

Project: Bay Area Feminists Oral History Project

Interview with Janet Gray Hayes

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**Moon:**

My name is Danelle Moon, I am the director of San Jose State Special Collections, and today I am interviewing Janet Gray Hayes for my oral history project documenting Bay Area feminists. Aime McNamara, a graduate student in History, is also joining me on this interview, and today's date is April 12, 2006. The interview is ready to begin.

Well, Janet Gray, it's such a pleasure to get to meet you, I've been reading your papers that we've had that you deposited in the Special Collections, and I've been reading a lot about the feminist capital and as I'm going along my research path, and just to give you a little bit of background which I kind of alluded to a few minutes ago, which is: my background is as a women's historian and I have been documenting the post-suffrage era of political women in Connecticut, and so when I moved to San Jose I determined that I needed to find a more local source to be able to continue my research, so I'm really doing a comparison study between what happened in Connecticut in almost the immediate post-suffrage years from 1920 to about 1940.

**Hayes:**

Was Ella Grasso, wasn't she the governor of --

**Moon:**

Yeah, that's right. She was the first governor in the United States

**Hayes:**

There were three of us that were breakthroughs.

**Moon:**

Right. And she was a huge breakthrough; I think that was 1972 or '74.

**Hayes:**

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**Moon:**

And so, of course there's a lot of great history there in Connecticut and so I'm doing somewhat of a comparison between what happened there in the early years and then looking more forward to what was happening in San Jose with the whole entourage of women coming into politics, and particularly looking at the role that you had in that process, and so one of my themes is just trying to get an understanding of what really helped create this feminist capital, and you coined the phrase, and it became such an immediate media imagery of San Jose and then it seemed to have kind of a domino effect both in San Jose and Santa Clara and then other locations as well, and so what I'd like you first of all is to maybe just talk a little bit about what you meant when you were talking about this idea of the feminist capital and what role you played in actually building really a political base for women in the valley.

**Hayes:**

Well, I played a big role because I was interested in having some help on the Council, but I had what they called then the "gang of four" that were very much against me on my first term on the Council and then tried to stymie me in every way, and even one of the councilmen who shouldn't have been my ally really wasn't, and so I had a very difficult first term and I felt I've got to correct this and help get some more women on this Council, and we did. And it paid off because we became the feminist capital of the country, and not only that, one of my proudest accomplishments was, it was an era of something called Proposition 13 where they cut back drastically on state funds to the cities, and we ended up with a triple A bond rating after that, and it's never been achieved since that time, and that was when people would come with their financial requests and I would say, "Look, we'd like to, we simply cannot afford it." And they'd say, "Well, I voted against Proposition 13," and I said, "And so did I." I was very much against it, however, this is something you're going to have to do for yourself; we can't do it anymore. And as a result of that, many things happened including the San Jose Family Camp, with which I was very proud that they went out and they formed their own organization, the San Jose Family Camp, and they ran it themselves and it didn't cost the city any money and it's still a family camp where people go every summer; it's very successful.

**Moon:**

So it's like a summer camp that families can go to?

**Hayes:**

Yes, it is.

**Moon:**

Oh. OK, and where is that? Where is the campground?

**Hayes:**

It's up in the Sierras someplace.

**Moon:**

Uh huh, like maybe near Yosemite or --

**Hayes:**

Yeah.

**Moon:**

Oh, OK. I hadn't heard of that.

**Hayes:**

San Jose Family Camp.

**Moon:**

OK. Well you certainly had some really interesting first hand politicking going on, and particularly with the "gang of four" as you call them, and as they've been referred to all over the newspapers. How did you deal with some of the discrimination that you faced when you first came into office, and then how did that change, or did you see a significant change between the two terms that you served?

**Hayes:**

Well, yes I did, because I won re-election by over 71% much to the surprise of my male colleagues. But in the meantime, in my first term I helped other women get elected including Lola Williams who was a black

gal, she became a vice-mayor and Susan Hammer was my assistant and she became the mayor after me. After Tom McEnery, actually, but it was not easy. It was very difficult.

**Moon:**

So did you see yourself as a role model for other women entering politics, or what avenues did you go through to try and help women or advocate for women as they tried to move into some of these political arenas?

**Hayes:**

Well, I worked with their campaigns and I helped out. Just gave them as much help as I possibly could. And politics is a rough business; you have to expect the unexpected at the last moment. I remember something I said, I had it all ready to say and it had to be at the right time and the right time was on a television station when Mr. Garza, Alfredo Garza who we later put in jail, was going after me as he did frequently, and I said to him, "Mr. Garza, if you stop telling lies about me, I'll stop telling the truth about you." And it was just at the right moment, but we finally got the goods on him and it was bad. He's been rehabilitated since then. He went to jail and paid his time, and has been rehabilitated.

**Moon:**

Have you had contact with him since that time frame?

**Hayes:**

Oh, yes. I even wrote a letter of recommendation for him, and he wanted to be a schoolteacher and he would have been a great one but he went into real estate instead. But, when I went into politics, politician was just below the used car salesman in the ladder of how people felt about people. They distrusted used car salesmen, and right under that were the politicians. So one of the things that I tried to do was to be an honest politician, and that was my billboard, actually, when I ran for the second term it was big, "We're honest... we must re-elect Mayor Hayes," with the implication that my opponent was not honest, which he wasn't.

**Moon:**

Well, apparently not -- he ended up going to prison. Now, did he ever apologize to you for treating you so badly in the press after you kind of reconnected after he went to prison?

**Hayes:**

No, he never apologized to me, but, you know, time passes.

**Moon:**

Right, and then you're separated also from the whole business of politics.

**Hayes:**

And he rehabilitated himself, so I was glad to see that.

**Moon:**

How would you describe your relationship with Joe Colla, there was a lot of conversation in the newspapers about that, what was his deal?

**Hayes:**

Terrible! Because he was all for -- my first opponent was Bart Collins, who was a big, burly police chief, and the *Mercury* was all for him because he and the -- can't think of the Associate Editor -- were classmates or something together, and in the *Mercury*, they would report the debates that we had erroneously, I felt, and it was interesting because I used to be a debater in high school, I loved to debate, and the *Mercury* would

report the debates that we had among ourselves, said, "Collins assertively stated..." so on and so forth, "the housewife argumentatively replied," and it wasn't like that at all. And people who had been there at the debate heard me, and they called in the headquarters, oh, by dozens, and said I was there and it wasn't at all like it was reported in the *Mercury*, I'm ready to sign up to help you. And that helped me.

**Moon:**

That helps you a lot. Now, there in that time period there was a lot of kind of cronyism

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that was part of the political process as well as in the newspaper, and the newspaper constantly was using that kind of house -- kind of demeaning the whole concept of a housewife, and then the fact that you're a housewife going into politics even though you have a really diverse background and you come from a very well-educated background being a social worker and all the things that you had done prior to coming to California, and then all the work that you did with the PTA and some of these other organizations. How did you navigate between the whole concept of that kind of demoralizing sort of aspect of critiquing you as a housewife versus the actual political work that you were doing? That must have been extremely discouraging.

