

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
WITH
JOE BLACK HAYES

14 AUGUST 1995

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

INTERVIEWED BY REGINA FORSYTHE
FOR THE Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW #QMS.057

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Albert Gore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT



**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH
JOE BLACK HAYES**

Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW #QMS.057

FORSYTHE: This tape is part of the Q.M. Smith collection designated as QMS.1995.57. This is Regina Forsythe. I am interviewing Mr. Joe Black Hayes. Today is Monday, August 14, 1995. The interview is being conducted in the home of Mr. Joe Black Hayes at 1122 East Northfield Boulevard in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The tape of this interview, along with a transcription of the interview, will become part of the Quinton Miller Smith collection and will be available to the public. Future researchers may include portions of this interview in their publications. Is that all right with you?

HAYES: It's all right.

FORSYTHE: Your full name please.

HAYES: Joe Black Hayes, Sr.

FORSYTHE: And your birth date?

HAYES: September 20, 1915.

FORSYTHE: And your birth place?

HAYES: Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

FORSYTHE: And your father's name?

HAYES: Wiley Buchanan Hayes.

FORSYTHE: And his occupation?

HAYES: He was a farmer and public works.

FORSYTHE: And your mother's name?

HAYES: Maggie. Maggie Grey Hayes.

FORSYTHE: And her occupation?

HAYES: Family, home worker.

FORSYTHE: Your brothers and sisters names.

HAYES: My sister is named Emma, and my brothers are Jack, John Thomas, and Buckey

FORSYTHE: Your wife's name?

HAYES: Elaine. That was my first wife's name.

FORSYTHE: What was her maiden name?

HAYES: Cothran

FORSYTHE: And your second wife's name?

HAYES: Mildred.

FORSYTHE: And her maiden name?

HAYES: She was an Oldham, and she married a MacDonald. He died and we married about two years ago.

FORSYTHE: Do you have any children?

HAYES: Not by Mildred, I had three by Elaine.

FORSYTHE: And their names?

HAYES: Joe Black Hayes, Jr., Rodney Hayes, and Larry.

FORSYTHE: And did they go to school here, at MTSU?

HAYES: All three went to Middle Tennessee State University.

FORSYTHE: And your father worked at the school too, didn't he?

HAYES: Yes. He worked on the farm there at one time, lived on the campus. He was there several years, but he didn't spend a lot of time there. He retired and moved over on Burton Street and that's where he died, on East Burton.

FORSYTHE: Do you remember what years he worked at MTSU?

HAYES: You know I'm not sure about that. They lived on the campus. It was in the late thirties. I know I was at the University of Tennessee when they were living there. I never was there. I was at the university during that time.

FORSYTHE: Where did they live on campus?

HAYES: There were two houses about where the baseball field and the heating plant is located. They lived in one house and Floyd Travis lived in the other, and two younger brothers were there at that time. Mr. Jase Bier was the manager of the farm, and my dad worked for him and lived on the campus.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about Mr. Bier?

HAYES: Well, Mr. Bier did live in a house on Greenland Drive. He owned that house and was a truck farmer. He was, oh I don't know how to say it. He was a likeable fella. He got a pear tree and let's see He gave me a pear tree while I was on Greenland Drive there. Wind blew the limb out of his tree the other day. It was about thirty-five years old. It blew that limb down. It was about half rotten you know, but it was full of pears; and I got some pears. If you want some before you leave, I'll let you have some.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about Mr. Floyd Davis?

HAYES: Floyd Travis?

FORSYTHE: Oh, Floyd Travis. I'm sorry, I got the name wrong.

HAYES: Floyd worked with the maintenance department. In fact, he worked on the grounds, keeping the flowers and trees and everything. He was in charge of that and he had people working for him to keep the campus looking good. That was his responsibility.

FORSYTHE: What degrees do you have?

HAYES: I have a bachelors, a B.S. in vocational agriculture.

FORSYTHE: And where's that from?

HAYES: At the University of Tennessee.

FORSYTHE: And what year did you get it?

HAYES: Thirty-nine, and I got a Master's in Education from Peabody in 1950.

FORSYTHE: Why did you choose vocational agriculture?

HAYES: Agriculture? Well, I took commerce the first year I was in school, and I didn't like it. So, I really didn't know what I wanted to do. I'd been around farmin' and I was a friend to a person who was in agriculture, and I thought I'd like it. I wanted to go and teach it. Going into ag teaching and vocational agriculture was the way to go. But I never did teach vocational ag at all. I went straight into

college, coaching football. I taught agriculture for a while -- gardening, agronomy, a few ag courses. But I found that physical education was allied with coaching, and I started teaching a course now and then. That's what I got my Master's in at Peabody. So that's what I ended up doing.

FORSYTHE: Why did you want to be a teacher?

HAYES: Well, I just liked to work with young people, and I felt like I could make a contribution there. I ended up teaching from '39 to '81. How many years is that? Forty-two?

FORSYTHE: Forty-two years?

HAYES: Yeah forty-two years, and all of it was in college. I never did teach in high school. My main interest was coaching, and that got me where I was going, and I teach along with it. But really, I doubt if they'd wanted me to be there for teaching, I don't know.

FORSYTHE: How'd you come about teaching for MTSU?

HAYES: Oh, I was at Cumberland University. I went there in '46 and started a football program. They had it three years and then they dropped football. I went back to Peabody and got my Master's, finished that in 1950. Mr. Q.M. Smith, the president of Middle Tennessee State at that time, Middle Tennessee State College, sent Dean Sloan over to Cumberland to see if I wanted to come to Middle Tennessee and coach and teach. Well, since they didn't have football there anymore, I felt that'd be a good move. My wife was for it too, so we accepted the job at Middle Tennessee State, as defensive line coach under Charles B. Murphy, who was the head coach. I kept that position until '69, from '50 to '69. I stayed on and taught till '81 when I retired.

