

Laura Kelsey Raney

Jim Hayes's sister

*Interview conducted by
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in 2015 in Burleson, Texas
Transcription by
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Disability Studies Minor
Special Collections and Archives
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Biography

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Rose

This is Sarah Rose.

Engel

And Trevor Engel.

Rose

Interviewing Laura Kelsey Raney at her home in Burleson, Texas. It is Tuesday, July 28th 2015 and we are interviewing her for the Texas Disability History Project. This interview will be put in the special collections at UT Arlington Libraries, and we are also interested in using it for a museum exhibit on disability history in UTA and this is about getting a sense of her life and also her brother Jim's contributions to adaptive sports, accessibility, disability rights, and UT Arlington. As you were starting to say about his personality and also record keeping...

Raney

<topic>Jim's records</topic>

Okay, now, he did keep just about everything. I will go through the files and I'll find the paperwork because I'm sure I have them. As far as work at home, up at until the last probably two years of his life, he didn't bring work home.

Rose

Okay.

Raney

When he came home...it was...you didn't know anything, you know? Unless it was something really, really, really, really positive, but as far as his struggles and what he fought for until he actually succeeded...I guess it was years before I found out that Moritz Chevrolet, Jim would go every year to them and they donated to the wheelchair basketball.

Rose

Oh wow. Was that in Fort Worth?

Raney

Yes, but he had an agreement too, he always bought his vehicle there.

Rose

Okay. Wow. But, so, you said he kept everything?

Raney

Oh yeah.

Rose

We have leads on campus, there are a bunch of different offices, but we've heard there's another...another Wayne or another Jim that may have gotten some of the records from Academic Affairs and the university archivist, who is new, is trying to track them down. They might be in the Physical Education Building. There is apparently a cage with all sorts of records.

Raney

Oh wow.

Rose

That is kind of hazardous, like, you need a dust mask to go in.

Raney

Yes.

Rose

Basically we have the sports records, what we don't have is...you know, if he kept everything, he must have had a lot of correspondence about how he did all of this.

Raney

I would think...I mean I'm sure he does. A lot of his stuff I've just got boxed.

Rose

Okay.

Raney

You know? I can get into the storage and get that. Now, all the newspaper articles from day one...what's her name...the little...I had her name in my head...it's the girl that works with the girl's team...

Rose

Oh, Darlene?

Raney

Darlene! Darlene Hunter. She has the whole box of all the newspaper clippings.

Rose

Okay. She knew she had...she said she had some stuff.

Raney

I mean, it's...it's a box. You know?

Rose

Okay.

Raney

It also has plaques. I told her if you could use them, utilize them, do...

Rose

Okay. I think we really want to put you in touch with Brenda McClurkin, who is fantastic, and Betty Shankle, who is the new university archivist. She is still kind of getting her feet wet, but Brenda is one of the principle investigators, kind of one of the lead people on this digitization project about disability history. We'll hear next week...next Monday if we get it for sure.

Raney

Oh great!

Rose

She's just dived into disability history and preserving this. Basically, they would, at some point, love to make copies and then put them in the records, so that this can all go up on the web, people can come and research UTA, and know much more about Jim.

Raney

That would be great. That would be great.

Rose

We'll figure out a time that you can come and she wants to give you a tour and they just processed the records they have.

Raney

I would love that.

Rose

Yeah. I mean you've met Brenda (points at Trevor).

Engel

Yeah, Brenda's great.

Rose

Yeah, she's really committed to this.

Raney

That's great, that's great.

Rose

Yeah, so...

Raney

That's what it takes because there's a lot of it, really.

Rose

Yeah. They've also found by working with the Disability Studies Minors and a research class that they have a lot of disability history that's unrelated [to UTA disability history] as well. It's been interesting for them to, sort of, explore their records in a new way.

Raney

That's right, yes.

Rose

Let's start with some basics.

Raney

Okay.

Rose

Can you just start by telling us about your childhood and any...Jim was just one of your siblings?

Raney

Right, there was four of us. I have an older sister and then Jim, then brother John, and then myself.

Rose

Okay, and how far apart are you?

Raney

There's six years between myself and my oldest sister.

Rose

What's her name?

Raney

Mary. Mary Miller. Then there was Jim...he was born in '48 and I was born in '53.

Rose

And John?

Raney

John was born in '51.

Jim and John were...they were partners in crime (laughs) in everything when we were growing up. In fact, I even have some childhood videos of it that mom and dad had taken. In one of them mom is sitting there—I can't imagine my brothers not beating the tar out of me because they had gotten in a fight and I had a baseball glove on my hand and I was hitting them on the butt with the baseball glove trying to break them up (laughs).

Rose

Wow!

Raney

They were just ignoring me. (laughs)

Rose

That's sounds amazing.

Engel

Yeah.

Raney

We were a typical family back then. Dad worked at the railroad, mom tried to stay at home with us and our grandparents lived next door. Jim was very close to my grandfather and great-grandfather.

Rose

Oh okay.

Raney

In fact, they taught him how to drive. It was like an old...one of those real old trucks, you know, stick-shift things. That's what he learned to drive in, and he'd go to the gravel pit, is what they called it, where that they junked cars.

Rose

Where was this? Because I know...he went to Pascal right?

Raney

<topic>Home life</topic>

Yeah. It was in Fort Worth. We were born and raised on Townsend Drive.

Rose

Okay. Because I live just a little north of TCU, so it is in the Pascal district.

Raney

Okay this is south of the Baptist Theological Seminary. In fact, when my dad passed away, brother Jim bought the house right next door to my mother, which is the one she lived in and the house that we were raised in. It's...I don't know...air conditioning, we had one water cooler; we had black and white TV (laughs). It was the good days where there were no cell phones, you know? No Ipads, none of that good stuff, you know?

Rose

What did you dad do for the railroad?

Raney

He was a switchman.

Rose

Okay.

Raney

He climbed box cars and switched.

Rose

Wow! Dangerous work.

Raney

Yeah, in fact he did fall off one time and he broke a bunch of ribs, but he was the type...he was like Jim, he's so into work. He got wrapped and he went... he didn't miss work. He had a lawnmower shop in the back of our house that he did part time and he taught the boys, Jim and John, how to work on lawnmowers. That's where Jim got his mechanical ability...fixing things.

Rose

Wow...I want to come back to that. Some other students have done interviews with Willie Hernandez and Jay Nelms and sort of...there's someone who did a project, actually in the class Trevor was in, about wheelchair design and...I know the team had to modify wheelchairs a lot, so I bet that came in handy.

Raney

Oh...Yes. Yes. I'm sure it did. (Laughs)

Rose

What kind of things did you guys do while growing up?

Raney

We had a creek behind our house, and we always liked to go crawdad fishing. We all had BB guns, well, my big sister didn't. She was a "fufu" girl, I was a tom-girl. (laughs) We played Tarzan and Jane, cowboys and Indians, and all the....kids just don't do it now, they don't have the imagination to do it now. That's really... we just enjoyed the outdoors. We weren't in very much, the boys always...baseball, football; I wasn't very good at it, I always got hit in the head with the baseball bat or something like that. (laughs) So I stayed behind. Dad would have me be the hind catcher in baseball and he stood in front of me. I was very protected. We went fishing for vacations; we'd go camping and fishing...just a very calm life.

Rose

It was really rural in that area of Fort Worth, right?

Raney

Ah...yeah...I guess it really kind of was.

Rose

Well, compared to now, I guess.

Raney

Compared to now, yeah. Everything is build up crazy now. The drive from Fort Worth to Crowley was nothing but pasture, nothing but pasture back then. So...