**Hayes:**

Well, it was. It wasn't -- I was a special kind of a social worker; I was a psychiatric social worker which is very, very good because it's very helpful in politics (laughter). That reminds me of the first call I got when I was mayor, had a long-range planning session with my staff on a Saturday, and I got a call from the police department and they said, "Mayor Hayes, there is a man that is threatening to commit suicide unless he can talk to the mayor. Would you be able to talk to him?" And that's where my psychiatric social work kicked in, so I headed that one off, and then there were a lot of very terrific scenes. I remember when some guy came and pointed a gun at me. He was very upset about the garbage rate increase, and he was just furious. He was an apartment house-owner or something, and he came in and pointed this gun at me and I leaned over into the microphone I said, "Mr. So-and-so, put that gun down." And fortunately the city attorney and I went under the [deals?] the same way rather than hit each other, and that alerted the police to come over and they got him. But the thing was, after that, they always have a policeman at the City Hall (overlapping dialogue; inaudible). They had no policemen there; they were in the police building which was back of City Hall.

**Moon:**

Oh, gosh. That must have been extremely frightening.

**Hayes:**

Well, things like that happen on a local level.

**Moon:**

Well, particularly, if you were working in divorce law or something that happens a lot in the office. You know, divorce attorneys have the highest murder rate, I think, of attorneys because they get disgruntled parties coming in and trying to address their conflicts, but -- well, that's an interesting story. Now, looking backwards a little bit, who or whom -- or was there a particular moment in your life where a person who really inspired you to want to go into, not necessarily directly into politics, but actually helped really mentor you as a young woman and kind of reinforce the idea of public service?

**Hayes:**

No, I got into public service because I got mad at what the Council was doing. Actually, it was triggered by the fact that I was head of the PTA at our elementary school where my children went, and we were promised a crossing guard because of the very dangerous intersection, and they had an underpass at the time but there

were vagrants in there and so I wanted a crossing guard. And in the spring, the Council granted us a crossing guard. And when I went back, there wasn't a crossing guard there when school started again in September. I went down to the Council and they said, "Oh, well, we're sorry. It didn't get into the minutes, so you don't get the crossing guard." And that made me mad enough that I decided things shouldn't be run that way, and I ran for Council on the basis of that.

**Moon:**

But prior to that, hadn't you been working with the Redevelopment Agency?

**Hayes:**

Yes, I had been on the Redevelopment Agency and got to know all about redevelopment and working with the men on redevelopment. And actually, my role model was my mother who was one of four orphans in the '20s, and she became a very, very successful businesswoman and also was president of the school board in my little hometown of Rushville, Indiana, for years and years. So she was really a role model for me. I had the feeling if you wanted to do something, you could do it. But I always remember she read the Christmas story about the little train that thought it could, "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can," and it went up and over, so I was read that many, many times.

**Moon:**

Was your mother also involved with the League of Women Voters during that time period?

**Hayes:**

No. No. She was a very successful businesswoman, [barn?] manager, and...

**Moon:**

All right. Well, I wanted people that I've spoken to so far seem to reflect back on some of the mentoring that they received from their parents or from other people in their life, and so I would have thought that your mom, having read some of the things that your mother has accomplished, that that would have certainly inspired you. Now, looking at your move from the -- when you joined the City Council, you weren't on the city council when Virginia Schaefer was there, right you joined later on?

**Hayes:**

She was known as "Madame No," and because of that she never got anything passed!

**Moon:**

OK, so when you joined you had a different sort of perspective when you got on?

**Hayes:**

Yes. Yeah, I wanted to work with the Council and I found with the gang of four and that was next to impossible, so I said well, the next best thing is to get some more women elected.

**Moon:**

Right. So what were some of the issues that you were concerned about and that you really wanted to change once you got onto the City Council?

**Hayes:**

Well, we had a general plan. I felt very, very strongly that San Jose just couldn't keep growing like an amoeba, just growing, growing, growing, so what we did was to -- I pushed the idea of a general plan, and we had three areas, the urban core area, the urban transition area, and the urban reserve area. We got that passed so that -- and that was the model that I took; we must make San Jose better before we make it bigger.

**Moon:**

Right, that was one of your campaign slogans; I know it was. OK, and looking at the work that you did, albeit the difficulties you had with the gang of four and just their reticence to really be supportive of women in politics, do you think -- was the general plan one of the most important things that you think you accomplished while you were on the Council prior to becoming mayor, or were there other issues to that?

**Hayes:**

Oh, I think that was one of the most important issues. We came after a man named Dutch Hammond had been the City Manager for years and years, and he was all, "Grow, grow, grow," and I was the one that said, "We've got to control this growth." Controlling growth was not the best thing in the eyes of the developers, at all.

**Moon:**

Right, well you have a conflict between developers and environmentalists, and so how would you describe yourself within that group?

**Hayes:**

Oh, I was definitely an environmentalist, and still am, very much.

**Moon:**

And so, in fact -- I don't know if you have read Glenna Matthews book on the history of women in the Silicon Valley, she had actually given you great credit in her book, you know, being a champion environmentalist. And, could you describe some of the issues that you tried to implement from a policy standpoint, and then other sorts of measures that you have been concerned about?

**Hayes:**

Well, it was just the general plan that we didn't allow development into Coyote Valley, we didn't allow development unless the infrastructure to support it -- we were trying to build up the downtown, the [corn?] area.

**Moon:**

OK. And so when you think of yourself as an environmentalist, you were more looking at land use sort of issues rather than, let's say, water quality or recycling, or would that --?

**Hayes:**

No, I was very interested in water quality. I remember one time I went out on the South Bay and there had been some sewage spills into the South Bay, and I always thought it was good to dramatize things, so I went out and we had the sewage treatment plant cleaned up, and I reached down and got a bunch of shrimp and handed them up so that the photographers could see because we had cleaned up the South Bay and there was no more of the sewage spill -- sewage treatment plant.

**Moon:**

Actually, you just kind of triggered something for me when you said you like to dramatize certain situations, and there was this one article where they kind of give a bullet list of all of the things that you did that were out of the ordinary. For example, you rode a bicycle with some young people when you were trying to promote transportation issues

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for, I think, the CalTrain, and actually we have one of those photographs in the collection that you gave us, and we've used that in doing these transportation sort of exhibits. And then a couple of other things, the hotline that you created for the rape problem that was at San Jose State, can you describe that event a little

bit? I think you actually had broadcast to get the rapist to come to try and contact you, and what happened with that? Where did you go with that?

**Hayes:**

Well, there were two nuns, I believe, that were raped in the convent up near San Jose State, so I took -- they said I was crazy -- but I got loads and loads of whistles and we told the girls we were coming on campus and we handed out whistles so that if they were ever afraid in the twilight or the evening, they would have the whistle. They would blow the whistle. And they took them all. They wanted more and more and more, so that worked out very well. I just think it's good to dramatize.

**Moon:**

How did the Council respond to some of the work that you were doing in trying to support safety? I mean, the whole rape issue is a safety issue.

**Hayes:**

Well, they were working on that.

**Moon:**

They were? OK. So they weren't being difficult in looking at that as a --

**Hayes:**

Well, I didn't even ask them.

**Moon:**

(laughter), you just did it. OK. Now, looking at some of the other political issue that you were involved in, there's a whole list of things that come to mind -- one is the gay pride issue, another one would be talking about the task force, the ERA Task Force that you were involved in, which was formed. I think it was a national group that was formed by the Mayor's Association, and the idea was to basically boycott, or to influence other mayors to ratify the ERA. Do you have any recollections of your work on that particular Task Force?

