

Laura Kelsey Raney

Jim Hayes's sister

*Interview conducted by
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in 2015 in Arlington, Texas
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Disability Studies Minor
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Biography

As Hayes's younger sister, Raney became extremely close with him in the years prior to his death. In this interview she talks about records that he left her, his personal and familial relationships with other people, as well as tells a few stories from his life.

Topics discussed

- Identifying records
- Jim's familial relationships
- Raney's personal family background
- Jim's romantic relationships
- Accessibility in Jim's life
- Personal stories about Jim
- Wheelchair basketball
- Her personal relationship with Jim

Rose

This is Sarah Rose.

Engel

Trevor Engel.

Rose

<topic>Identifying records</topic>

Interviewing Laura Kelsey Raney. On Monday, August 31. We're in University Hall at University of Texas at Arlington doing a second interview with her about her brother Jim Hayes, her life, adaptive sports, and disability activism. She's first going to try and identify some photos from a scrapbook that's being donated, maybe share some stories.

Raney

On these medals I was telling Trevor, I have these in a frame that I will bring to you.

Rose

Okay. Do you know what the medals are?

Raney

I do not, but it may be on the frame because it's got some patches too. I do have those.

Rose

Probably.

Raney

I do not know who's in that picture.

Rose

Okay.

Raney

This is Betty Ann. I know we mentioned...

Rose

We have it in the last oral history.

Raney

This was his first nurse that got him through rehab right after the hospital.

Rose

She was visiting his house? Your family's house?

Raney

Yes. She came to the house.

Rose

She was the one who told him about going to college?

Raney

Yes, and showed him that he could drive a car, and showed him that there was a lot of things that he could do that he didn't think he could.

Rose

We have the name elsewhere. She's in one article I think.

Raney

I know this is the Hotshot team. I actually have that T-shirt, I will be glad to donate it to you. It's a Hotshot shirt.

Rose

What was the Hotshot team?

Raney

To my knowledge that was the very first basketball team that he had. I believe that they played just before school and afterschool just for activity, just to do.

Rose

Okay, before the FreeWheelers?

Raney

Yes. It was before. I don't know what that is. I don't know what that boy's name is, but I do have pictures that may have his name on it. He actually went fishing with Jim and with mom and dad. He was one of his best friends after his accident when he was at TCJC [now Tarrant County College].

That is actually a picture of Jim's bedroom.

Rose

Yeah, you can transcribe and eventually we can add in. [Talking to Trevor]

Raney

I think that was here at UTA.

Rose

There was a **Billiard's** room wasn't there at one point?

Engel

Yes, I believe so.

Rose

I'm pretty sure we saw that in the records.

Raney

I believe this is when he won his gold medal.

Rose

Paralympics in London? Okay.

Raney

I'm not sure who he's with there. I think that's when he's working on his hand rehabs because he was actually paralyzed in the hands too even though he could use them. He actually had no feeling in them.

Rose

That person you're not sure?

Raney

I'm not sure.

Rose

This would've been within the year after, you think?

Raney

Yeah.

Rose

Did he have no feeling in his fingers or hands?

Raney

No, he really did not have feeling on the outside. I'm sure on the inside he did, like to screw a bolt onto the screw he actually had to see what he was doing. He couldn't feel it.

Rose

Then he would've had feeling on the inside either?

Raney

I guess not, because he actually had to see what he was doing.

Rose

That'd be probably maybe 1969?

Raney

Yeah, he was actually considered a quad even though we always considered him a para.

Rose

I've always heard him described as quadriplegic.

Raney

Yeah, he was a quad because it was like from here down.

This is one of the Olympic things that he did.

Rose

One of the events?

Raney

Yeah, one of the events but I don't remember what year.

Engel

Rowing?

Raney

Yeah, rowing.

Rose

We should be able to that up.

Raney

This is where he's meeting with Bush. Jim, to my best recollection, he did help Bush with his campaign that year.

Rose

Do you have an idea of when that might've been?

Raney

I've got it at home on a newspaper, I'll be bringing that.

He is not paralyzed and this picture.

Rose

Interesting. You can find his stance?

Raney

The way the guitar is on him. He wouldn't use the strap if he was in a chair.

Rose

That would be '65 to '69? Somewhere in there?

Raney

Yeah. Actually, I can name all these people. This is family. This is the family supporting him, he was running for the Board of Trustees at TCJC and it is April 1, 1972. That's all family members! Nieces and nephews.

Rose

I don't know how to do this...

Raney

This one is **Esther Louise**.

Rose

I'll write on the Post-it note in the space.

Raney

Back behind here is going to be brother John. **Esther Louise** is his niece. Behind there is **John boy**, brother John's child. **Esther Louise** was Mary's. **Laura Lynn**, that's Mary's. That's **Holly Joyce**, that's Mary's. This ones **Jenny Don**, Johnny's. I'm not sure which one that is. This girl over here, that's Mary. Jim's in back, and I don't know who that is.

This already tells you I think who they are.

Rose

I think that's all the photos then.

Raney

You're gonna love that. Actually, I've got that in my RV.

Rose

The letters.... There's a few names here. Some of these people are from UTA, **Karen Jacobson?**

Raney

I don't know. Some of those letters, they would get the information when she was on the road.

Rose

Do you remember David Moritz was the person you knew?

Raney

Probably Moritz, yeah. According to what Doug told me, one of the other sport guys when Jim passed away, jumped on that and got him to support them rather than.... Which really makes me angry.

Rose

I was just thinking if he talked with Jim then he would be a good person for us to interview.

Luciel McElroy? Dailan Noel? Alice Borden? Valerie Dalton? Peggy Algenger? Martha Walker?