Rose

So you guys all went to Pascal High School?

Raney

Yes we did. We all graduated from Pascal.

Rose

<topic>Jim growing up and in high school</topic>

Wow. What was Jim like? Growing up and in high school?

Raney

(Laughs) He was...he was, well up until his accident, he was a character. If there was trouble to get into, he would find it, you know? Mother used to tell him the story when he was in junior high, she would take him to school and before she could get around the block he had already left the campus. (laughs)

He was a little trying character. He passed his classes, but it's like, "I'm not going to put forth any more effort than what I have to to pass." He...I'll tell you one thing very very personal about him, you may not want this...

Rose

Do you want me to pause it?

Raney

He...Jim was not...he was a virgin to the day he died. You know, which, as wild as he was in his teen years, you wouldn't even imagine it. I thought, "Oh man." Because we kind of hung out together right...about a year before his accident because he would...he was driving. He would take me places I needed to go.

Rose

So he was about seventeen and you were...?

Raney

Ehhh...whatever.

Rose

I guess...you were five years apart?

Raney

Yeah about five years.

Rose

Okay so about twelve.

Raney

Yeah, so if I had to go somewhere, he'd take me. Go visit a friend, dental appointment, or stuff like that he'd take me during the summer. He had a girlfriend and the girlfriend had a little boy. Of course, you know where my mind went, you know? I'm sitting there going, "Okay so I know what brother does on his dates." (laughs) But it never was that way and I was really amazed to find out.

Rose

Wow. When did you find out?

Raney

<topic> Jim's houses </topic>

Oh, about a year, maybe a year before he passed. He and I got really really close the last few years, probably the last five years because we were both sharing the care of my mother. She has Alzheimer's, and I moved in with her in...I want to say about '99. I stayed in the back bedroom but I could hear everything. She broke her hip, she had an intestinal perforation, she had all these things happening and it was just a good thing we were there. If I, of course, I had horses for years, so if I was going on a trail ride, we had a baby monitor hooked up where that Jim could hear anything going on in mom's house from his house because he lived next door. If I went on a trail ride, he would turn the monitor on where that he could keep up with her, and he would go and make sure she had her medication, which that alone was trying for him because pushing a wheelchair through grass is not the easiest thing in the world, you know?

Rose

Yeah. Were both houses accessible?

Raney

Yes because the house that mom lived in was the house he came home to when he had his accident, and they did put in a ramp and widen the doors.

Rose

Okay, before he came home?

Raney

Yes, before he came home.

Rose

Okay.

Raney

Then when he bought the house next door to mom, he had it completely gutted and it was totally handicapped accessible. All the counters were low, he had the ramp going into his doors, all of his doors were large, in the backyard, actually he and I build the deck, and we put a ramp down it. Now Shelby rebuilt it later...but put a ramp down it. He would...bought a riding lawnmower. He actually mowed his own yard, unless I could beat him to it—sometimes I would!

Rose

He just transferred in?

Raney

Yeah. It was harder for him because sometimes his pants would catch on the shifter, you know? It just made me a nervous wreck when he did, but I let him. I learned Jim was one of these you did not put in with something he could do. He didn't want you to do it.

One time at Christmas when I was...when I was married the first time. He had come through to our Christmas gathering, and I went to help him take his jacket off—oh bad move. He hurt my feelings (laughs). He gave me that look and he says, "I think I can do it myself." I'm sitting there "oops." He was just like that, you help him when he needs it—know when to back away.

Rose

Only when he asks.

Raney

Yep, only when he asks, or when you see him really needing it. Then you've got to be able to approach it right. Not like you're really helping him, just "Hey how about letting me do that for you?" you know? "I bet you I can do that." He was very self-sufficient as far as he could be.

Rose

<topic>Jim's injury</topic>

He was planning to go to Vietnam, right? [unintelligible]

Raney

Actually, yes, they had the draft...they had the draft then and he was drafted. Every teenage boy when they graduated from high school was drafted. It was his eighteenth birthday, we went out to Benbrook and I will never forget it—ever ever ever ever. I was like, two feet away from him and I was in knee-deep water and there was a pontoon boat right there. He went running down that pontoon boat, jumped up in the air, and dove in head first. I saw him bounce—he bounced, and then just layed head down, hands out. I yelled at his brother John and said, “Jim’s hurt.” He said, “No he’s playin.” I said, “No, Jim’s drowning.” He says “He’s just playing, sis.” Of course I was froze. You know, why I didn’t go over there and pull him up? I don’t know. I just froze.

Well, they finally pulled him up and I had taken a course in first aid in school, so when they pulled him up he wasn’t breathing. They did the CPR and got him breathing, and I was looking around to see how far the marina was because he needed an ambulance. We didn’t have cellphones then, you know? (laughs) You had to go someplace to make the call.

Jim regained consciousness and asked John to stand him up and he said, “I can’t feel my legs.” He says, “Stand me up, stand me up.” And my...I kept telling him, “No leave him still. Call an ambulance.” Well, they stood him up. Of course he was already paralyzed. Then they proceeded to put him in the back seat of the car—squishing him in. There was a lot of us that went out there, so my grandparents, brother John, his girlfriends, Jim’s girlfriend, and myself in one car. (laughs) So they got him in the car, his feet were hanging out the window.

Rose

So there would have been a lot of movement for his back and neck?

Raney

Yeah. A lot of movement. We went by to get mom and my grandparents stayed at the house and any unnecessary people stayed. Mom and Johnny got ahold of dad. They went to the first emergency clinic and the doctor wouldn’t even take him in. He said, “Nope. Take him to Harris. We’re not gonna move him.” I think we had to take the seat out. I was pretty young and I didn’t go, but I believe they took the seat out.

Rose

That’s what is in the article. It said they just unbolted the seat.

Raney

Yeah. He...they told...dad told me that they said if he made it through the night, he’d probably make it. Jim told me that dad told him not to give up, “Don’t give up on me, son.” That’s how all that happened, and he was real depressed and it took a long time...I remember going—it was Fort Worth Children’s then, it wasn’t Cook’s. It was Fort Worth Children’s.

Rose

You work for Cook Children’s?

Raney

Yes. It was connected to Harris through a tunnel, so they...once he was stable and out of ICU, they moved him to Fort Worth Children's, and they'd take him in the tunnel for therapy. They had him in a circular bed where they would sandwich him in to turn him because they had the tongs with the weight, you know.

Rose

I guess that's to prevent pressure sores?

Raney

For the turning? Yeah. He would always pass out when they got him straight up—always, because he had been lying flat for so long. He hated that. When he came home, when mom had gone...she had gone to work to help with—I'm sorry—so I took care of Jim while she was working. The usual cleaning and...

Coffee! He loved his coffee, and what we didn't figure out until later and actually probably about five years before his death. He'd get in sweats, he would just start pouring sweat and he didn't know why and he did that from the time he had his accident. Well, what I finally realized and I told him, "Brother, your body is telling you it's hurting. You can't feel the pain, but your body knows it's hurting." That is what we finally figured out, so if he took a Tylenol...a couple Tylenol, he'd quit sweating because he stopped the pain. I can't imagine the doctors not keying in on that, but that's what we discovered about him. That when he started sweating, he was hurting, whether he had a kidney infection or whether his legs were cramping and he just couldn't feel it or whatever it was...the neck hurting, the back hurting...

Rose

That's fascinating. I've never heard of it.

Raney

It is. Yeah. We would figure things like that out together.

Rose

Wow. What other things...what other things did you guys figure out?

Raney

<topic>Personal stories</topic>

We figured out his wiring was not bad in his house, it was his light bulb, did you ever hear that story?