**Hayes:**

No, but I'm sure I probably worked on it, I just can't remember. I remember the gun control. I remember one thing that I didn't get through, and that was I wanted to put a ban on the Saturday Night Specials. I said, "You don't shoot ducks or pheasants with Saturday Night Specials," so I tried to get them to pass a ban on Saturday Night Specials in the city of San Jose, and the night that that was on the agenda the Council cha-- I thought I had my four votes -- the Council Chambers were jammed with gun owners, I've never seen -- and they were spilling out into the hallway and everything, and they were just furious that I would try to put through a ban on a Saturday Night Special. And so the Council just melted. But the reason that I was for it was -- my mother was murdered by some teenagers with a gun, a handgun, and I figured, you know, I certainly didn't want that to happen.

**Moon:**

Right, and your father was also seriously injured from that attack. Your stepfather. Did he survive that attack too?

**Hayes:**

Stepfather. Barely. He never -- he was a mess for the rest of his life, because he saw his wife shot right there.

**Moon:**

That must have been awful.

**Hayes:**

Yeah, it was terrible.

**Moon:**

Well, I also believe in gun control so I think that's great that you were actually involved in that sort of policy issue. But, how did that compare to -- I know like in the publicity that you got over the gay rights, or the gay pride week resolution, the Council had originally voted to support it and then the pressure from the -- I think it mostly came from the Los Gatos Christian Church --

**Hayes:**

Marlin Redford (sp?)

**Moon:**

Right, and there's an interesting article where you had talked about this particular situation and he had apparently denied, after the fact that he had sent you this really hostile letter, and then you sent him a copy of the letter and he then apologized to you for that, do you remember that incident?

**Hayes:**

Just vaguely, just vaguely. I think I didn't support it right at the beginning, and I thought it was just too touchy a subject for San Jose to have to deal with; we had so many other things. But then of course I certainly support Ken Yeager, and have been a great supporter of his for a long time, so.

**Moon:**

Well, I think also one of the problems was that you were going through your re-election campaign and that was such a touchy issue that it would have made it very difficult for you in your campaign process, but that's of course an issue that's been well-reported in the newspapers and we have, in addition to the political papers at San Jose State we have a pretty large gay and lesbian collection, and so that all kind of fits together looking at some of the policy issues related to the gay pride. Another area that I was curious about -- there was a big campaign for the Alice Doesn't Day, and that was the day in which women weren't going to make coffee or weren't going to do this or that, do you recall how you felt about that particular feminist campaign?

**Hayes:**

No, I can't remember that. I just remember when Billie Jean King was the tennis champion and that I went into City Hall with a tennis racket under my -- in support of Billie Jean King.

**Moon:**

Oh, OK. So did you go to the tennis match and everything -- the hallmark tennis match between Billie Jean and --

**Hayes:** No, I didn't get to go.

**Moon:**

No? OK, I thought as a tennis advocate you might have gone to that. Another really important issue in San Jose in the 1980s was the comparable worth issue, comparable worth, so I'm curious as to what you recall about your work in relationship to that.



**Hayes:**

Well, I was very, very interested in it because I felt that it was very unfair to the women workers, and we had a study which pointed out the salary disparities in the same work that men were doing and the women were doing, and the women were not getting -- so we were able to adjust that so the women got better coverage.

**Moon:**

Was it hard for you to balance your personal views about supporting the ERA and women's rights in contrast to the budget and other policy decisions that you were part of? Can you describe any of your...?

**Hayes:**

No, I don't remember that I was ever in conflict because people knew where I stood.

**Moon:**

Mm-hmm. Would you define yourself, or at that time, did you define yourself as a feminist?

**Hayes:**

Yes.

**Moon:**

And what did that mean to you?

**Hayes:**

That I thought more women should get in politics (laughter). That there weren't enough women in politics.

**Moon:**

OK. Were you a member of any organizations that were sponsoring feminist sort of ideas?

**Hayes:**

I can't remember, but I remember running to the U.S. Conference of Mayors and they were all men.

**Moon:**

Right. And so that must have been an interesting experience.

**Hayes:**

Well, it certainly was. And they had this great big table with all the mayors and all their aides were against the wall, standing behind it. So I went up and sat at the table, I was the only woman, and this mayor -- fortunately I forget his name -- turned to me and said, "Oh, and whose secretary are you, dearie?" And I said, "I'm the mayor of San Jose, California." They weren't used to women being at the same table.

**Moon:**

So that was a real eye-opening experience when you did that.

**Hayes:**

Yeah. So I just sort of bided my time, I didn't get too pushy or anything. I had some very, very big friends at the time in the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

**Moon:**

Do you remember when that conference was? Was that in the mid-70s?

**Hayes:**

Yes, it was. Probably about '76 or '77.

**Moon:**

OK. There were a couple of different articles that were published -- one in "Newsweek," one in "People," and another one -- it wasn't the "Family Circle" one, but they were actually looking at the profile of women in politics, and you were part of that with Diane Feinstein and then there were a group of other women who were also elected at that same time including Jane Byrne from -- I think that's how she says her name, is it "Burn" or "Brine?"

**Hayes:**

"Burn."

**Moon:**

From Chicago.

**Hayes:**

[She's up there now?]

**Moon:**

And Margaret Hance. Actually, Margaret Hance was from Phoenix, and she said something that was really interesting to me. She said, in reference to her work, "The only time the male council members balk

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is when we ask for a recess to watch 'As the World Turns.'" And then she said -- she took no stand on the ERA and happily admitted that she used her sex to its great advantage and charmed the city, and with that [Steinem, et. al.?] might like to see strip-mined. Chivalry is not dead out here. I've always told women's groups not to be afraid of tokenism, it doesn't matter how you start as long as you qualify when you get there. Were you familiar with what she was saying in the press at the time that you were there?

**Hayes:**

No, I wasn't familiar with what she was saying, but I remember her very well. Thought very highly of her.

**Moon:**

She was also a Republican, but I thought -- I was curious as to why she said that about "As the World Turns," because it seemed like a way of just demeaning the whole aspect of women as politicians. But I think she must have meant it as a tongue-in-cheek sort of response to --

**Hayes:**

She was quite nice. I liked her. Well, I came from a very political town. Rushville, Indiana, although there's only 7,000 then and it's probably only 7,000 now, was the campaign headquarters of Wendell Wilkie in 1940 and my family were all Republicans, and we were sure that Wendell Wilkie was going to win the nomination running against a 3<sup>rd</sup> term for Franklin Delano Roosevelt. And I'll never forget the night that we had a big spread at our house and all our neighbors came in to celebrate the victory of Wendell Wilkie and it was pretty bad, nobody could even by -- it was just, they thought they were going to win. That was before a lot of television and everything messed up results.

**Moon:**

Well, things have changed a lot with the technology, that's for sure. And even more so today. In looking at your political life, and then also you still had two underage children when you entered the mayor's office as I

recall, how did you balance your family life and responsibilities with the political life that you had entered into?

**Hayes:**

Well, my children fortunately were some of my best campaigners, and they went with me and they understood that. They were just wonderful, and then my husband was a great help to me at that time even though he was a full-time physician, so we worked together as a family.