Raney

I don't know who that is.

Rose

We have a lot of photos identified, that's really good.

You said that this article, which is called "Dive to bottom knocks sense into fighter's head," some of it is accurate, some of it is not. If you'd be so kind as to go through let us know.

Raney

Okay. Let me see, I have to find it. It says "Jim's date and his younger brother was anxious to get the lake." Actually, there was a whole lot more than that because it was Jim, his girlfriend Tammy, Johnny, Susan, both of my grandparents and myself that went. All in one car. We went to Rocky Creek, of course.

He says here that he planned to skim the water but his foot slipped and went straight down. No, he did a swan dive. He jumped off, went headfirst. He didn't slip.

Rose

He didn't slip at all?

Raney

He did not slip, he just did not touch the water before he went in.

Rose

Have you gone to that particular pier before?

Raney

Oh yeah, it was summer time, July.

Rose

So the lake was low?

Raney

Yeah. I had waited out, I was within two feet of him and I was knee-deep.

Rose

<topic>Jim's familial relationships</topic>
He was kind of mad right?

Raney

Yeah, because mom didn't want to go, so there was a little...mom what it go with us. She didn't want him to go.

Rose

How come?

Raney

Mom and Jim didn't have a very good relationship. Back then parents had favorites. Jim and I were dad's favorites, Mary and Johnny were mom's favorites. Mom was really cruel to Jim, she was really mean with him. For instance, you'll probably want to cut it, you can record it, but you might want to cut it. When Jim started smoking, and it's one thing that it took me a long time to forgive mother for, she made him take his shirt off, put his hands on the washer and she beat him on the back with a belt. She never did that with anybody else.

Rose

She didn't like him?

Raney

She loved him, but I don't know, I can't explain it. I would've never done one of my children that way. It took me a long time to get over that. She didn't go, and he was mad because he was determined. He was eighteen and he was going, so he did. But he did swan dive into it.

Rose

You know that's been repeated over and over again that his foot slipped? I've seen it in a bunch of articles.

Raney

His foot did not slip. I was right there. I'm the only one that knows, his foot did not slip. I saw him go under, I saw him hit, I saw him bounce back up. I saw him floating with his hands out like that and his head down. I saw it, I was right there, but I was frozen.

Rose

Understandably.

Raney

I called for Johnny, and it doesn't say anything about that in here. I did call Johnny and I said "Jim's hurt," and he said "No, he's just playing." I said "No he's hurt," then Johnny went and pulled him up. That part of it is true. Jim thought his back was broke and wanted Johnny to stand him up and he did after they did CPR, of course it caused more damage. That part of it was not correct. It does say that John thought he was playing, a relative finally convinced him... I'm sitting there saying, "Baby sis!" They stood him on his feet, they did that. That's the part of it that's wrong, I think the rest of it's pretty accurate. His foot did not slip, he deliberately did a swan dive. Beautiful swan dive, he went up and put his hands forward and down.

Rose

You said your mom in part took care of him, right? After he came home? Also drove him to UTA before he lived on campus? Did they have a better relationship after his accident?

Raney

I think they call it manic-depression now. She had her highs and she had her lows. She also had an alcohol problem. She would do for him, but she'd throw it up to him. When she went to work after his accident, she went to work for a while and I took care of him. Back then they didn't have all the conveniences that they have now, we had to wash his sheets several times a day. He had to bathe his self because that's one thing I wasn't allowed to do, but I'd feed him, do his coffee, and stuff like that.

Rose

What about when you were at school? Was he on his own?

Raney

Dad worked nights, dad was there until 3 o'clock and then when I'd get home from school I'd do it. Mom did, and she loved Jim don't get me wrong, she loved Jim, mom just didn't know. Anybody could tell you if it was Johnny it would've been different. If it was Mary it would've been different. I will say she stayed by Jim's side the whole time he was in the hospital, she never left his side.

Rose

That was weeks right? Months?

Raney

A long time. She'd come home and shower and go right back up. My dad and my grandmother took care of me.

Rose

She drove him to TCJC every day?

Raney

Yeah. Either her or brother John.

Rose

John was older or younger than Jim?

Raney

Younger by two years

Rose

You said John served in Vietnam but has passed away now?

Raney

Yeah, he passed away three years before Jim. Same general thing, he had a perforated intestine, passed away in his home.

Rose

Wow. Were they close?

Raney

Very. They played guitars together, they fished together. Up until, the only issue that had happened was John became an alcoholic when he was in Vietnam. When he came back he did go to AA's, he got okay, and he and Jim got close again. When he divorced he started drinking again. Unfortunately Jim and I both because of our upbringing couldn't tolerate that. It's something you just don't want to be around. You'd do anything to keep from being around it. They pulled apart during that time, Jim offered to help him, he offered to put him in a dry out clinic, whatever, but Johnny didn't want to.

Rose

Did they ever reconcile?

Raney

They talked, Jim wasn't mean with Johnny, he just didn't want to be around him. In fact, Johnny built Jim's house.

Rose

We were gonna ask about that.

Raney

Johnny was a contractor, he knew how to do it, but he drank so much that he didn't do it right.... In fact, that's one of the reasons we had to sell the house, the foundation was shot. He was supposed to pour new beams and all that. Like Jim says, "I've got \$160,000 house that doesn't even have a good foundation. It's falling apart."

Rose

How did they work out the accessibility modifications? Did they work with an architect, or was it Jim telling John "I want this, I want that."

Raney

Jim telling John. Jim told him what he wanted and if John had a different idea, Jim would straighten him out real quick. Jim let mom pick out his cabinet colors, his countertop colors...he says "I cannot believe she chose yellow!" It was the brightest yellow! He went with it, he told her to choose it, she chose it. He tried to include everybody and Jim was very congenial. If he told you, then whatever you came up with, he'd go with it, no matter what. Of course he and I built his deck. He would saw the boards then paint them, I would put them down and nail them.