Rose

No.

Raney

That's one of the things that I helped him do. Jim was like this, "Sis can you help me do something, it won't take but about an hour?" I'd say, "Sure bro, I'll be over in 30 minutes." I go over there and this time he says, "This light above my table has a short in it. We need to take it down and I need to rewire it." I said, "Okay, just tell me what to do." He says, "Well, undo those screws." Of course, it was higher than he could reach, so he had to lead me through it. We went through it and we pulled all the bulbs down, he had me cut the wires, and then pull all the wire down, and tape it and then do the little things that connect the wire and then put it all back up. He says, "Okay we should have it now." This took about three hours to do all this.

I knew better than to...if he said thirty minutes to an hour--plan on half a day, plan on it; because it's going to be a little more than what you think. We turned the switch on, it wouldn't work. He says, "Well I guess we're going to have to take it down again." I said, "Brother, did you check the lightbulb?" He looked at me—you would not have believed that look, it was like "uh, duh" you know? I got a lightbulb, put it in it—worked perfectly. I'm sitting there, "Okay, so you got a rewiring for no reason?"

He wouldn't...I wouldn't let him forget it because anytime I'd bring it up, he'd get that look. It was a grin with "I knew you'd never let me forget this," so we shared stuff like that. Fishing, now a lot of times he wanted to go fishing while I had to work, but we worked that out too.

Rose

Have you been working all the time for Cook Children's?

Raney

Actually, no. I worked for Cook Children's in two-thousand...I've worked there for five years...2008...2009. I worked for a place called Medical Matrix off of Camp Bowie and I worked there for like eleven years until they closed their doors.

Rose

What were you doing there?

Raney

Processing prescription claims for pharmacies, for ChampVA, for Va, Tricare, Medicare; helping the pharmacies get the claims through—They'd call us and they'd have to have the prior authorizations or something like that and we would do that.

<topic>Jim fishing boats</topic>

When I couldn't go fishing and Jim really wanted to, I would come home after work, he would have his boat all ready and hooked up with all of his stuff where all I had to do was put it in his boat—his ice chest and everything. We'd go out to the lake and I would put the boat in the water for him and then he would go park his truck—cause I'd follow him—he'd go park his truck and I would drive the boat around

to the dock and then he would get on. He had a cell phone. Now his cell phone was in a case—one of the first cell phones.

Rose

Can you give a description of how big for the recorder?

Raney

Well it was about...I'd say twelve inches long and six inches wide and about three...four inches deep and it had its own battery...thing...that you had to replace the batteries in. It looked like a regular telephone receiver with the buttons. It was heavy...and it had an antenna you had to pull up—a big antenna, okay? That was his cell phone.

So I'd tell him, "Okay, when you get wherever you're gonna fish for the night, you call me." He would, so I'd say, "Okay, you don't move from there." I knew where he was, so if there was a problem I could send help. All he had to do was call. Then, in the morning, when I'd get up, I'd give him a call and say, "Okay bro, I'm on my way out to get you," because he would fish all night. I'd get out there early enough to get him out of the boat, get the boat on the trailer, get him headed home, and then I'd go to work.

Rose

Wow, and did he go to work too?

Raney

Actually, he would only go fishing when he had days off.

Rose

Okay.

Raney

Because if he fished all night, he was going to be dead beat the next day.

Rose

Okay. Can you tell us a little bit about how he adapted his boat? You were telling us about it outside.

Raney

Well, now, when he first started fishing...going to the lake...he had a bass boat, which, it was amazing to watch him. People wouldn't have believed him. He would...he could do it by himself. He'd back his boat in the water, keep the rope attached to the trailer, then he would pull his trailer up, get ahold of the

rope, dock the boat on the beach, go park his trailer, then he would go back to the boat and he would actually lift himself to the top of the boat, flip his wheelchair into it, and then scoot himself into the chair. That's how he fished then; I mean he'd do it himself. Getting out was the same way, he'd beach it, climb out with his wheelchair...

Rose

When did he get that boat, do you think?

Raney

He bought it!

Rose

Okay, do you remember when?

Raney

Oh...wow...probably in...I'd like to say mid 90s?

Rose

Okay.

Raney

What happened with it was...the squirrels decided to nest in it one winter, and they chewed all the wiring. In order to fix it, it would cost more than it would to just get another boat. That is when we went...and with the pontoon boat we went...I took him to Fin and Feather and we were looking. I already had in mind that he needed a pontoon boat because it was so much easier for him.

Rose

Yeah.

Raney

I didn't mind helping get it in the water. Any time he wanted—any time—I'd just do it. He looked at a bass boat, and I'd say, "Well brother, the problem is...you really don't have a place to put your chair, and once you get in a seat, you can't move around. You're stuck right there until you get out. If the fish ain't biting right in that spot, you're just SOL...you're just done."

Then we looked at the pontoon boats and I measured his chair and I went up there and I looked and I measured, and I'm sitting there going, "That'll work." I asked the salesman, "Do the seats come out?"

He says, "Yeah, you just pull them out." I pulled one out, "Ah ha, perfect!" In the back of it, of course, its got the cup holders and the fishing pole holders and it gives him plenty of room to put his tackle box, his bait, you know? He was fixed.

When we'd stay the night we both took sleeping bags and lots of coffee, and when he got tired, Jim would put his sleeping bag on the bench seat, so he'd just transfer from his chair onto the seat into his sleeping bag and sleep. I had enough room at the front of the boat to put mine out and stretch out, so it was like home. I bought him a Coleman coffee maker so we didn't always have to take thermoses. He had a Coleman stove and a coffee maker on the boat.

Rose

Sounds like he was addicted to coffee.

Raney

Oh he was! Totally, totally, totally. In fact, the girls knew that if he had a game, if you wanted to make him happy, bring him Starbucks with lots of sugar. Actually, he was more addicted to the sugar than the coffee. In the mornings, I always told him, "Do you want a little coffee with that sugar?" because he'd have a half a cup of sugar, and I'm sitting there going, "Really?" you know? He loved his sugar and coffee.

Rose

Wow, that's funny.

Raney

When he was young he did ride a donkey, yeah, at the gravel pit. When he went out with my granddad he.... A donkey names Elvis, and the donkey actually laid down on his leg once. You know, because he couldn't get him to go. He was stubborn, like a mule. (laughs) He couldn't get that donkey to go and it would go in circles and it just says, "I'm tired of you kicking me," and it laid down.

Rose

Wow.

Raney

So he tried a lot of things...

Rose

<topic>Interest in medical stuff</topic>

I wanted to come back...one thing we were wondering, were you interested in medical stuff partly because of what he went through? How did that connect, if at all?

Raney

Actually, I think I've always had interest in types of medical. Now, most of my interest had been in animals. I always wanted to be a veterinarian, but unfortunately I married and had children too soon. Which...I think God had plans different than mine, which is fine. I used to raise exotic birds and I had a veterinarian that worked with me; he was learning at the same time I was learning. We learned how to crop-wash, we learned what medications to use, I had a veterinarian at UTA that I would send cultures to and he would tell me what to medicate, and my veterinarian here would give me the medication and we would cure birds.

Sometimes my curiosity...like Candida...it's a common killer in birds: baby hand-fed birds. You read about and you read about it, but I learn better if I have a visual. I had one die and I actually dissected him because I wanted to see, I wanted to see what started it and what happens. I did! I learned tremendously from that.

<topic>Jim's dogs</topic>

Jim would have me give his dogs their shots. If something was ailing them he would ask me, and I would start researching. Thanks goodness we have computers now because the internet is wonderful...to a degree. It gives you ideas.