**Moon:**

And so it sounds like your whole family, including your husband, was extremely supportive (inaudible) and I think that's a characteristic that's running through all of the interviews that I've done so far is that the family was totally supportive, and the women's husbands were very supportive of them during that time frame, which illustrates the transformation a little bit in the male - female marriage relationship, I think. Do you have any thoughts on how, in looking back at your mother's generation and maybe going back to the 1950s, you had a whole different sort of presence of women in politics, and actually there weren't a lot of women that had -- there was kind of a shortfall from the 1940 period to the late 1960s, and part of it had to do with the gender relationships that kind of formed out of the Cold War era. Do you have any thoughts on that transformation or did you see your relationship with your husband as a kind of equal partnership from the beginning or was it --?

**Hayes:**

Yes, I did. I couldn't have done it without him. I have to tell you that my teenage son at the time was a pain in the neck because he just wasn't all for this women's stuff. He was a male chauvinist at that early age; I don't know how that every happened, but it did. And he turned out to be very good, turned out to be a very loving father and husband and stuff, but at the time he was very rebellious. So it wasn't all family unity.

**Moon:**

Right, right. Well, I'm sure it would be hard, just the pressure that's put on the family from the inside as well as acting and presenting yourself on the outside must be a real challenge. Especially as the first mayor of a city of its size and all the publicity that came along with it. There were articles in your collection that actually were reporting on the feminist capital all over the US, and then I found there was a Danish paper that also had caught this AP story that had crossed all over the wires, and so it was so curious to me that they were running the same story. There was a picture of you in the mayor's office as part of this whole -- I don't know if you remember that article, but it's all in Danish so unless you read that language you're not going to be able to read it, but you can clearly see that it says the feminist capital as the title to that newsprint so I thought that was really an interesting statement of what an impact that whole terminology had in capturing kind of the voice and the ears of the nation even if they didn't necessarily believe in feminism to that degree.

**Hayes:**

Well, I always had the feeling that women go through pregnancy and childbirth and it's just -- for what? Not for wars and you know, most of us want peace, that's why I think what's going on in the world today is just so horrible.

**Moon:**

So are you looking at it more from a maternalistic sort of perspective, that women have more because of their nurturing and childbearing sort of status that they look at politics and maybe policy in war differently than men do?

**Hayes:**

Well, I'm thinking of Condoleezza Rice who certainly -- and I'm not so sure about that one, but I do

remember this big poster that I saw of Indira Gandhi when she was head of India and under it, it had, "Yes, but can she type?" Sort of where the women should be. I mean, no, I think there are women -- there was Anita Bryan, and so not all women. I mean, not all women are as environmentally oriented and peace-oriented as I am.

**Moon:**

Well, I think that the women's movement, from the early period, has been always bifurcated between kind of the Conservatives, and the moderates, and then the radicals. And so if you look at the emergence of the modern women's movement like with NOW, and Betty Friedan, and Gloria Steinem, and some of the louder, more outspoken, more radical women that came out of that movement seem to alienate some of the more conservative women. How did you place yourself within that kind of feminist culture, did you see yourself--

**Hayes:**

Well, not that radical, but I certainly admired them. And who was the one with the big hat --

**Moon:**

Oh, Bella Abzug.

**Hayes:**

Bella Abzug, yeah, thought she was wonderful.

**Moon:**

Yes, she was a spark. I think she had a lot of energy and she also had some interesting experiences in politics.

**Hayes:**

I'm sure she did.

**Moon:**

Yeah. So, I think she was actually --

**Hayes:**

Probably stomped on them.

**Moon:**

Right, and she was just such a character too, so, I think that's a great quality. What do you think are good qualities for women going into government today, what do you think they need to be successful or to be electable?

**Hayes:**

The same as men. First of all, they're thick-skinned, a sense of humor, a vision of where you want to go, and fourth, and probably most important, strong kidneys.

**Moon:**

Strong kidneys?

**Hayes:**

You have interminably long debates and meetings (laughter). You can't leave because it's in a very critical time, so. But I think a sense of humor is very important, keep your sense of humor.

**Moon:**

Keep your sense of humor, that's probably a good quality to have in just about anything in life, I think.

**Hayes:**

Yes. I just read a book about Abraham Lincoln, and what a wonderful, wonderful President he was. He was always full of stories and brought things --

**Moon:**

Was that the Doris Kearns book?

**Hayes:**

Yes, I did. That was just marvelous, I just thought it was one of the best books I ever read.

**Moon:**

She's a great historian and writer, too, I think. Well, looking at this time period, we're looking at kind of the intermixing of gender and feminism in politics all at the same time. One political scientist you might be

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familiar with, her name Janet Fleming, she wrote a couple of books and articles on the feminist capital, and she had said in her book that several conditions kind of converged at the same time in Santa Clara County which helped shape it to become the feminist capital, and she writes, "Slow growth, environmentalism, desire for clean government, affluence, risk-taking, absence of machine politics, advent of district elections, effective women's organizations, favored women and produced women's policy agendas and distinct political style." And thinking about some of those points that she made, how did women change politics in this area, and do you think that women such as yourself or other women brought a particular or distinct character to the political arena?

**Hayes:**

Well, I think most women brought in honesty, the one thing they did not want to -- I know, I complained to a developer one time, I said, "I was never even offered a bribe that I could turn down." I said, "I don't understand." And he said to me, "You never put out the right vibes." And I said, "Well, like what?" Well, some would say, "Oh, our salary wasn't very good." That was the other thing, I set up a salary sending commission and we got the salary raised within a reasonable -- but it was disgracefully low when I first took over, and I -- he said, "You just don't put out the right vibes at all." Like, oh geez, like, "Kids need orthodontia and I just don't know how I'm going to pay for it," things like that that they would say. That's what he said.

**Moon:**

Now looking at one of the things she refers to, the absence of machine politics, is that how you would capture that history, the early history of your entrance into politics? Was there an absence of machine politics?

**Hayes:**

Oh yes, there was none.

**Moon:**

There was none. OK, but there was certainly kind of the "old boys" network that was really defining --

**Hayes:**

Definitely. I remember I did a lot of walking precincts and knocking on doors, and I remember one door I went to and knocked on the door and the man came out, I said, "I'm Janet Gray Hayes and I'd like to show you my literature, leave it with you." And he said, "I'll never vote for a woman." And then the wife in the

background said, "Just a minute." And she came out and she said, "I'd like to have you come in and talk." And so I went in and talked to them both, and afterwards he said, "Well, maybe I will vote for you." So I thought, well that made me very, very happy that, you know, I can just talk to people, see what they're interested in. Course, that's what psychiatric social work is all about. You find out where the client is, and then you start to work on the problem. But you have to find out where they are first.

**Moon:**

Right. Now, when you and Susie Wilson were working together on the Council, that was kind of the whole process of bringing in more women as you've been referring to, how would you define your relationship with Susie? Susie has a -- she's a go-getter and she's very -- you know, she has this idea, she's very stick-to-it sort of person, and once she's made up her mind about certain issues she doesn't change her mind even though she might be pressured to do so. How would you describe your relationship with Susie and the work that you were able to accomplish through the Council?