Rose

That's really cool. What about your sister Mary?

Raney

Do you want me to use Jim's phrase? "She's a moron." Plain and simple. They did not have a relationship, Jim didn't want to be around her. He didn't get along with her first husband at all, he was quite an abuser.

Rose

Was she dating him around the time of the accident?

Raney

Yes and actually before the accident, Jim and her ex got in a fight. They were playing football and they got in a fight. Jim wanted to kill him, literally. He was no good, the guy was no good. He even tried to molest me when I was fourteen. He was no good. Mary wouldn't leave him.

Rose

So she is very very distant. Is she still alive?

Raney

Yes, good and pickled. She'll live forever. (Laughs)

Rose

<topic>Raney's personal family background</topic>

While we're on family, we wanted to ask you your kids. When your kids were born, their names and a little bit about them, and your first husband.

Raney

Okay. My first husband, we married when I was sixteen. We eloped to **Glenrose**. Actually it was on Christmas Eve, we weren't gonna let anybody know for months. I did that because my parents drink and my mom and I could not jive. It was like I was grounded every weekend because of something, and I never knew what. Dad couldn't change it, so I'm sitting there going "I gotta get out here." We were gonna elope and keep it a secret. We got to Glenrose and it turns out the justice of the peace was shopping in Fort Worth. She wasn't going to get there until 12:30 at night. Well I got off work at ten so what was I gonna do? We called mom and told her and it was not a happy moment.

We ended up getting married and I got pregnant with my first son two months later. His name is James Junior and he was born in 1970. Two years later here comes **Sheldon** in '72. Then I had Paul in '74, and Joshua in '77. I skipped a year. We found out February was a very bad month. You sleep in separate bedrooms in February. All my kids are fairly successful. James Junior is a manager of a WM warehouse which is a motor parts warehouse, has been for years. Sheldon is a correction security guard and working to be a police officer. Paul's triple majored. He went to Abilene Christian University for missionary field, but because he disagreed with part of the Church of Christ doctrine they wouldn't let him go to the mission field after he graduated. He married a girl named **Terry**, they have two little children and he came to UTA. He's got his masters in accounting and I can't remember what else. He's double mastered there. Then I've got Joshua which is a Navy officer. He's in Korea right now.

Rose

You have thirteen grandkids.

Raney

I have thirteen grandkids, not all of them are blood grandkids. My oldest son married a girl that already had four children and he took them on, then had one.

Rose

You have a great grandchild on the way?

Raney

Yes, Sheldon's older daughter Taylor, is going to have a little boy named **Hudson** in November.

Rose

Wow. You married Shelby in 2008?

Raney

Yes. Shelby and I met on match.com and he looked so sad! That's all I said to him, "You look sad!" Then we talked for a while and we decided to meet. I was one of these people that if I met somebody it was gonna be at a public restaurant, at my lunch time from work, and I would leave a picture up on my computer so that everybody knew who I was going to meet and where I was going. In case I didn't come back!

He was really nice, he had lost his life in February. He'd been married eighteen years and he lost a baby, at eighteen months. I'm sitting there going "You're just really not ready for a relationship. " So we carried it on for a while before I was finally convinced he was ready. I'm sitting there going "No no no no no, you're married eighteen years." He does compare us. He says I am a whole lot like his deceased wife. Sometimes he'll call me Donna, and I'm sitting there "Oh well, hey, don't make any difference." He's a real worker even though he's disabled.

Rose

What is his disability?

Raney

Actually, everything happened after we married. We discovered that his spinal column was amputating his spinal cord. It was closing in and amputating it. They had to go in and open that up and put a brace in. When they did that he had a reaction, his throat swelled. They had to intubate him for three weeks for the swelling to go down, keep him comatose. After that he's got the tremors now and all the things that go with spinal stuff. He's not able to work, but he's a good man, he does what he can. He really does a lot, he's a hard-working man even though he couldn't hold down a full-time job.

Rose

He seemed very busy when we were there!

Raney

Yeah, we've had some very interesting ordeals.

Rose

<topic>Jim's romantic relationships</topic>

What about your brother's wives? Your brother Jim was married twice.

Raney

Jim? Actually, brother Jim was married three times. His first marriage was to **Stacy** and I can't remember what her last name was.

Rose

She was with him during the push from Austin to Arlington.

Raney

Yes, she was. She was into cockatiels, the bird, and she had one. Jim kind of liked them. I raised exotic birds at the time, so I gave him a hand fed baby to go with hers so they would have two. He named it "BD, brain-dead," because every time it would get out it would fly into the wall. They had that in common, and I think that they loved each other but they butted heads. They were both very headstrong people. When they divorced it wasn't an ugly thing. They agreed that it was gonna be the best thing for both of them because neither one of them were gonna be able to go forward in their lives the way things were going.

Rose

Do you know when they got married and got divorced?

Raney

I've got the documentation at home, I don't know. I know several years.

Then he had a marriage, and this is the one that I would protect the girl's name on. It was a "convenience marriage." This girl was disabled from an accident, she was also very depressed. Jim made the agreement with her father that he would marry her, she would live with him until she graduated from UTA. Then they would divorce. Her name was Betty Ann, and they did. It was a beautiful wedding, nobody knew. I didn't know until later, Jim told me.

Rose

Was it just to keep her from going back into depression?

Raney

Yeah, it was to make sure that she didn't do anything foolish. Keep her involved so he could keep his eye on her. He was her father more or less, her guardian while she was here.

