the past years or?

MR. BODKIN: No. I've just enjoyed seeing it grow and change. And it's just been—the changes have just been enormous. And, you know, I live close to UCLA. I drive through that campus several times a week. And the changes there are likewise enormous, but there was a lot to begin with there. There was nothing to start with here. And the changes are that much more impressive to me, plus the fact that I was much closer to this place, so.

MR. PETERSON: Uh-huh. Is there—did you think that—is there anything you can pinpoint about that you—that drew you so—that connected you to this place so much or?

MR. BODKIN: Hm, no, except that, you know, I was just sort of
born into it. I had a closer connection because of my family connection than most people did. And what more can I tell you?

MR. PETERSON: Right. Actually that's a—that's prevalent today. I mean, that's why I'm here. My parents went here and—

MR. BODKIN: [Interposing] What is the purpose of all of this?

MR. PETERSON: Oh, the interview process? We're putting together an oral history of LMU is the goal. We're going to—so we're interviewing alumni. And we don't—we're not fully sure what the end product is going to be. We're just interviewing alumni through from as far back as we can go till the present, just what their take on the—on Loyola was and what their experiences were and—

MR. BODKIN: [Interposing] Have you gotten many people earlier than the class of '43?

MR. PETERSON: I don't think so. You're one of the earliest I think.

MR. BODKIN: Yeah. Yeah.

MR. PETERSON: Uh-huh.

MR. BODKIN: Well, if there's anything more you can think of, holler.

MR. PETERSON: I will.

MR. BODKIN: You know where to reach me.

MR. PETERSON: Thank you. Well, thank you very, very much.

MR. BODKIN: -- is father—president's office, which way is he? This way or?

MR. PETERSON: Oh, the president's office is up the fourth floor and then I think—actually it might just be—it might be right—

MR. BODKIN: [Interposing] I think it's on—

[Crosstalk]

MR. PETERSON: --I think it's that—I think it's—the president's office, I think is the fourth floor.

[END MZ000023]