**Hayes:**

Well, I think it was very good. I just had lunch with Susie today, as a matter of fact, and one of my former aides, Susie -- Susie Smith now, Terrance Smith (sp?), and so I think we worked very well together. When she first came to Council, petitioning about something -- I can't remember what it was -- she was so quiet I leaned over to the microphone that I -- "Miss Wilson, would you please speak up a little bit?" Years later I thought about that, you never have to ask her to speak up since then.

**Moon:**

Yes, she certainly isn't quiet-spoken.

**Hayes:**

No, not at all.

**Moon:**

And she's a great storyteller also.

**Hayes:**

I'm sure.

**Moon:**

Do you have any really fond stories or memories of any of the funny things that happened to you when the two of you were working on projects in the Council?

**Hayes:**

No, there were just so many things that we did together. But the main thing is we tried to make it fun. It was very hard, it was hard on the family, it was hard work. And people forget that sometimes, that you have to understand what's on the agenda and who's for it, who's against it, and if you don't make up your mind until you hear all the arguments. So it's hard work to be in politics, and I'm all for good people going into politics, men or women, either one, as long as they have their heart in the right place.

**Moon:**

Now, also that whole process of being a politician is you're always in the public eye, and so as a result you're criticized on one hand and complimented on another, and you experienced that in both, actually, both parts of your campaign process and then your re-election in 1978. There was actually a long article that kind of described what your shortfalls were as well as what some of your virtues were that you brought to the office, and somebody -- there were some really critical things that were said, and it's hard to tell looking at a

newspaper account how accurate that really was, but somebody else had -- there were some mixed reviews according to the *Mercury* news special report in 1979, but then somebody else was quoted as saying in this article, "Some say the criticism of Ms. Hayes, a matronly, soft-spoken, moderate Democrat, is unfair, chauvinistic, and vengeful." And I thought that was a great quote, but what was so annoying about the quote was that they referred to you as "matronly." I would have been so mad if it would have been me, somebody saying that about myself, and so I'm just curious, how did you handle both the positive and negative press that was part of being in that political office?

**Hayes:**

Well, you can't help but be effected by it, especially when the *Mercury* was so against me in the first term. It was Joe Ridder. It was very, very difficult. But you just have to have a thick skin.

**Moon:**

Yeah, going back to the -- OK. Well, another important part for women as politicians has largely come from the support of female political networks, or female organizational networks, and I'm wondering if you could talk a little bit about some of the networks that you were involved in; I know that prior to getting involved in this City Council and the mayor's office, that you were the President of the League of Women Voters. Can you talk a little bit about what actually got you involved with the League, and how you think the League might have helped you as you were going forward into --?

**Hayes:**

There's no question that the League helped me. The League has you look at both sides of the issues, and we used to have the meetings here and I had the President of the League at that time, was a very, very good friend, and I learned a lot from the women. We wanted to be involved, and that was one of the only ways we could be involved was to get into the League of Women Voters. I had hired a baby-sitter, we had our young kids upstairs, and we had our meetings down here. I had to have a timer so that each one on the agenda had only so much time and they had to say it because we had to get out at 12 to get our kids at school, something like that, so. I always try to make things fun to keep the people involved.

**Moon:**

The League of Women Voters of the Santa Clara Valley, they're actually going to be giving their papers to San Jose State, and I've been working with Bobbie Fischler who's the President of the League, and so I was talking to her briefly a few weeks back, and so she was reminiscing also about some of the -- when she first came, you were the President, I think. Do you have any -- did you work with Bobbie at all?

**Hayes:**

Yes, yes I did. She was very good, very smart. And I remember there was something we had on foreign policy or something, and I remember dressing up as a man with a hat and a tie and going in and saying that I was an ambassador from so on, so on, (inaudible). So we always try to make things fun and interesting and relevant.

**Moon:**

Relevant to the political times. Both in the US and internationally. I know the League was very involved in  
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World War II they were extremely -- they were trying to become very involved in the international relations debate that was going on, related to really basically the United Nations and well, originally, the League of Nations and then the formation of the U.N. It was also considered to be a very Conservative movement organization in comparison to, like the National Women's Party or some of the more radical groups, and in looking at this area and this kind of background research, was it your sense that looking at your relationship with the League that it was a Conservative women's group? Were they sponsoring ERA for example at the

time that you were part of the League?

**Hayes:**

I never thought of them as a Conservative group. I thought we just tried to study the issue and find out more about it and then make up our minds and take a stand.

**Moon:**

Right. Now on another vein, you eventually joined the National Women's Political Caucus which is also a non-partisan sort of organization, but they were especially involved in helping and endorsing women candidates, so could you recall what you did with the National Women's Political Caucus?

**Hayes:**

No, I can't remember. But I remember I was always a member and supportive of them.

**Moon:**

Well, do you recall the 1977 conference that was held in San Jose?

**Hayes:**

No, I don't.

**Moon:**

OK, that was a big event for the organization, and it was a big event for actually San Jose, and for actually the whole Bay Area, and in fact, Susie Wilson helped fund the whole money process of putting the money down for the hotel so they could actually have the conference there, which we just learned that, actually, a couple days ago from talking to Susie.

**Hayes:**

No, I think I was still in the throes of fighting with the gang of four that I had on the Council.

**Moon:**

Looking at the whole process of becoming a candidate, what were some of your reflections on your experiences during the campaign process? Who funded you as you were going forward in your campaign for both the first and the second terms? Your entry in the mayor's race pre-dated the redistricting process and so that effected the Council and also the Board of Supervisors. I'm curious how you actually went about your process for getting campaign support and endorsement for your work?

**Hayes:**

Face to face, just as I got an interview with someone and tell them what I was for and (inaudible). And I remember the issue of [fluoridation?] was a big one at the time, and there was a Christian Science bigwig that I went to see about support, and he invited me in and he talked to me for about 45 minutes and he naturally would have been in opposition, but after 45 minutes talking to him, he said, "Well, Janet Gray, I'll not only support you, I'll raise money for you." And I thought, "Oh boy, that's half the battle."

**Moon:**

Were there other organizations that you worked with that helped sponsor you that you recall?

**Hayes:**

Well, there were some. I remember some people organized -- I don't know, a NOW group or some group from Oakland-Berkeley and came down in buses and helped walk precincts for me. I was so busy myself, but I really appreciated all the help I [took?]



**Moon:**

Were you a member of NOW?

**Hayes:**

Yes. NOW, always have been.

**Moon:**

And did you get involved in any of the grassroots activities that were related to NOW's work for the ERA?

**Hayes:**

Probably. I can't remember.

**Moon:**

Did you ever know a woman named Amelia Fry?

**Hayes:**

That name is so familiar.

**Moon:**

Amelia Cheter Fry (sp?), she was an oral historian who worked at the Bancroft Library and she did all of these suffrage interviews and interviewed actually a lot of other key people as well, and she worked with Don Edwards and was apparently the director of the Northern California Branch of the NOW fight for ERA, and I interviewed Amelia last year and unfortunately she has a really terrible memory and has had some head injuries and so she's not doing very well, but she couldn't remember anything about her experiences working on that project. She's actually writing a biography of Alice Hall (sp?) and I would guess Amelia's probably in her eighties now, but I was hoping she would be able to flesh out some of that information on that but she hasn't been able to do that.

**Hayes:**

Yeah, let's do that, yeah.