When Jim was at work one time, somebody cut his fence and both of his labs got out. Apparently they didn't know there were dogs there and they intended to rob, but there were dogs so they scared them and they left. There was a horrible, big cut in his fence. Well the neighbor got the dogs and she tethered them.

Well, unfortunately the dog pound came by; it's against the law to have a tethered animal. They took them to the dog pound, and Jim was frantic when he got home. He called me and I was on my way home from feeding the horses. We went to the dog pound and it was after hours, and I told brother, "You're not going to be able to do anything." We went and a guy came up bringing in some dogs and Jim asked him, "Do you have a black lab and a golden lab that you picked up this evening?" Sure enough, they did and he broke the rules and they let us go in and see them. They were fine. Well turns out, when we got them home they both developed coughs. I'm thinking kennel cough. It turns out after three months and almost losing Champ [the dog], they finally did a blood titer and he had distemper. He had been inoculated, so they couldn't pick up on it because his symptoms were so sporadic because of the inoculation. When they ran the [titer?] it came up positive. They said, "Well if he doesn't have a seizure within twenty-four hours, he'll survive." Obviously he did.

Rose

Oh, so how old is he now?

Raney

He is...he is at least...I'd say about nine years old. Yeah.

Rose

He was really little when Jim got him?

Raney

Yeah, oh yeah.

Rose

He had one other dog, too?

Raney

Yeah, Paddlefoot, which was a golden lab. I had a girlfriend give him Paddlefoot, and he was a thoroughbred golden lab and he was Jim's protector.

Rose

I'm sorry, he was Jim's what?

Raney

He was a protector. He wouldn't bite anybody, I never saw him do that. I didn't ever see him...I only saw him growl and show his teeth at one person in my whole life.

Jim and I were trimming trees in his back yard; that's another one of our projects that we did. I had the chainsaw, Jim pointed the limb and we did. (laughs) Then when we'd get them all down, he'd get the nips and start nipping the smaller limbs so we could get them on the curb.

Well, he had two trees he wanted completely down, so we got them down and he was doing his nipping, but the limbs were all the way around his wheelchair. We could pull them, but that's where he wanted them. Well, Paddlefoot didn't like that. Paddlefoot started dragging the limbs away from Jim, literally dragging them. He felt like Jim was trapped and he was dragging them away.

Then when Champ was a little bitty puppy and we brought him home—Jim told me this because I wasn't there—of course Jim always had his wheelchair by his bed; that's the only way he could get in and out. Well, Champ moved the wheelchair, and it was completely across the room. He said Paddlefoot nosed that chair back up to the bed and layed down in front of it where that Champ couldn't move it. That's the kind of dog Paddlefoot was. When Jim passed, I liked to leave his wheelchair at the table for a while, Paddlefoot sat there for three weeks with his head on that foot rest and that's where he stayed. Those are his boys. And then...

Rose

Should we take an A/C break?

Raney

Yeah! I thought you were getting a little red!

[break in recording]

Raney

<topic>Paraplegia and rehabilitation</topic>

A paraplegic cannot feel pain in their abdomen. Wherever they're paralyzed from down, they're not going to feel pain. I've seen Jim actually drill a hole in his leg accidentally. He didn't feel it. There is no feeling. When he got sick, if I could have... I knew a week before he got sick he told me, "Sis, I couldn't even keep down chicken noodle soup."

You don't want to panic, you don't want to panic. I'm sitting there thinking that we've seen him have kidney infections bad enough to where it caused vomiting. He had some Cepro. I asked him if he had any antibiotics, he said "Yeah" and I said "Why don't you take some Cepro and then go see your urologist tomorrow? Have them run a culture" and he says that "They're out of town I can't go until next week." I said "Okay, at least do that, see if it helps." Well, it did help.

I'm a member of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Posse, so that weekend I was supposed to help at the golf tournament and we had a booth. We earned money for the Posse by running the booth. I was supposed to be there for two days. I checked on Jim and he didn't look very good. He said "I'll be okay, you just go do your thing." He was kicked back on the couch and says he was taking pain pills because he was hurting. He knew he was hurting because he was sweating.

Shelby, my husband, went and checked on him about noon. He called me and says that "He don't look good; he don't look good at all. He is so weak, he can hardly talk." I just left, I came home and I went over there to him. I said, "Bro, let's try some sherbet." I fed him some sherbet while he was kicked back on the couch; it wasn't two seconds until it came up. I could tell it was vile, it wasn't like it should be. It wasn't just sherbet. I looked at him and said "Your stomach is distended." I told him "You have a choice, we can either call an ambulance or you can get in the car and let me take you to the hospital." He said "Well you go feed your horses and let me take a shower." I said, "No. Shelby will feed the horses, dogs are fed, let's go."

He got in the car and he was hurting. My brother never complained about anything. You didn't know when he had a headache or when he had the flu. I'll never forget it was "Oh God, oh God," every breath, "oh God." He was hurting. When we get him, to the hospital, first they run the tube and that helped pain because he was so distended. This stupid doctor, I'm a better doctor than she was, thank you. Comes in and says, "Well Mr. Hayes, you've had a heart attack. Are you a diabetic?" I'm sitting there, "Lady put it together, his body is shutting down. Can you please put it together?"

It wasn't til the next day that they actually knew what was wrong, when twenty-four hours earlier they could've saved his life... twenty-four hours earlier, they could've saved him. If they would've gone in immediately he would be alive. But, what you do? They did a sonogram, they said it showed inconclusive. Hello?! Do we have to wait til morning to get something done? Can we not do something now? They took him into surgery.

I called who I thought was his girlfriend, which I found out was really not. I knew he was talking to somebody because I would hear him on the phone. He didn't actually share a lot of that stuff. He let me meet them, if he had a girlfriend he would let me meet them, and that's as far as it went. I knew if one broke his heart, I knew. He'd tell me about it. I thought he was talking to one, and then I found out later it wasn't that one he was talking to, it was one that broke his heart. Actually, her daughter was friends with Darlene. That's the way I found out. Anyway, I had called her because I really didn't know...

I know paraplegic's bodies are different than ours, they respond differently. I also knew Jim had an aortic aneurysm. I knew that, it was a three centimeter. I knew that they did surgery, they needed to watch for that and I tried to tell them, I don't whether they wrote it in his chart or not. It would be really curious to know if they actually cut into that and he bled to death. I think it would be interesting to know, but I'll never know.

[Break in recording]

Rose

Back in business.

Disability historians found that it seems that rehabilitation programs were often really a key way of linking people up. The guy who made DC's Metro accessible, their subway accessible, he went to Illinois. He only knew he could go to college, and that there was an accessible college. He actually broke his neck around the same time as Jim, Fred Fay. Who is really important in Boston and independent living too... He got a pamphlet from University of Illinois that they sent to all the rehabilitation centers and all the VA's in the country, and he was like, "Oh, this counselor is telling me all I can do is be in a sheltered workshop, but I can go to college."

Did you have a sense of the kind of people that Jim met when he was in rehabilitation or the kind of community?

Raney

When he was in rehab, no, I really didn't. I know this is a picture of the nurse that he had that took him to rehab that got him out of his depression that got him doing.

Rose

What's her name?

Raney

I cannot remember what her name was.

Rose

I think they mentioned her name in the article.

Raney

She was something else. She also taught him that he could still drive. She showed him, she had been there and done that.