Rose

Was her family from further away?

Raney

Yes, so when she graduated and she went back home.

Rose

What we been finding is, this is more with the Arlington Handicapped Association and the apartments that were set up for people to live and attendants. We found people coming from Indiana and Kansas to go to school here, one of the people who, I don't know if she's on the mayor's committee for people with disabilities, or she just came to a meeting, but she came from Iowa. She had gone to school in Iowa State, really struggled there, and then came here, heard about UTA and stayed. I guess Betty Ann would've been one of people who was coming from further away? Because UTA was accessible.

Raney

Yes, and I have the information. She was out-of-state.

Later he met, actually it was brother John's wife's sister. She had two children and I think it was more of a, I don't know what it was. I really don't know. I didn't like either one of the girls particularly, but it wasn't my choice. I can get along with anybody, as long as I don't have to live with them, I can get along with anybody. They married and Jim really poured his time and effort into the children because they needed that, they didn't have a structured environment. They didn't have anybody that cared about whether they made good grades or anything like that. He fathered them, got their clothes, got them TVs, got them what they needed. He got them in school, made sure they did their homework.

She told me one time, she says, "I don't fit into this life." I'm sitting there going "Well, what you do when you go to events with Jim, you keep your mouth shut. You just respond respectfully, but don't try to get involved in conversations you know nothing about. Then nobody will know you that don't fit in." That's how I always did it. I don't understand all the politics and stuff that Jim was going through. If I was standing with him and they started talking politics, and they looked at me and said something. I would acknowledge, but I didn't get involved because I had no clue what they were talking about.

I guess she just couldn't do that and he came from home from an out of town game and everything was packed up and she was gone. It broke his heart because he had put a lot into it. The kids, the boy, would try to call Jim, but only wanting stuff. Jim was out of town one time, and Jim had already told me he wasn't going there. The boy called one time and he was wanting money, and I said "Look, you got a mother. You got family, don't call Jim anymore." He didn't. The girl did, and God has a way...you're gonna pay for your wrongs. She got drunk, got in her car, driving home, had a wreck, brain-damaged. She lived her life out in a home. I'm sitting there going, "You know it's sad, but when you do stuff like that somehow someway, you're gonna pay. What goes around comes around, always." That was his marriages.

He had lots of girlfriends that he wrote the same song for.

Rose

Can you tell that story so we have it on tape?

Raney

Jim did this wonderful, and I will give y'all a copy...Guitar composed song. He put all the parts to it and everything. The first time I heard it, he was dating Barbara. He says "I want you to hear this song I wrote for Barbara." He plays me the instrumental and I said "That's really pretty brother, that's good." Then he puts words to it, "Doesn't that just say "Barbara?"" I said "Okay..."

Then after he passes away, one of the girls that actually worked here, she said "You know Jim composed a song for me? He gave me a copy, but I lost it. Can you find it and give me a copy?" I'm sitting there going "The Barbara song! It's the Barbara song!" So I made her copy, with no lyrics, just a song. She said "That's it!" Then I had about two others come up to me and said, "You know Jim composed a song for me, and I don't have a copy." I'm sitting there "Oh, bro. You played this one to the kilt." One song, all women. It could be Barbara, Debra, Sarah, whatever you want it to be. That was a funny one. He was good at that.

Rose

Wow. That's pretty good. To follow up on a few things from the 70s.... You said you were raising your boys, so if you don't remember, no worries.

Raney

Things from the 70s...

Rose

<topic>Accessibility in Jim's life</topic>

To follow up with things we were talking about last time and some of the additional research we've done. It's mentioned that Sam Provence wound up at UTA, did a Masters in history because Baylor and St. Mary's couldn't take him for law school. Baylor rejected him when they found out he was disabled, St. Mary's couldn't accommodate him. So he wound up instead of going to law school, coming here and doing a Masters in railroad history. He showed up in 1970, maybe 1969, we're not sure yet. He and the Handicapped Students Association knew about Senate Bill 111, that required universities, public facilities in Texas to be accessible, but we don't think there's very much enforcement of the law at all. They got the administration to put thirty concrete ramps in 1970, so before Jim came.

Two questions, one is, do you think your brother would've known about the fact that there were ramps and things were accessible in terms of coming to UTA? Or? Sam Provence died many years ago now.

Raney

Actually, I don't know that. I know that the reason he came to UTA it was accessible from home.

Rose

So it was not far away?

Raney

Right, mom and dad didn't really want him where they couldn't at least check on him.

Rose

Did he have to get classes moved? Or get access at TCJC? Was that accessible?

Raney

I get a little confused here because I don't know which college it was where that he couldn't access all the buildings.

Rose

I know UTA, University Hall was one of the few buildings people could access although there were thirty ramps, but I don't know when they were put in. We have an article from the Dallas Morning News saying that there were thirty ramps put in. It's dated 1970.

Raney

I probably have all the information at home. That's gonna fill a lot of the blanks in.

Rose

We're also going to talk to Sam Provence's siblings in October and November. Whether or not they remember, it's been a long time, but they do have some records.

Raney

I just know whichever college it was that he was working so hard at was.... You think of this, for you and I, what if you couldn't get into the restaurant to eat, what if you couldn't get a drink of water even if there's a water hydrant right there, but you can't get it, you can't reach it. You can't go into the restroom, the doors aren't wide enough.

Rose

Or the only restroom is across the building on a different floor.

Raney

And you don't have access to get there. That's actually a cruel way to live. I remember him in that situation but I don't remember which school it was, whether it was TCJC or here.

Engel

It was likely both in certain cases.

Rose

You told us last time which TCC campus he went to.

Raney

South campus.

Rose

Okay.

Raney

It was real close to home.