**Moon:**

But I was just curious if you had been involved in that activity at all. There's been a lot of discussion of looking at some of the first female office-holders who came out of San Jose, and you're one of them where they claimed that you were going to go on to much higher office, and there were reports that you might have gotten a federal appointment from the Carter administration, and you had worked with -- Rosalynn had come to San Jose, and she supported your campaign in the second tier, I think. Do you have any reflections on your interaction with the Carters or with the role of the Democratic Party in supporting your candidacy?

**Hayes:**

Yes. Actually, I could have gone for higher office but I just felt I wanted to stay home and what happened was that the San Jose Museum of Art was going to be closed down. The men on the Board of Directors voted to put the art out in corporate headquarters and so close the museum, and I thought that was [unconscionable?] and there was a gal named Charlotte Wendel, professor Thomas Wendel's wife, and Charlotte set me up as President of the Museum. And then she and her husband went off to Denmark or Norway (inaudible) I always kidded her about that. So she left me in charge of this museum that was being closed, and I assembled a board that was just marvelous, just wonderful, and the first show we had I arranged -- it was called the Anne Frank show, and the *Mercury* took us to task and the Art Director said, "This isn't art at all." And so I went down the first day that it opened, and they were lined around the block to get in to

see the show. We got survivors to be docents and it was so successful that we hired school buses to bring in the junior high school kids to see the show, and the kids were so impressed with the show that they came back with their parents, and so everybody realized that the museum was there, so we got a lot of [money?] to keep the museum up and growing. So, it's got a marvelous director now.

**Moon:**

And so your post-political work was --

**Hayes:**

Community.

**Moon:**

Became community activism, or community-oriented and particularly in the arts.

**Hayes:**

Yes.

**Moon:**

Now, a number of newspaper articles indicated that one of the reasons why you didn't actually run for higher office was because the slots for those offices were already taken and that they were comfortable in them, like Norman Mineta was in office, and Don Edwards, and so -- is that an accurate --

**Hayes:**

Well, that was at the Congressional level.

**Moon:**

Yeah. Was that an accurate reflection? There was also some report that you were being considered maybe for some sort of judge appointment for some judicial appointment and so I was just curious if that was the case.

**Hayes:**

No. I think the Museum needed me, and I was very interested in the Museum and I didn't want to see that fall apart, so.

**Moon:**

Yeah. Did you have any regrets that you didn't go forward into another sort of political appointment?

**Hayes:**

No. Because by that time there were good people running. I felt Diane Feinstein was just fine and I was happy with people that were running. And Hillary Clinton, yes, I'm all for her. And I know that she's controversial and everything, and I think that the Republicans are trying to really downplay her a lot now. A lot of negative stuff.

**Moon:**

Do you think she could win a Presidential campaign?

**Hayes:**

Why not?

**Moon:**

Well, just thinking about the polarized sort of political country we're living in, I'm just curious if you think  
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that she could carry it.

**Hayes:**

It'd be difficult. It'll be difficult, but I don't think it's impossible. And I think she -- I've read her book, and she's got a lot of foreign policy experience, she's been all around the world, and she has so much background and so it's just -- as they say, uppity women unite.

**Moon:**

Well, I think she would be a good candidate too, personally. But I wonder if she would be able to carry it with the political climate that we're in now.

**Hayes:**

It would be difficult. I'm saying it'd be difficult.

**Moon:**

Well, looking at some of the other things that you've done since you've left office, one of the things I noticed is that you have established a scholarship fund at the Indiana University in their Public and Environmental Affairs Department, and the scholarship was designed to basically support women's interest in public service. Can you describe why you decided to create that endowment, and had you considered creating a similar endowment at San Jose State?

**Hayes:**

(inaudible) I think we did at the University of Chicago in the School of Social Service Administration, I think I've done that too. Well, I think it's very important to encourage women so other than that --

**Moon:**

It was just something that was important to you.

**Hayes:**

Yeah.

**Moon:**

Looking at the whole legacy --

**Hayes:**

Well, yeah. I [don't?] want to give back to the community that helped me, and they did. Indiana University is a marvelous university.

**Moon:**

Absolutely.

**Hayes:**

It's just -- they need a new President, but (inaudible) one next year.

**Moon:**

Oh, they are? OK, well that's --

**Hayes:**

I have a very close friend whom I went to Rushville High School with, he's so smart, and he's a retired lawyer. I was number one in the Academic Center and he was number two and we've always kidded about that, but he is so much smarter than I am. He's got bookcases lined of these things, he reads a book a day --

**Moon:**

Oh, my goodness!

**Hayes:**

Yeah, he's just really, really smart. But we're very, very good friends, and he's very upset about what's going on at I.U. with the President.

**Moon:**

Oh, that's too bad.

**Hayes:**

Yes, it is.

**Moon:**

The politics of academia can be mind numbing.

**Hayes:**

He's into it. He's into it back there.

**Moon:**

Now, just kind of reflecting again on your political legacy, what would you say were your greatest accomplishments and your greatest disappointments?

**Hayes:**

I think my greatest accomplishment was I was a camel's nose under the tent. And once I got in, then other good women came in after me and that was what I feel was my greatest accomplishment.

**Moon:**

OK. Were there any terrible disappointments that you experienced going through all of that political life?

**Hayes:**

No, I can't remember any really big disappointments. I'm disappointed in the administration now.

**Moon:**

The current administration?

**Hayes:**

The current administration now.

**Moon:**

So, in thinking about your political legacy, it was really just opening up the door for women?

**Hayes:**

That's right.

**Moon:**

For new incoming women coming in as candidates. I already asked you this question on what advice you would give young women seeking office today, but are there any other thoughts that you had about --

**Hayes:**

Well, certainly take up debating. Learn about debating. I know I had a wonderful debate coach at Rushville High School, and one of the issues we had was on the League of Nations. He said, "What side do you believe in?" and we'd say it, and he said, "OK, you'll take the opposite side." So that made us work even harder, but it was very good training. Debate was just wonderful training for politics.

**Moon:**

I don't know if people take debating in college like they used to.

**Hayes:**

This was in high school. In high school and college aren't there debate teams?

**Moon:**

I'm sure there are, but I don't think it's a requirement, so if you're not interested in doing that kind of --

**Hayes:**

It's great. Public speaking and everything.

**Moon:**

Oh. Well, those are all great --

**Hayes:**

I think Villerman (sp?) has a good debate team.

**Moon:**

Oh, do they?

**Hayes:**

I think so.

**Moon:**

Oh. I haven't really followed the debate team activity.

**Hayes:**

They're right down the street, I see them.

**Moon:**

Well, this is all great to listen to you tell us some of your stories about what you were doing in politics and your feelings. What I'm going to do is ask Aime if she has any questions she wants to follow up on and then I'll give you a chance to basically add anything else that you would like for this interview.

**Hayes:**

OK.

**McNamara:**

I have a question for you. You said you grew up in Rushville, it was a Republican community, and your mother was a Republican.

**Hayes:**

Very much so.

**McNamara:**

So how did you personally, because you're a Democrat, how did you make that transition?

**Hayes:**

I moved to California, and I didn't like the Republicans that were running. I tried to vote -- to register first as a, what is it, non-partisan?

**Moon & McNamara:**

Independent.

**Hayes:**

Independent. And you lost your vote in the primary! And I thought, "I don't want to do this." So that's when I decided that I didn't like any of the Republicans that were running out here, except one, can't remember who that was.