Rose

Mary Lynn Parkins.—47:35--

Raney

Yeah. That's her! She played a major role in getting him involved and going to the rehabs. I know that he hated it at first because it was working with the fingers, but I noticed later when he was working with the disabled, that's one of the things he would do. He would come up with all these things that were going to be tedious for them to do with their hands. Tedious. That they... One thing I knew about Jim, he really didn't have total feeling in his hands. He was really considered a quad because even though he could use his hands, he really didn't have feeling. He had to see what he was doing.

It was amazing how much he can do, if he could see it, he could do it. Just to feel... Screw a screw-on without looking, he couldn't do it. He just couldn't feel it. He used any roadblock that he had to overcome to help the others.

Rose

Like what?

Raney

For instance, if you can't feel your hands you don't just not do... You can use your eyes and still use your hands, like using a pair of pliers or a screwdriver, you can't feel the end of the screwdriver or pair of pliers, but you can still use them if you can see what you're doing.

For instance, to bring awareness and I'm sure that you read the articles... He started out at TCJC [now Tarrant County College], ran for student government president, he won, and did all the stuff, but when he went to UTA, he had the choice of two majors: history or science, that's it. Couldn't get a drink of water, couldn't use the bathroom, couldn't use the cafeteria. They weren't accessible. Nothing. When he challenged the officials to spend a day in a wheelchair, I think there was only one of them that actually succeeded.

Rose

Wayne Duke, who we're talking with later on this week.

Raney

Yeah, he is the only one that actually went through it and said "I see, I see the problem." Then they started getting things done. To talk to them, they weren't going to listen. To show them, and that's what Jim was. We brought this up, and we're not getting anywhere so let's just do a little challenge. And he challenged them. We will see.

First of all, he said they are not disabled, we are uprights. That's the only difference. We were "walkies" which makes me think of "zombies." -50:55-- (Laughs). That's what he told me. They're not disabled. They may do things differently than we do, but they're not disabled.

Rose

Do you think he got that attitude from that nurse? Or just developed it gradually?

Raney

I think she got him out of his depression because he was in a deep one. Deep depression. He didn't even want to come out of his room type depression. He'd see his brother and his dad out throwing the football and he would just turn.

Rose

And this was when he was back home?

Raney

Yeah.

Rose

Oh, wow. Because the articles, the timing isn't all that clear.

Raney

This was when he was home. He stayed at home until he went to UTA. When he was... In fact I think it was his second year at UTA, maybe his second semester at UTA, before he actually went to live at the college. I know mom took him back and forth until they got the controls on his car to where he could drive.

Rose

So she took him to and from TCJC too?

Raney

Yes.

Rose

I was going to ask about that.

Raney

Yes, she provided his transportation. That's probably one of the reasons why UTA is where he went...financial, transportation, and his needs, making sure they were met. Mom was very protective of him.

Rose

What was your mom's name?

Raney

Esther Hayes.

Rose

Okay, and your father's name?

Raney

Jimmy Hayes. (Laughs)

Rose

Oh.

Raney

Actually, Jim was not Jim. He changed that in junior high. He was James Anthony, that was his name. He didn't like that, he wanted Jim. That's when he became Jim. He was really never a junior, but he made himself a junior. (Laughs) that's the way he is, he was determined and he wanted it, and he got it.

<topic>Political connections</topic>

With political issues he actually helped with the campaign of George Bush.

Rose

Which Bush?

Raney

The young one I guess, or the old one now.

Rose

George H. W. Bush.

Raney

Yeah. There's a picture of them... I did have it here.

Rose

The Bushes were really aware of disability. We're seeing a photo of Jim Hayes, George Bush, and I'm guessing...

Raney

I have no idea (laughs)

Rose

It looks 1970s.

Raney

He did have some political connections.

Rose

Yeah, it's not come out any at all so far. I'm figuring the two really prominent disability rights advocates in Texas... Lex Frieden, who is now down in Houston was in Waco, was really involved in the ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act], and then Bob Kafka who's really involved with ADAPT and getting access to buses, getting people out of nursing homes and institutions now. I don't know, but I'm going to get in touch with them, but I don't know... It's not clear what links he had, although the Mayor's Committee in Arlington, people with disabilities has people who have been involved. Those are almost all UTA alums. There's sort of an indirect effect.

Raney

It could be. I know he was real good friends with Mayor Moncrief [Fort Worth Mayor].

Rose

You're thinking of Mike Moncrief? Because Mike Moncrief's younger sister had a cognitive disability. He was instrumental in some of the state school policy.

Raney

Ah. Mayor Moncrief actually... When Jim went to the Olympics in England, of course, he couldn't afford it. Mayor Moncrief put up the money to send him.

Rose

Was he a representative or state senator at that time?

Raney

I have... I'm not sure.

Rose

I think he was in the legislator before he became mayor but I don't remember the details.

Raney

I am not sure. I get bits and pieces too. Part of this time I was raising four boys (laughs). I was a little busy.

Rose

Wow! Just a little bit.

Raney

When Jim won the gold medal, when he came home, every year he and Mayor Moncrief would have a dinner with Rosie. Jim called her Rosie, so they must of had a really good relationship with the family, because she wasn't Mrs. Moncrief, she was Rosie.

Rose

His wife?

Raney

Yes. They would trade the metal, one year Moncrief would kept it, and the next year Moncrief would give it to Jim to keep.

Rose

That's really interesting!

Raney

I know when Jim passed away, I tried to... I didn't have the connection he had with Mayor Moncrief. I did meet him one time with the Sheriff's Posse, and he acknowledged that he knew Jim and even gave me a kiss on the cheek, which made all the rest of the Posse members go "What's your deal here? What's your connection?"

I wanted to give the metal to him since they had shared it every year, but I never could get any contact.

Rose

I don't know about this connection, but I'm working with a grad student at TCU [Texas Christian University], who's working on state schools. He's worked at Denton state school. His **advisor is of Texas history -57:49--**, and I think has some connection with Mike Moncrief. I think that the student is going to try to do an oral history with Moncrief's about disability.

Raney

That would be good!

Rose

I will feed him some information if that happens.

Raney

It should all tie in. I know Jim, like his run from Austin to UTA, a lot of that was political. A lot of that was political. That was his whole purpose, bring awareness.

Rose

That's gonna be really helpful for us to see.

Raney

The letters, and the people supporting... Of course they didn't meet their goal, financial goal. I have a feeling that the car dealership probably finished meeting that goal. I know that they did donate...

Rose

Do you know how to spell the name of that car dealership?

Raney

I probably have something in here with it on it. Moreif... Somewhere here in Arlington, but I'm not sure. M-O-R-T-Z or something. [Moritz car dealership]

Rose

<topic>Covering expenses</topic>

How did he get money for his wheelchairs? How did your parents pay to retrofit the house? Cover his education expenses?

Raney

I know dad took out loans. Some of it I think... My uncle didn't really have connections, but he knew who to talk to, like getting him into rehab... To learn how to get back into the workforce.

Rose

Vocational rehabilitation?

Raney

Yeah.

Rose

Okay, that would be state.

Raney

I was really young...

Rose

You're remembering an amazing amount.

Raney

I remember mom working. That's the only time that I can actually remember her working, was after his accident. I know he had to get funding from somewhere whether it was scholarship or whatever. I know he made excellent grades once he went back to school.

There's an article and Darlene should have it "Dive to the bottom knocks sense into fighter's head." First article that was ever written, Star-Telegram wrote it after his accident. I've a copy that I can find for you.

Rose

I think the library also has Star-Telegram in the archives.

Raney

Okay, that was the title "Dive to the bottom knocks sense into fighter's head." It's huge, it's one full page and part of another one. Bottom line, Jim said that he was headed down a road of destruction and had it not been for his accident he's not sure where he would've been. When he had his accident he finally came to the realization "all I have left is my brain. I have to use it."