Rose

Do you remember him saying anything about Sam Provence? Or Sammy Provence?

Raney

He may have, I tried to have more than personal relationship with him unless he wanted talk to me something about work. If he was upset about something and he wanted to talk about it, I was there to listen. I also knew not to carry it because he wouldn't have wanted that.

Rose

They overlapped somewhat at UTA and then Sam Provence graduated and founded the Arlington Handicapped Association which became Helping Restore Ability. Then in the 80s they were working to create apartments with John Dycus that are now under AT&T stadium. They shared attendants, it was all accessible, and that's where students were coming from elsewhere to live. Also graduates who wanted to live independently. Sam Provence, I talked on the phone with his siblings, and his brother actually, his sister was chiming in...he used an iron lung at night and had been paralyzed with polio, that he felt like he was a bird in a cage when he could live in his own apartment. Also when he got a power chair rather than one a person who pushed, and he'd drive down the middle Collins. That in the the 80s when you were raising your kids.

Raney

Unfortunately during the time I was raising my kids it was a pretty full-time job. At one point Jim lived, I think it was off of Little Road, he actually had a duplex over there.

Rose

Did he have to look for accessible housing?

Raney

<topic>Personal stories about Jim</topic>

Yes, he did. I think he moved from there because he'd gotten broke into. At TCJC they gave him a gold plated guitar because he was with a music group over there, and that's one of the things that got stolen. He was never able to replace it or find it. I'm trying to think where he lived after that. I went with mom a couple times when he'd go out of town to help her clean and feed his dog.

He had a dog named **Hoss**, a Chow. Me and that Chow had to learn to get along. The first time I went I ended up sitting on the counter the whole time because that dog came in the doggie door...It didn't bother mother, came in the doggie door and charged at me. I was up on that counter and that's where I sat. The next time I went mother said "Just get the vacuum cleaner." I kept the vacuum cleaner going the whole time and the dog would just follow me around but stayed away. Then when I sat down on the couch he sat and just put his head on my foot and I thought "Oh no..." I stayed very still for a long time.

Rose

Did he always have dogs?

Raney

Yes, he did. Right after he had his accident we went to the pound and he picked a German Shepherd. That German shepherd's name was Duke. Unfortunately the neighbor next door liked the dog too, and when the neighbor moved to Colorado the dog disappeared. It broke Jim's heart.

Rose

Wow, that's awful.

Raney

Yeah, that was his buddy. Then he got Paddlefoot from a friend of mine.

Rose

That was much later, right?

Raney

Yeah, that was much later. He had **Hoss** first. **Hosster** was a.... I've been bit several times. Jim fixed macaroni and cheese and boiled chicken for his dogs. That's what they had for dinner. That was their dinner, big ol' plates. Well when he'd go out of town, I had to feed **Hoss**. Interesting. Hoss would let me come in the house and everything, he'd looked at you, but he was not a sweet dog. I'd have to.... I knew he was gonna bite me before I could get the plate down if my hands were there. I had to turn my butt toward him and think "He could bite my butt while I put the plate down." He'd run around and eat and you didn't touch it after that, till he went outside. Jim could do it, Jim could put it down the dog wouldn't bother him.

Then during the summer time he wanted him shaved. That was a fun time. We'd put him up on Jim's table, we'd get a mussel, Jim would have to hold his head while I shaved it. I'm sitting there going, "Not going there." Hoss ended up with cancer, we didn't know it was cancer but Jim was out of town and he had this place come up on his tail. Jim wanted me to doctor it. That's the first time I got bit because I was doctoring and he jerked around and he bit me right on my thigh. Jim says "Are you okay?" "I'm fine, I'm fine, **darn** dog." Actually he was out of town when we had to have the dog put down. I've taken him to the vet a lot of times, the vet finally says "He's just eat up with it." I called Jim and he says "Do what you need to do." Right after that he got Paddles.

Rose

One other question from the 70s.... We found a letter from the Chancellor of the UT system saying "We got the request of Sam Provence and Jim Hayes to meet with the Regents, we think this is a great idea, we think creating a model campus is a wonderful idea. UTA, what are you willing to do first?" It's addressed to Wayne Duke.

Trevor, will you explain what you were thinking in terms of the enforcement?

Engel

Basically an offer for Jim Hayes and Sam to go speak in front of the Regents. I really think that that's what it took before the Regents started enforcing the Senate bill 111.

Rose

The correspondence is 1973. The law was passed 1969, becomes effective January 1, 1970. The federal predecessor of it has almost no enforcement. We're assuming the state law similar.

Engel

Yeah. It just doesn't seem like there was any pressure or anything, any mention of it from the Regents or any of the state boards to schools about being accessible. At least until they went and presented and were like "You have to do this."

Rose

Around 1975 we found construction approvals, new facilities approvals. There was a form that was mandated by the Senate bill saying "This will be accessible." Then you can see a paper trail, coordinating board and the Regents. They were both responsible. We were wondering if Provence and Jim Hayes are the ones that say "Okay, you need to actually do something about this law." Which would be really cool if it's true. The Provence's were pretty sure they did actually did go meet with the Regents, and Wayne Duke thinks that they did, I just want to see if you remember anything.

Raney

I don't remember but I would almost bet you I have documentation on that. Like I said, not this week but next week I'm off. That's when I plan on getting into that storage unit.

Rose

Wayne Duke's papers are scattered among a bunch of collections and there are not a lot of records.

Raney

I know exactly where everything is. It's in that storage unit.

Rose

Jim worked with Wayne Duke for years, right?

Raney

Yes. I remember the name very well.

Rose

Do you have any stories?

Raney

I really don't, I just know that Jim respected him tremendously and that's who he worked through on a lot of his projects.