**McNamara:**

Kekel? Thomas Kekel (sp?)?

**Hayes:**

Who was that?

**McNamara:**

He was a Republican Senator but he was definitely --

**Hayes:**

Yes. I think that was the one. He was about the only one. But the rest of them weren't, so I registered Democrat after finding out that Independents lost their primary vote.

**McNamara:**

And you decided to stick with that?

**Hayes:**

Yes.

**McNamara:**

Speaking of Democrats, were you the vice-mayor for Norm Mineta?

**Hayes:**

Yes.

**McNamara:**

And did you get his endorsement then?

**Hayes:**

That was one of -- you talked about great disappointments, that was one of my greatest disappointments. I was one of his most loyal vice-mayors and worked hard for him and with him and everything, and then when push came to shove, he would not endorse me against Bart Collins.

**McNamara:**

Why do you think that was, that he wouldn't do that?

**Hayes:**

Why would he do that?

**McNamara:**

Yes, why would he not endorse you knowing that you had been the loyal --

**Hayes:**

Because he was running for Congress and he didn't want anything -- actually he did endorse me at one joint fundraiser we had, and then the next morning his staff called and said, "He's changed his mind, he's not going to endorse you." And that was a very great disappointment for me. I have not really come to terms with that, but Norm is out for Norm. Look who he's working for!

**McNamara:**

That was a surprise, so yeah. And one last thing -- I think it was 1973, you were appearing at -- I can't remember exactly the group it was, but it was a group of women and you and Susie Wilson were there; Susie Wilson was running for City Council at the time, maybe this was '72. And you made a statement, something about "If you're going to run for office," I'm paraphrasing here, "It's good to have a husband who..." basically, that can support you and not just emotional support, but financial support.

**Hayes:**

Oh, it was.

**McNamara:**

Yeah. To what extent do you think that's changed now? Do you think that's still important?

**Hayes:**

Well, wherever you get your money from. Fortunately, I have my own inheritance now and I wouldn't have to worry about that, but financial support is very important. If your spouse is willing to do it, then that's fine.

**McNamara:**

I think on the Council you only made something like \$400 a month, or something. So you weren't in it for the money.

**Hayes:**

\$7200 a year, yeah, I did get that changed so it's much better now.

**McNamara:**

After you got turned down for the American Express card?

**Hayes:**

Well that's another thing that I -- yes, I had to go and get my husband's permission to get the card.

**McNamara:**

Oh, you did?

**Hayes:**

What was that? It was -- Oh, I wanted to buy some stock. I wanted to buy some stock. Yeah, they said. "You have to go get your husband's permission." I said, "Well, if that's the case, I won't. I won't do it. And I'll just take my business and I'll do it myself." So then he changed his mind and he said, "Well, here, you can take this." He wanted my business.

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**Moon:**

Well, that's just an example of the terrible disparities that women faced particularly in that time period.

**Hayes:**

Oh, it was really bad. It was really bad.

**Moon:**

Fortunately things have gotten a little bit better on the American (inaudible) front, but there's still a lot of disparity.

**Hayes:**

And I think that thing about "Whose secretary are you, dearie?"

**Moon:**

It must have been hard to not say something bad.

**Hayes:**

I did. I said, "I'm the mayor of San Jose, California."

**McNamara:**

What did he do? When you said that?

**Hayes:**

Just... turned away.

**McNamara:**

He didn't want to acknowledge it.

**Hayes:**

I was the only woman at that huge table, and they weren't used to that. They better get used to it.

**McNamara:**

Well looking at that whole Norm Mineta sort of story, in reflection, or after that happened, was there any repairing made of that relationship?

**Hayes:**

No, as far as I'm concerned.

**McNamara:**

No. And have you supported him in his political work since that point?



**Hayes:**

No. Because he's working for the administration that --

**McNamara:**

I know, but he actually started with the Clinton administration before he went over to the Bush administration, think he was the Secretary of Transportation under Clinton too, so I was just curious in his other work on getting into Congress after that --

**Hayes:**

Then he went to work for Lockheed Aircraft.

**McNamara:**

Right. I think he worked for Lockheed after he left Congress, then he worked for the Clinton administration and for at least one, maybe the last term, of Clinton's administration and then after that he was offered the same position under the Bush administration.

**Hayes:**

Hmm. Well, that was a very big disappointment. But right now, I'm -- I guess they have it on the letterhead, the Secretary Political Advisor to this group called Citizens Against Airport Pollution. And one of the things that we are very, very concerned with -- I can give you one of our newsletters which we just mailed off today, we're very much against the noise pollution and the air pollution that there is. We're trying to get a count on the cancers, cases around --

**McNamara:**

Around the airport. That sounds like an interesting group to be interested in.

**Hayes:**

Yeah. The air pollution is really something.

**Moon:**

OK. I think that we have one more question from Jennifer.

**Myronuk:**

Maybe two. Number one: What do you mean by feminist capital of the world, and if you could repeat that back to me, "What I mean by feminist capital of the world was."

**Hayes:**

What I mean by feminist capital of the world -- of the country was, I think I said, was that we had more women in political positions in San Jose than in any other city at the time. And we've been passed, fortunately, other cities have come to grips with the fact that women can indeed perform well in politics and in government.

**Myronuk:**

And then, to follow, so what did feminism mean to you at that time?

**Hayes:**

At the time it meant women in positions of power and on governing bodies, and not just being governed or being told where to sit and what to do.

**Myronuk:**

And actually my true second question was, Susan Hammer who has been seen as one of your big prototypes that came and really led the city into much huge growth period, she wasn't always the mayor of San Jose, and when did you first meet her? What were your first impressions of her? When you first met --

**Hayes:**

I was very impressed with Susan, always. I thought she was a fantastic person, and I had a marvelous City Manager at that time, her name was Sally Reed, and fortunately -- she was Republican, but we worked very, very well together and she was very good on the budget, and so we had some very good times. But Susan is a friend and a neighbor, still, she just lives three blocks away.

**Myronuk:**

Can you describe who she was when you first met her, and when did you first meet her? What year was that?

**Hayes:**

I don't even remember, we've been neighbors and friends for so long. I can't remember. Seems like forever.

**Myronuk:**

I met Susan Hammer at Trader Joe's near me the other day, and she said that she met you -- it was an engagement party for Susan and Phil, and that's when she met you.

**Hayes:**

An engagement party?

**Myronuk:**

When she got engaged to Phil.

**Hayes:**

That must have been a long time ago!

**Myronuk:**

1960, probably. And she said she went to a barbecue or something.

**Hayes:**

Actually, that -- Henry Hammer lived on the corner house over here, and he was Phil's, I guess, older brother. He died abruptly at age 49 or something, of a heart attack. And so I had forgotten -- as I said, it seems like we've been friends forever.

**Myronuk:**

I think that's where it was, I think she said it was a party at Phil's brother's house for their engagement and that you and Ken were at the party.

**Hayes:**

Oh. (inaudible) had forgotten about that.

**Moon:**

Are there any other comments or stories that you want to recollect before we conclude today?

**Hayes:**

No, it's just one of the joys of growing older is sometimes you can't remember what you went upstairs for but then you could remember what happened 35 years ago quite well. But that's part of the aging process, I guess. You just have to take it with a sense of humor.

**Moon:**

That's right. You could be younger and still have those memory lapses, so.