Rose

I wonder too if it was the nurse might've known... Did they stay in touch for a while?

Raney

Probably for about six months after he was out. She was very hard to get along with personally, believe me. She put a perm my hair (laughs). Don't ask me why she did that, she was supposed to be there for him, not me. I hated my perm hair. I, personally, did not like that woman, but I saw that she was good for Jim.

Rose

That's funny.

Raney

I never crossed bro. We both, and I wished I could think like him. He never thought in the box, he always thought outside the box. Always. I wish I had the ability to think like he did because he could see things and come up with things that would be abstract to me until he'd start telling me.

Rose

<topic>Mother's addiction</topic>
What are you thinking of?

Raney

Well, I can't think of a specific example. I just know so many times being amazed. The way he was going to go about doing something.

For instance, my mom, after my dad passed away had a severe drinking problem. She was depressed and lonely. I was always... I would come home from work, and that's how she broke her hip, she fell. I don't know how long she was in the kitchen floor before I came home....couldn't pick her up, she weighed like over 200 pounds, and with a broke hip I couldn't just lift her and put her in the chair, which is how I usually got her up.

She went over to talk to Jim one day because she was getting to that point again, she was drinking again. Jim and I both had suggested "Okay, mom. Go to the school, read books to the kids. Be an assistant in a classroom. Go to these senior citizens groups. Get involved in church." We'd give her all these things to do, and at that point she could drive. We couldn't make her go.

When she went over complaining to Jim, he was in his driveway, just got out, he turned his chair facing the wall of his house. He said "Well you know you could do just almost anything if you just do it, but you just are not going to do it and I don't know how else to tell you." Then he turned around and said "That's what it's like talking to you...talking to a wall."

You'd tell her and tell her and tell her, and you couldn't, but that's the way he thought. Now who else would've used that example? You would've just said, "You know talking to you is like talking to a brick wall." No, he turned and starts talking to a wall. (Laughs)

Rose

Did it have an effect on her?

Raney

It made her mad. She went home, she left him alone. (Laughs)

That's the sad thing about any kind of addiction, they have to want to change. I did get her off of alcohol when she had her intestinal perforation. They put her in rehab afterwards, and I said "Do not let her out till she's dried out." Then Jim took over her finances and I took the keys to the truck. I went to the neighbors and said "If anybody brings her liquor you're going to be in trouble legally because you're harming a senior citizen."

I took her to the grocery store one time and it was so funny because she sat there and she says "Well, can we get extra cash?" I said "Sure mom, how much you want?" Come to find out at that food store they didn't give cash for over. She said "Well that's okay, we can go by the liquor store." I said "Oh no we can't! We're not going to!"

Addiction is a horrible thing. It took somebody... Jim and I both being there, staying on her, taking her verbal abuse...you're going to do that, it's gunna happen. Jim was real good about handling it.

Rose

It sounds like you made a really good team.

Raney

We did. (Laughs). We didn't realize we were a good team until like I said, later in life. It would've been nice if we would've known this all growing up.

Rose

It takes a while.

Raney

We were so close, I don't know then... I don't know if I could have stood it. (Laughs)

Rose

<topic>Wayne Duke</topic>

I was curious because we're going to talk to Wayne Duke soon... It sounds like you were probably in high school when a lot of this was happening, if you don't remember, no worries.

Do you remember anything else about when Jim went to UTA? Or other students he met? Or about working with Wayne Duke?

Raney

I remember him mentioning the name. I know the name. What the connection is, I don't know.

Rose

He was Dean of student life, and then VP of student affairs. He was hired, I think about, maybe, six months before Jim would have started. We found the names, in addition to Sam Province...there is **David Brock, and Rena Williamson—1:08:20--** were also part of the Handicapped Students Association.

Raney

<topic>Wheelchair basketball</topic>

I don't really remember a whole lot about it. Like I said, when Jim actually went to UTA I was busy raising children. Other than once a week, visiting with him for an hour or two, if he had time, we didn't get to communicate a lot. Like siblings do, you kind of go living your own life, and then for some reason you're brought back together. That's what kind of what happened with Jim and I.

I know that the first team he had was the Hotshots. When he first started playing basketball there, they wouldn't actually make it a team that they could actually play. Coach Garner can give you a lot of background on that. Jim nurtured him, so he knows a lot.

Rose

I know Doug pretty well. Was it the White House? [Referring to when was honored at the White House as a "Champion of Change: Disability Advocate."]

Raney

Yes! I read that!

Rose

That's so great. He's a very special guy.

Raney

He's very deserving. He has worked hard. That's one thing with bro, he wanted to retire probably two years before he died. He was tired. He was tired, he was just tired, but he didn't trust anybody else with his boys. The team, that was his boys. He says that "I just haven't found anybody that could take care of them." Then Doug came in.

This is something that Doug probably might not want to be shared, you would have to ask him. Jim said that Doug would wear tennis shoes and jeans to work. Of course, Jim wanted him to kind of dress up a little. Jim went and got his size from his wife, bought him shoes, shirts, slacks, socks, ties, and took them to him. He did not want anything in return, but he knew that Doug and his wife were new, and they just moved here. They were dealing with their own financial struggles, with their ill son. He wanted to help them.

Rose

I don't know if I've ever not seen Doug, except sometimes at games or practices, practices only... He's almost always in a tie and shirt. That's really funny!

Raney

That was Jim's protocol. That's what you had to do. Jim let me know that Doug cared and Doug might make it. When he passed away that's one thing I did tell, I can't remember the man's name that is the one that talked at the funeral... The president...

Rose

Oh, Nedderman? Wendell Nedderman? [President of the University of Texas at Arlington for nearly 20 years]

Raney

Yes. I let them know that if there was anyway... That Doug would have been Jim's pick.

Rose

That's interesting. As I said, I was teaching disability history, the first time I have ever taught, and of course during... While the hiring was going on, it was quite controversial because they had finally someone with a disability and Doug as the finalist. It was clear the team was... There were feelings within the team.

Raney

Oh yeah, well they knew. Jim taught them... Doug, even though he's not disabled... He's had a disabled son, he knows the struggles, he also knows what Jim taught him about not babying them. Making them get their education, that was the most important thing. This basketball, this is fun... But what you learn to carry you through after college, that's what's important.

Rose

Do you know how he got into wheelchair basketball?

Raney

I really don't, other than just for recreation... Just for something to do, he'd start throwing the ball. He actually did it himself. Then he'd find a couple other kids that wanted to do it with them. They'd throw the ball before and after classes, whatever. This was all before UTA ever had a wheelchair basketball team. They didn't have any, as far as I know, any sports for the disabled.

Rose

It will be interesting to see what happens with Doug going to the White House, but there are a number of people including the women's and gender studies program, the associate Dean for liberal arts, which he helped create the minor... Working on getting the Lady Mavs equal funding and seeing also what can be done to get the Movin' Mavs to be a real recognized sport.

The NCAA is also starting to recognize...there's one conference within the NCAA that is starting to recognize wheelchair basketball as--creating an adaptive sports division...as an official sport on campuses. Which is great, all of this stuff is coming together.

Raney

That's great. Doug is doing great with it. I know Jim fought and fought and fought it, and it's a lifetime struggle.

Rose

It's also, apparently a Title IX violation. The women's team doesn't have funding, so they may be able to use that to get awareness for both teams without hurting the Movin' Mavs.

Wow. I don't want to tire you out too much.

Raney

Oh no, you're good. Just tell me when you get hot.