Engel

It was a mutual respect because Wayne Duke talks about him quite a bit.

Rose

We did an oral history a few weeks ago with Wayne Duke.

Raney

Yeah, that's one name that does ring a bell.

Rose

What about Kent Gardner? He was one of Wayne Duke's employees and we think he was involved a little bit, but we're not sure yet. We're gonna try to get in touch with him. Wendell Nedderman, that's the other one.

Raney

Actually, I have some documentation signed by him. I'll have to dig it up. I haven't read all of them so I don't know exactly of what they entail, but I have some of that stuff.

Rose

What we've been told is your brother educated Jim Hayes and probably Provence too, other students. Nedderman was very supportive when Wayne Duke went to him, never really said no, it's just an issue of priorities. There were some other people that were like "Is this really a high-priority?" and Wayne Duke really pushed it and also used student congress to say "We need a resolution." Some of the resolutions, as we're going through the PDFs and putting together a list for the digitization, I'll pull out some of the resolutions and send them to you. Some of them are really cool, like "This is an excusable delay, it's shameful." They were incredibly supportive of your brother.

Raney

Like I said, if I can find the documentation that goes with the gavel, because I know that was a major change. Jim would not kept that for any other reason.

Rose

The gavel? Why don't you explain a little bit more about that.

Raney

I just know that I have the gavel and it was from something being when the judge came down and said "It is. This is it." Jim's got the gavel and I have it. I will donate that also. Hopefully with the documentation that goes with the gavel. I know it was a major thing, he always kept it on a shelf. It was major. It was a major accomplishment.

Rose

Wow. You said you were going to tell the story about the can of Coke?

Raney

Oh yeah. All of his boys were always his boys. He had one player, I can't remember what his name was but he quit the team. He was having difficulties and he quit the team. Then he moved off. Well, Jim received a package in the mail and it was a can of Coke. He put it on his shelf, it was in his office and he looked at that can and he could not figure out "Why would he send me a can of Coke?" Then it just "Ding, he's on cocaine. He's a problem." He contacted him, sure enough, he put him in rehab, got him cleaned up and got his my back together. All from a can of Coke.

Rose

That's really cool.

Raney

That's just the way Jim thought, he was able to figure these things out. Apparently his boys knew how he thought, but the boy didn't want to come right out and tell him so this is the way he told him. Jim just had to get the brains, wheels going. Which I would never think that way, I would just say "Huh? Really? Okay I'll drink it then." That's probably what I would do.

Rose

<topic>Wheelchair basketball</topic>

His first team was the Hotshots? That was again when you were raising your boys?

Raney

Yes. When he started that, it was just a recreational thing, it wasn't really an official team. They couldn't play in the college. They weren't recognized, it was just a bunch of guys that got together that was in wheelchairs or handicapped and they just did it before and after school. That's how they evolved the team.

Rose

They were just using regular chairs? Do you know if he started finding out about sports chairs, making modifications?

Raney

Regular chairs. Well, that one article that I gave you from TCJC, he was already figuring modifying.

Rose

That's from '82, and it's working on day chairs though, to modify them for basketball.

Raney

Yeah, he was trying to modify them for better balance. Jim was really good at jumping curbs and wheelies. Matter fact I had a friend, when Jim passed away, or was it? I'm trying to think now. No, I think it was brother John passed away and I can't remember why Jim was not in his wheelchair. We must've gotten him in because they didn't have a ramp. We must of gotten him in and got him placed and was bringing his wheelchair in. This friend of mine decided he was going to try and pop a wheelie like Jim did. He ended up busting his head. I was sitting there "So you think it's easy huh?" It wasn't an easy thing, but brother could do it.

Rose

Wow. And with not much control of his hands?

Raney

Right. He was an amazing guy.

Rose

So he was modifying his own chair as well as playing around with the team ones. The Hotshots evolved into the FreeWheelers? Were you in much touch with him during the Paralympics and the push from Austin to Arlington?

Raney

Not like I was after that. Raising four boys I could really have a whole lot of contact, but I knew what he was doing. I didn't get to go and watch any of it. I followed it, I talked to him afterwards. Probably would've broke my heart if I would've because the shape of his hands and everything by the time he was through. He didn't want me involved because I was protective sister. I wouldn't have liked it.

Rose

<topic>Her personal relationship with Jim</topic>
What was your impression of his activism there?

Raney

I couldn't believe he was doing it! I really couldn't believe, I thought it was amazing, but it was like "Really? You really think you're gonna do this?" He really was, but that was him. If he set his mind to something, it was going to happened. It was all to raise awareness and funds.

Rose

Really to help the Arlington Handicapped Association and the independent living program.

Engel

They didn't get \$40,000 in funding from the state that year so that's what he was trying to raise.

Raney

Yeah. Trying to bring up the money.

Rose

He would've known the people that were being served.

Raney

Right.

Rose

When you really got close to him was in the mid-90s? When he moved in?

Raney

Of course I came to the games anyway, as much as I could. I would come to the games. I really got close to him when I divorced my first husband, because I moved in with mom to take care of her and Jim lived next door. I got really really really close to him then. I'd go over every morning and have coffee with him, made sure he ate.

Rose

He didn't tend to?

Raney

His idea of dinner was a hamburger patty. His idea of breakfast was a carnation instant breakfast with a little bit of coffee, and a whole lot of sugar. I would try to get his diet better. We got really really close. I'd mow his yards. He had a riding lawnmower that he'd transfer onto and he could mow his yard, but I didn't like for him to do it. The vibration of the mowing could cause breakdowns, and I didn't want that to happen. Anytime I could I'd mow it for him. There was things a lot of people don't think about, he couldn't clean his bathtub. How's he going to clean his bathtub? Really? He couldn't do it. Mopping his floor? He could sweep, he could vacuum, it wasn't easy, but he could. Changing the sheets? He had a waterbed. He couldn't do that. He did his own laundry. I didn't realize all this until I lived next door to him.