**Hayes:**

Well, I had a wonderful, wonderful mother-in-law who was Sandy Calder's, Alexander Calder's, sister, and we became very, very great friends and she was a very strong woman too, so she just -- it was wonderful.

**Moon:**

So she really influenced you as you were --

**Hayes:**

Yeah, very much so. She intimidated me. I was just intimidated with her -- woman, and then, one time, I stood up to her and I said, "Just a minute, Peggy, that's not the way it was, or it's going to be." And then the relationship changed and then we became just very, best of friends. So we enjoyed many years together.

**Moon:**

Have any of your children or grandchildren gone into politics or have ambitions for politics?

**Hayes:**

My youngest daughter, Megan (sp?), helped get someone elected at the Laramie, Wyoming, Council. They had a very bad Council, and she got someone really good elected. She was the campaign manager and helped run the campaign so she's -- but they're all big skiers, and her husband's a lawyer and she's a lawyer and they have a wonderful family. She'd be wonderful in politics, but I think she's busy doing other things. And then my other daughter -- well, my oldest daughter is a public defender, and as I said, she's down there defending all those criminals; she's on sexual predator detail now.

**Moon:**

Where is she living, in Los Angeles, or...?

**Hayes:**

Right here.

**Moon:**

Oh, here.

**Hayes:**

That's the oldest daughter, she's a public defender and she defends all those criminals down there. She defends sexual predators. That's her detail now.

**Moon:**

Wow. That'd be tough.

**Hayes:**

Yeah. And then my son is back in the Boston area and my second daughter was head of the Tahoe Adaptive Ski School.

**Moon:**

Now your first daughter's name?

**Hayes:**

Lindy. Lindy Hayes.

**Moon:**

And then your second daughter's name is...

**Hayes:**

Catharine (sp?). Lindy's the one that's adopted two Chinese grandchildren.

**Moon:**

Oh, OK. I think that was also recorded in that 1987 *Mercury* article, the one that they had interviewed you in your post-political years.

**Hayes:**

Yeah, well, so anyway I'm trying to learn Chinese. So that Pimsleur Mandarin tape -- oh, it's hard! It's a hard language.

**McNamara:**

I would imagine so.

**Hayes:**

Very hard. I guess Japanese is even worse.

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**Moon:**

Well, it's learning all the -- memorizing all the symbols.

**Hayes:**

But I think it's easier to learn a language when you're young.

**McNamara:**

Yes. I think there are studies that prove that that's true.

**Hayes:**

Oh, I'm sure it's true. I'm sure it's true.

**Moon:**

Well, thank you, Janet, so much for giving us the time to talk to you today and if you have any other stories you want to tell us --

**Hayes:**

Well, the reason that my name is Janet Gray is because my mother was -- did I tell you, one of four orphans?

**Moon:**

You said that at the beginning, so her last name was Gray?

**Hayes:**

She was adopted by a farm family. Her parents died, they were all in St. Louis, and they were in this orphanage in St. Louis, and they farmed the kids out when they were older, and she was farmed out to a farm family in Indiana named Gray, and she went through high school; they finally adopted her, the Grays did, and they were my grandparents, so I always -- and there were terrible stories about that orphanage. That every Sunday they'd have all the orphans lined up in a group and people would come in and pick out the boys if they were going to be strong, or the girls if they were pretty, and my Aunt Rubietta (sp?) who turned out to be a psychiatrist at Hayed Hospital (sp?) and just a marvelous, marvelous woman. She was not a very pretty little girl at all, and she was never adopted, and she liked that because she liked the mother superior there and the mother superior liked her, and so it's quite a family background.

**Moon:**

Right. So were you raised as a Catholic?

**Hayes:**

Oh, no. No, I was raised as a Christian, the First Christian Church in Rushville, Indiana. And then I went Methodist when I'd go to church, but usually I don't. That happens.

**McNamara:**

Was it your minister who suggested that you run for office?

**Hayes:**

Oh, that's true! I'd forgotten about that.

**Myronuk:**

I was going to say, just as a suggestion from an oral history standpoint and for preserving it on tape, to get all these facts together and give you a chance to read through stuff ahead of time. Because you've got fabulous stories, including all these different stories, and then we can do this again in the summertime where you can really regale with these great stories.

**Hayes:**

Oh, I had just forgotten about that. Yes. Actually, Bart Murdoch (sp?), who was a minister, and another guy -- they both said to me, "Janet Gray, we don't know a thing about politics, but if you run we'll help with the campaign." And I went, "Why not?" So we did it. We did it.

**McNamara:**

And was that at the Methodist Church in San Jose, or which church was that, that you were --

**Hayes:**

No, he was part of the Episcopal Church, that one downtown.

**McNamara:**

Oh, OK.

**Hayes:**

Thought it was Bart Murdoch. Can't remember, it was a long time ago.

**Moon:**

Well, I think that's a good idea.

**Myronuk:**

Just to get a little fact sheet. You know, at this point I think the combined -- the two of you probably know more about your life than you're probably even aware of (laughter). But I think that's the one thing I've noticed with other storytellers locally is that there's so much, and so to kind of think about different stories ahead of time to really remember them, because they're incredible. And you've lived such an incredible life, and I know that --

**Hayes:**

I've been very, very fortunate. I mean, geeze. You look around and see people with so much problems and everything all over the world, it's just -- what was the movie out I saw about the little girl and the women couldn't go out, they were sprayed and everything, and they trimmed her hair and she went off as a boy to get accepted so she could earn some money and bring some food home. What was that movie? It was very, very moving movie.

**McNamara:**

That doesn't ring a bell with me.

**Hayes:**

And then she used to climb trees and then she was someplace and then she started to menstruate.

**McNamara:**

This wasn't about in India or Afghanistan or someplace like that, was it?

**Hayes:**

Something like that, do you remember that?

**McNamara:**

Yeah.

**Hayes:**

It was so very dramatic, and they pelted her and --

**Moon:**

I didn't see it, but I remember reading a review about it, so I think that's what --

**Hayes:**

What happened.

**McNamara:**

You know, I just remembered that you and I met a long time ago. I was pregnant with my son who is now 11 and a half. It was a ceremony for TT Nhu. Do you remember her?

**Hayes:**

For what?

**McNamara:**

TT Nhu, she used to work for the San Jose *Mercury* news.

**Hayes:**

Oh, sure.

**McNamara:**

And she got an award and it was at San Jose City College, so it would have been in 1994, and I just met you briefly. I mean, you would never have remembered me, but I do remember because I was wearing this certain pair of shoes and I was very pregnant and you said something about, "Now are those comfortable shoes?" (laughter) (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) And we talked about maternity clothes.

**Hayes:**

Oh, that was over at the San Jose City College?

**McNamara:**

Yes, San Jose City, yes.

**Hayes:**

They still have those Janet Gray Hayes Awards.

**McNamara:**

Was it a Janet Gray Hayes Award that she got?

**Hayes:**

Uh-huh, uh-huh.

**McNamara:**

Oh, yeah, she was really nice.

**Hayes:**

She was.

**McNamara:**

Yeah, she moved, I think, to Vietnam, did she go back to Vietnam?

**Hayes:**

She's gone. Yeah, I read that.

**McNamara:**

Yeah, she was a wonderful writer.

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END OF INTERVIEW