Rose

Okay. We haven't been able to get the Movin' Mavs records in the library because they were processing them... The records that the library has of the Movin' Mavs they were going through them and creating a guide to them, and removing duplicates and organizing them. Basically we're going to be getting into them later this week, so that's part of why I wanted to focus on that earlier period.

We've done a lot of research already. We've seen correspondence... We know your brother and Sam Provence requested to speak at a Texas Board of Regents meeting for the entire University system. We haven't actually found the minutes yet, but we know about when...

Were there any questions you were thinking of?

Engel

<topic>Jim's school life</topic>

I think it's interesting that he wasn't a very good student in high school, but then it totally changed in college and everything. I don't know if, I guess the nurse, or someone else had any influence on that, or just him going to school and realizing... You said that he realized that his brain was all he had, so I'm sure that had something to do with it. It still takes a lot of discipline to go from not being a good student to being president of the student body.

Raney

I think what that shows you is he always had the ability. It was the "want to" he didn't have. He was, excuse the expression, a "little hellion." (Laughs). My other brother was the same way, smart as a whip, and my boys were the same way. No, I've got two that were not, but I have two that are "I got a "C" in that class, I don't need to study for this test, I'll pass." That was their thinking, "Why put forth any more effort than I have to? I'm still going to graduate. As long as I graduate, that's all that counts." (Laughs). Brother Jim, he was thinking "Well I'm going to be drafted anyway. What's the deal? Why put forth all that effort?"

Rose

He really liked shop, right?

Raney

Oh yeah, he was really good. He made me a toy box in high school woodshop.

Rose

Wow.

Raney

Yeah, he did. I remember that real heavy box.

I think that's what it was. Before his accident, the fact that he didn't have to... After his accident, it was like "if you wanted to do anything, you do have to." Once he got in he had to learn how to study, he didn't know how. He never had to. He had to learn how to study. I tried to get him to teach me his little tricks, but he never would! (Laughs). I know he pulled all nighters studying.

Engel

It's not an easy thing to learn how to study. I'm going through the same thing. (Laughs).

Raney

It's tough. I went back to TCJC later on before I went to work for Medical Matrix.

I did not have to take algebra in high school, it was not required when I was growing up... Well, if you go to college you got to have algebra, especially eighteen years later. It's required. I'm sitting there taking this test, I'm sitting there, "What?! I'm going to score a good zero on this one because I don't even have a clue what they're talking about." I didn't. I was taking some refresher at the start with algebra. I'm sorry, I never did get it. I never did get it, I enjoyed it, I liked it, that's what was so weird. I liked it, it was fun, but to me something has to make sense. I can't do it if it doesn't make sense, I have to know why.

I've got one son who is audiogenic... he has three majors. He'd tell me, "Mom, stop making it try to make sense. It's not going to." I said "I can't learn it then! That's the way I learn." I found that out even with my job, when I went to work with Cook's [Children's Fort Worth]. I drove my trainer crazy because I wanted to know why. She didn't care why, she didn't want to know why. She just knew what she was supposed to do, but I need to know why you're doing this and if you don't do it, what will happen?

[break in recording]

Rose

One more question, pre-Wayne Duke interview... I hope we can do a second round and then we'll really focus on the second period...You know more.

Raney

Oh yes, absolutely! I can get some more paperwork and refresh myself and that will probably help.

Rose

I'm sure you're probably think of other things that you wanted to say and we'll think of questions.

<topic>UTA and accessibility</topic>

We know Wayne Duke, what we've been able to piece together because there is a lot... Wendell Nedderman did an oral history and kind of collapsed everything. A lot of the articles collapsed and then sort of said that there was a "Handicap Administrators Day" and everyone got it.

What we've seen is Wayne Duke was the only person who came the first time, and responded. Then there's another day where your brother took them all on a tour. Then there's this famous photo of Wendell Nedderman looking in a urinal like "This isn't going to work." We're sort of piecing together how things actually happened, and it was a lot more tenuous and it wasn't just like, "Hey, of course we should do this!"

Then you were raising your kids, but do you have a sense particularly early on of what the attitude of faculty and staff and administrators, students was towards what Jim was trying to do?

Raney

I think they were ignorant, that's the bottom line. Their ignorance kept them from seeing... I'm sorry it's so hot... It had to be proven to them before they were going to act on it. Jim was a very determined man. I think that in general people shunned it. They didn't accept it, they didn't want changes.

Rose

Was your sense an uphill battle still at UTA? Even after the initial "Hey, were going to help some disabled students."

Raney

I think it always was, for the different areas, yeah.

Rose

It's sort of presented as, sometimes an articles "Hey we did this wonderful thing, and it was easy." That's part of why I'm really curious about the correspondence because my guess from reading the Illinois correspondence, that's twenty years earlier but it was veterans. The Chancellor of Illinois literally said "They're never going to have careers, they're never going to marry, they don't need a college education. They are going to chase away the normal students." Fast forward twenty years there's still, hits of resistance, but we don't have all that much.

Raney

Even to today, you have the same thing. Otherwise, why wouldn't the Lady Mavs be funded? Why wouldn't Movin' Mavs be funded? Just like everything else? I know Jim fought for that when the football team was going, it was a battle. It was a battle because they wanted to get the football team more because of what they were... Is that not stereotyping or what? That's exactly what that is. "Hey, I challenge you to go watch a wheelchair basketball game and see if you don't find it ever bit as invigorating and exciting as a football game."

Rose

Especially more interesting, by far, personally.

Raney

It is, it is. That's what I challenge them. I think there's still a lot of... I think it's going to be a battle for a long period

Rose

Getting access to UTA you would say the same thing? A slow climb?

As we're going through, there's a Senate bill that requires architectural access, colleges in 1969, the state coordinating board and the UT Board of Regents in the 70s say "all new construction and any remodeling needs be accessible." But, we know from talking... I don't know if you know Penny Acrey, she's the head of the Office for Students with Disabilities, blonde about yay tall [measurement of height] she is an oral history talked about Sam Houston State, University of North Texas... 1:25:20 just incredibly inaccessible...70s and 80s, then she finally got her degree at UTA after having kids.

Trevor's asked, why was UTA willing to do it? There probably were other people pushing, maybe not as effectively as your brother, but they were willing. Wayne Duke and Jim Hayes...

Raney

I think it had to be a combination. You know one person is not going to move a mountain, but that one person can start the motion... It takes others. I think Jim and Wayne Duke and the mayor... Senators, I think it took all of them, is the only way it came together. I think with the different disabilities that's where your struggle will come in now. I know that you have braille for the blind, but you know as different disabilities appear, which they will-- at Cook's, things are coming up all the time that are different. It's a disability. They're not going to be okay, this is the way they're gonna live. It's gonna present different challenges, but they still deserve that right for education.

Rose

It's very interesting reading your brother's fifty-two page proposal. He talks about blind students. A lot of people in Berkeley, where some of the major disability rights protests and innovations were... At the same time it was very much about physical access for people using wheelchairs. He had a really broad vision early on which was really striking. I don't know if you have any ideas where that came from, but it's striking. It's different.

Raney

Like I said, Jim thought out-of-the-box. He wasn't just wheelchair. It was disabled, the full circle.

Rose

Donna Anderson's mentioned just how much of an impact he had on her. I know her daughter as well. Her daughter graduated with a degree in history and a minor in disability studies and is now working out in San Francisco in disability rights.

Raney

That is wonderful.

Rose

Donna just raves about Jim.

Raney

That's the whole thing. It does take... One person can't do it, everybody has to be on board, you have to work as a team.

Rose

It's going to be really interesting to talk to Wayne Duke and then come back and see...