Rose

Who was doing it before? Wives, or girlfriends?

Raney

I don't know whether he had somebody come in when he had his apartments or duplexes. I know mom did some like when he'd go out of town. She would go and clean.

Rose

What about driving?

Raney

He had hand controls. In fact, I donated those to Doug when Jim died. We took them off and I said "I'm sure there's somebody that could use this." He had hand controls.

Rose

Were they designed for someone with paraplegia, quadriplegia, or do you know?

Raney

You pull forward and it'd give it gas, he'd pushed back it'd put it on the brake. That's all I know.

Rose

He used a normal steering wheel?

Raney

Oh yeah, he used a normal steering wheel. It was just for the gas and the brake.

Rose

That's the difference then.

Raney

It was pretty cool. I didn't like driving it. You can use the foot part. I tried one time, I was sitting there "Oh no, I can't get used to this."

Rose

Wow. I know you've mentioned Mike Moncrief, we're gonna actually try to interview him, partly because he's actually been really involved in disability policy and disability rights. His sister's disabilities, but also because the connection with Jim Hayes. They were friends?

Raney

Yes. Mike actually put up the money for Jim to go to the Olympics. When Jim won the gold medal, every year they would trade out. They would have lunch, he and Rosie, that's Mike Moncrief's wife...Jim never referred to her as Mrs. Moncrief, it was always Rosie. They must've been pretty close.

Rose

Do you know how they met?

Raney

No I do not, I do not know how they met. I know he loved Jim. When I was at a Sheriff Posse event he was there, and he came over to us on the horses and I introduced myself as Jim's sister. He actually gave me a kiss on the cheek and praised Jim. I know that they had to be very very close. I never could get a hold of him because I was going to give him that metal when Jim died because they always traded it each year, one or the other would keep it. I didn't have the number to reach him.

Rose

We'll let you know if we get in touch.

Raney

Actually, I have Jim's cell phone, which even though it's not activated it would still have phone numbers in it. If y'all want to see if you can utilize that. It may have contact numbers that you may want. I think it's got Eddie McGee's.

Rose

That would be useful. Whose he?

Raney

He's the one that the house, big brother. It was Eddie McGee. I remembered his name, I knew it'd come to me. It's got his number and he'll know a lot about Jim, and the things he did. I don't know, it may have Mayor Moncrief's number on it. I don't know who's all number.

Rose

That would be helpful if you're willing to give us numbers off it.

Raney

Yeah, I have it. I think I still have it in my drawer.

Rose

Also to let people know about the exhibit.

Raney

It's a modernized cell phone, this one was when I got him to the 21st century. It was his first one after the great big one. It may have some numbers on there that you might can utilize.

Rose

Are there other things you can think of that you can tell us about?

Raney

Let's see, I can think of everything when I'm not with y'all.

Rose

Particular students he was really close to? His Paralympic experience?

Raney

When he used to go and set up the courses for them, he had one little girl that he told me about one year. She couldn't make it through the course that year and he took her under his wing and really worked with her so that she could do it the next year. Not that they were particularly close, it's just that if he saw somebody that had a need that really needed help, and was really trying, he'd go the extra mile. He had boys that when they'd come to the campus, they wouldn't have anything. He'd get them a bed. He did it out of his own pocket. He always did stuff like that. I guess it's because he had been there, and he wanted them to have a chance. Now if they were goof offs, he'd talked to him and he'd let them know "I'm done with you. You either straighten up or you're out of here."

Gooch, do you know who I'm talking about?

Rose

No, actually.

Raney

He was a basketball player, had the bushy hair. His second year playing on the team, Jim had told me, I went to some of the games and I'm sitting there going "What's his deal? He's not really being a team player. He wants to do it all, and he can't. That's why you lost the game." He said "I know." He says "We're going to have a talk and either he's going to be a team player or he's be on the bench." That's the way it was. He told him, "It's all going to your head." He was getting a lot of publicity. He says "It's all going to your head and if you can't play as a team, you can't play with us." It straighten him out.

Rose

Wow. How much was he involved in the Dallas Maverick wheelchair team? I know a lot of the alums are there, passed through. Abu Yilla.

Raney

I know a lot of his boys went to the team. I really don't know how much of it he was involved with it. I know he supported his boys that went.

Rose

We'll be curious to see this paperwork and see what his network is in terms of adaptive sports. I bet it's in there.

Raney

He was all over the place. If he was needed, he was there.

Rose

Building adaptive sports in general.

Raney

Yeah, but he didn't want recognition, that's the whole thing about brother Jim. He tried to keep a low profile, and if he could give somebody else the credit he would. He didn't want it.

Rose

Interesting. What about that story you told about the funeral and the team? That you told in special collections?

Raney

To start at the beginning of it, when I took him to the hospital... I think about this all the time, had they called the G.I. doctor in and did the x-ray at the very beginning, Jim would be alive today, because it took twenty-four hours to get him to where he was.

A paraplegic's body is different than ours, it's different than ours. You don't know. They have no feeling but they're hurting. There's something there that we don't know because he shouldn't be feeling pain, but he was feeling a lot of pain. I'm sitting there going, "Okay, I know their bodies are different, I know they have to be treated different, but I don't know how." We got regular doctors in here coming up with all kinds of crap. One doctor says "Mr. Hayes, you've had a heart attack. Mr. Hayes you're a diabetic." I'm sitting there going, "Really? No. Can we look a little further?" I called who I thought was his girlfriend, Julie. I let her know that he was in the hospital, he was critical, I didn't know.