Raney

I'll have more information that will refresh me. One of the things I had to do when Jim first passed away... I had this extreme need to keep his life going, but I had to keep my life too.

Unfortunately, the way it worked out...Jim was supposed to give me away at my wedding with Shelby. He died two weeks before. I was even willing... I just wanted to call the wedding off. No no no no. We'd already sent everything out, it was already set up, the Sheriff's Posse was gonna be there. Shelby says "You've already done all this stuff, let's just do it." It's just technical anyway. (Laughs). We did do that, but at the same time it was "Okay, I needed to go to UTA, needed to go to the games, I needed to be there for Doug, I needed to be there for the boys. I need to let them know... Carry on what Jim wanted." It was the same thing with dogs, his house, everything. It was like I was living, trying to live a double life...live his life and mine. It got difficult.

I finally got to the point when mom passed away I told Shelby "We need to sell both houses, because mom's is falling apart." It was, it was falling down, the foundation had just had it. I said "this is always going to be Jim's house. It's always going to be Jim's house, I cannot get past it." I can't tell you how many cups of coffee I set and drink with him at his table... Every Sunday we'd always grill hamburgers. It's always going to be Jim's. I said "I can't move forward. I can't move forward like this." That's why we sold and I kind of...I don't forget my brother, I don't forget what he's done, never will...but I had to kind of move away from it and then move it away so some things slipped my mind... But I used to dwell on it. So I will have to refresh myself, and then it'll all come back. What I ended up doing with Jim was just remembering him as my brother and quit trying to do his career. It's what I have to do.

Rose

Doug is doing a wonderful job.

Raney

Oh he is! And that's one thing that I thought. Doug is the one that needs the recognition. He's the new Jim. He's the new Jim. He's taken it a lot further, there's a lot more... I think there's a lot more doors opening, and he knows how to fight for it... Jim did to, but I think Doug needs the recognition. I thought to myself "The boys have all changed." The ones that were there, they've graduated, they don't need that anymore. They don't need to know "Jim would want you to do this or that." They don't need that. They don't know anything about it, so leave it alone. Doug's their mentor. He's their stronghold. I know

Doug has always told me "You need to come and give our boys a pep talk." Well, those boys don't have any clue who I am.

Rose

Jeremy's going to beat it into them, or has been trying.

Raney

Okay. I think his legacy needs to be kept alive for all that he's done, but I think you also have to look at the now and the future. I want my brother's legacy kept alive.

Rose

If all goes well, a lot of a lot of things are going to go on the web.

Raney

See, what you're doing is what needs to be done, not actually in the team... What you're doing. That way it's there, they can see the how it got started, they can see what pains they went through.

Did Doug show you the gloves that Jim wheeled from? I actually gave him the framed gloves that Jim actually wore. [Referring to when he wheeled from Austin to Arlington]

Rose

I think I may have seen them in his office.

Engel

I know we've heard about it before.

Rose

Yeah, we've heard about them.

Raney

That may be something that you want to put in the museum or whatever.

Rose

That's a good idea. It's going to be... We need to talk with Brenda about what can and can't be secured. It's an open room, and they have some furniture. I don't know if they have display cases. Normally they put their really valuable exhibits in special collections where it's supervised. You sign in and out so they can put objects there. There's display cases with glass.

This is going to be in the library parlor, just bigger space, but up on the six where the atrium... but generally it means you put up captions... I'm thinking timelines, some context about what it was like at other schools because UTA is still light years ahead because of Jim and a lot of people. The gloves, that's a good idea. We'll talk with her and see and let you know.

Raney

Yeah! I thought you might could utilize it. His championship rings, that's another thing I have struggled with. I thought about donating them to the college. I've got one son that will kill me when I do because he wants them, but how can you give to one child when there's like seven nieces and nephews? That would be so not right.

Rose

What seems to be happening is... Penny has built the Office for Students with Disabilities, it's registration has gone up by two and a half at times in the five years. It's over 1000 students. There's Doug building an empire, the library is really onboard with the department of history and disability studies minor. We're all working together. I'll be eager to see what happens going forward. The timing is right and we're the only disability studies program in the entire South.

Raney

I just know I've got stuff that's really going to help you. Before we get together the next time I will go through all that stuff.

Rose

That would be great, and if you do see correspondence files... It's possible that they also wrote somewhere else, but it sounds storage locker--1:35:51--

Raney

Yeah, he had a file cabinet full of files.

Rose

What Brenda is gonna want to do is bring you, and then she and or Betty are going to want and come and see your stuff and basically look at it. --1:36:04 They will be like "Okay, how will we do this?" They're used to people wanting to have stuff, and how do we make it accessible and also make sure that you have access.

Raney

The file stuff, I don't have a use for it.

Rose

We would love it!

Raney

That's the whole thing, I'm sitting there going "I know what brother did, the rest of the family, they know, they don't really...that's their uncle...." End of story.

Rose

Invite them to the exhibit! It's not going to be just your brother, we're seeing how it develops, but ideally UTA and accessibility. Then adaptive sports and UTA, which you know part is Per4max. UTA has had a big impact on adaptive sports nationally. What we can find on UTA and alums and disability rights... The Mayor's Committee been pretty important and we're still trying to connect up other things. It's going to be that, and Sam Provence helped found the Arlington Handicapped Association. He worked with your brother. Helping Restore Ability is a really important organization now.

Raney

I probably have all that stuff. I just didn't figure it was... It's in a storage unit!

Rose

I can't speak for everybody, but Betty has been emailing people on our behalf being like "Do you know where all this stuff went?" Like Deeann Hanks -1:37:45-- down at UTSA.

Do you have any more files do you know of anything? That would be great.

Raney

I've got Saturday and Sunday off. Probably Sunday... I got my son coming on Saturday, so I probably won't get anything done Saturday, but Sunday I'll try to get to the storage unit and get through some of that.

Rose

That would be awesome.

Raney

See if there's documentation of that. Hopefully there's some that I hadn't throw away. Also, did you... I don't know whether you have looked at it, I give it to Jeremy, actually gave it to Doug, but I think Jeremy got it... It's an old-fashioned eight track...

Rose

He's converted some videos and I know that they're planning on putting some... They have some videos in the Movin' Mavs collection they have already. Those are going to be part of the digitization, to get those up on the web.

Raney

Okay, this one has got an interview that Jim did. In fact, Shelby put it on a disk for me because that's the only way I would turn loose of the original. It's an interview with Channel 8 I think, it may have been Channel 5 news. It also has Jim meeting the Clinton's with the team, and giving Clinton a jersey. It also has one of the championship games on it.

Rose

One of the things I want to talk with them about... Because I just saw a major disability rights exhibit opened on Sunday at Berkeley because it was the anniversary and a friend of mine headed it...it's much bigger than this is gunna be because they were working it for three years, but they had some videos and I don't know if it's something that the library can or can't do. Certainly for the digitization project that would be amazing.

Raney

Okay, if he doesn't have a copy of it, let me know because Shelby did copy it off for me on a DVD.

Rose

If you could just get a sense of what's there, that's probably the best place to start.

Raney

That's what I need to do.

Rose

Then there's the process of taking...they look at things, they figure out, and then also getting funding to process it. They're really interested.

Raney

This is just stuff I had here that I wouldn't let go to storage.

Rose

Wow.

Raney

Do you want to take this with you today?

Rose

If you're okay?...

Raney

Yeah, I'm okay with it. You can look through those documents see if anything's going to be of value. Like I said, Sunday I will go and look through the storage unit.

Rose

Thank you!

Raney

You're welcome!