Rose

She didn't deny?

Raney

Oh no, she didn't! She didn't tell me "No, I'm not the one he's been talking to!" I just thought she was! She flew in from Kentucky because I needed somebody there that knew paraplegic's, that could help me direct the doctors.

I knew that Jim had an aorta aneurysm, I even told the doctors that. I don't know, I didn't see them write it down. I don't even know if they knew when they took him into surgery. He wasn't in surgery very long and the doctor came out and said "No, he didn't make it. We opened him up and just closed him back up. There's nothing we could do." They put him on life support and said "Call whoever." Julie made a couple calls and the whole team showed up, every one of them. Doug was on the road so he was on his way back but he didn't get here in time. I had to tell them when to shut the machine down. Every one

of them boys was in there to say their goodbyes. For the funeral, they had everything set up at **Lauraland**, but there's no way they could accommodate the wheelchairs. Little bitty rooms, there was no way they could accommodate. So I had them transport his body.... Julie and Doug set it up, fixed up the sweat box. They did the CDs, everything. I didn't have to do any of it, they did it all. Had his body brought here and his boys set vigil over him that night.

Rose

You said there was one missing?

Raney

Except for the one, who did we say it was?

Rose

Possibly David **Wilkes**.

Raney

Yeah, David **Wilkes**.

Rose

Tattoos, tall, hip amputee. Big tattoos up and down one arm.

Raney

Yeah. He didn't come to the hospital, and he was not seen for several days. They said it hit him so hard, and he just went into a shell.

Rose

Danny?

Raney

It killed Danny, but he got the basketball and had all the team players sign it. When the ceremony was over, we also had a little girl, and I'll never forget it. I've got it on tape, the TV station taped the whole thing for me. She played Amazing Grace on her flute at the very end. Beautiful. Danny deflated the ball and put in the casket. It was beautiful. I don't know whether y'all want to see that or not, his funeral, because we did have several speakers.

Rose

I imagine they probably might want the program, videos, you'll have to check with Brenda, you have her email.

Raney

Yeah. I have all that. What they said, all the people that were there.

Rose

That would be valuable.

Raney

Yeah. There was lots and lots, there had to be 500 people. People would come up and give me a card and say "I would like to have a copy of the video." It just went over my head. I didn't even recognize my husband's own family when they came up. There were so many people, I turned around like I'm meeting somebody totally different and ended up being his sisters and brothers. I'm sitting there, "Oh my goodness. I can't believe I didn't even recognize you."

Of course, mom, on that time she had just gotten out of the nursing home and she had Alzheimer's real bad. She had no clue what was going on. I took her, but I didn't have her come to the hospital when I disconnected. I just felt that would be way too much for her. We had a real hard time when she just got out of a nursing home when brother John died, and Jim went with me over to her house to tell her. She didn't compute it at all. We took her to the funeral, she didn't remember it. She didn't compute it. I don't think she did Jim's.

Rose

Was your dad still alive?

Raney

No my dad passed away twenty years before. In fact he passed away in her arms. At the end she didn't even remember that. She kept telling me I needed to go pick him up from work. It's like "Okay, I'm going! I'm going, mom!" The boys, they were great.

Rose

Thanks for sharing that. You were wondering about the temperature?

Engel

I was reading an article on the push from Austin to here, and in the same paragraph it said that he was worried about hyperthermia and one hundred degree temperatures at the same time. That's kind of

weird that hypothermia could set in in the middle of summer. You mentioned that their bodies were different.

Raney

Yeah. First of all, you have to know that when they're in pain, it's 100° temperature and they're sweating anyway. When they're in pain, sweat is one of the ways their bodies let them know they're in pain.

Engel

The article also said that he couldn't sweat.

Raney

If he quit sweating he was dehydrating. If he sweat then you've got the chill that comes which could develop into the hypothermia. One of the things that we always had to worry about with him, he would quit sweating and at that point you had to put ice packs on his neck, his chest, and his back to cool him down.

Rose

Because he was overheated?

Raney

Yeah, he would do that just in his yard working. He wouldn't realize it. Then with the chill you can get the hypothermia because your body temperature just starts dropping dramatically.

Rose

Basically his body temperature regulation wasn't very good to begin with.

Raney

It never was. He never had good regulation of body temperature. He would sweat because of pain but want to be in front of a fire. He'd be pouring sweat. He would feel cold, but he's sweating. He's sweating because he's in pain. This is very interesting thing, he never keyed that in, he never joined that.

There was one day I was over there and he actually had a kidney infection. Of course, they can't feel, they don't know. He was pouring sweat and I said "Brother what are you sweating for?" He says "I don't know." I said "Is your kidneys acting up again?" He had to take **Rocephin** shots. He went somewhere and got, I think it's a **Pseudomonas bacteria** that never leaves your body if you ever get it. It's always there, it doesn't always flare up, but it's always there. It had flared up so he was taken Rocephin injections that he was given himself. I said "Brother, when you're in pain you sweat. That's your body telling you you're hurting." We got the doctor to give him some Darvocet. If he started sweating, he'd take the Darvocet, the pain went away so he'd quit sweating. It took both of us to figure that one out. The doctors couldn't

even figure it out. I'm sitting there going, "Really? That's just common sense. You watch him." I watched him. I was an observer. I observed him a lot more than I spoke up because he didn't want help, he didn't want sympathy.

Rose

You were his baby sister.

Raney

Yeah, I was his baby sister, but we did cue in on that, and that's what would cause the hypothermia because he didn't have body temperature control. The sweat didn't necessarily mean he was hot.