FORSYTHE: Why did you stop coaching and just start teaching in 1970?

HAYES: Well, you can last longer teaching than you can coaching. You know, when you get the age where it's a little bit hard to get down and demonstrate. Other members of the staff retired at the same time -- Coach Murphy, Doc Petty, and Jack Deere, and myself. We all retired from football at the same time. I guess that was the main reason that I retired at that time. By the way, I applied for the head coach job and I thought well, if they wanted me, they'd just say well you have the job. But they sent out notices that they were hiring a new coach. When I saw, you know, that they didn't want me, I just withdrew my name. I feel like I did the right thing as I look back on it. I stayed on and taught till '81. In the Health/Physical Education Department. My main emphasis was in safety and first aid. I was in charge of that program. Then I taught health, effective living, personal health, and activity courses. Driver's education, I taught that for several years. I was in charge of intramurals when I first went there. They didn't have

much of an intramural program, and I worked out an intramural handbook. We had real good participation in intramurals, both men and women. I was proud of that. I stayed pretty busy coaching in intramurals. By the way, I was coaching track and wrestling from 1950 to '55. We started wrestling at that time. They wanted to drop wrestling and start track, so I started that in '55, and coached track until '65. Dean Hayes came in and took my job coaching track, and I continued at football. Dean did a real good job, been very successful, worked as one of the Olympic coaches. He was real good in jumping events, like the broad jump and triple jump. He had a little different philosophy of track than myself. He was going for the big chances, and I was more interested in doing meets, which we had over on the track at Middle Tennessee. We'd have quite a few people come out to see it, you know. It was the kinda thing that people liked. But he was more interested in getting the great boys to go to the NCAA. Then if they were good enough, they could participate in the Olympics. He's still doing that. He does a tremendous job. He's not my son, he's not kin to me. A lot of people thought he was. His name is Hayes, but he's a good friend.

FORSYTHE: Where was your office?

HAYES: Well, when I first went there, it was in the basement of Murphy . . . of the alumni gym. When they completed Murphy Center, I moved over in Murphy Center. Well, most of my teaching was in the alumni gym, and so I moved my office back over, in the office across from the first aid room. Which was where Dr. Reil, head of the department used to be. I was right across the hall from my class, and it was much more convenient for me to be there. I liked it over there.

FORSYTHE: How'd the department change from 1950 to '81?

HAYES: Well, of course it's much bigger. I say there's more emphasis on recreation, cause they got specialists in recreation now. Driver's education was put in, it was not in the program when I started. A broad variety of courses, kinesiology was added, circuit training, conditioning course. Enrollment had increased so much from '50 to '51, the college had really grown. The offers were much broader in activities, and they put in effective living. Now they didn't have that when I went there, they had personal health. It was similar, but personal health was a little more advanced and more detailed, more anatomy and physiology included in that. Effective living was more how to live healthy, the emphasis was on that, and they required that in general education. So, the P. E. Department, health, physical education and recreation, grew along with the rest of the university with faculty and activities. Of course Murphy Center was added during that time, which is a tremendous facility, both athletically and physical education. At first when we went over there in, let's see, I forget the exact year; but ROTC was in the basement of Murphy Center when we first went into this building. But they weren't there too long till they moved into another building over there in front of Kirksey, not Kirksey, but the Keathley building, university activity center.

FORSYTHE: Okay, I'm going to ask you about some of the people in the department. Fran Reil.

HAYES: Fran Reil. Well, Fran was head of the department. Well Murphy was head of the department when I first went there, just in name. He didn't do too much, he was head coach and athletic director. But he was in that position. Then Fran Reil came in and took over as head of the department. He was from University of Massachusetts. He and his wife came here and he took over the P.E. department. He was head of the department most of the time I was there, did a good job. He was a Yankee, but, you know, I appreciated him.

FORSYTHE: Buleah Davis.

HAYES: Buleah Davis. Buleah lived down the street here, about three doors from me. She was a good friend. She taught rhythmic activities, and she was very efficient in her teaching. She took her job serious. I guess she was one, as far as time on duty there, was one, I think she came in '46 - retired before I did. She was a good teacher. Buleah's still around and she and my wife are good friends.

FORSYTHE: Charles Murphy.

HAYES: Charles Murphy. I came from Cumberland over here to work with him. He was head football coach; and I was made in charge of the defenses. Back when we started we used a 6-2, a 7-1, and an 8-3. Later we put in what we called a 54 defense, which a lot of people in straight defense wondered how in the world you could play with two safety men. But you rotated according to what they do in the backfield. So I went to coaching clinics and tried to keep up with what was going on. I enjoyed my coaching very much.

FORSYTHE: Charles Grier.

HAYES: Charles Grier. Charlie was a MTSU graduate. He was assistant football coach, and he was head basketball coach. He eventually gave up football and spent his time in basketball. A very loyal MTSU alumnus, and he did a real good job, close friend of Mr. Murphy's.

FORSYTHE: Elbert Patty.

HAYES: Elbert Patty. Elbert was from Chattanooga. He got his doctorate at Indiana. He was assistant football coach when I went there. He later became golf coach and did not coach football. He lived neighbors to me over there on Greenland when I came here. He's a good friend, and he was a quiet kind of person that did a good job in the classroom.

FORSYTHE: Nooby Freeman.

HAYES: Well, Nooby Freeman was in another department. He was assistant football coach, and he coached basketball before I got there. Now he did not do any coaching after I got to Middle Tennessee. He taught drawing in the Industrial Arts Department. He had a farm out on Salem Pike and was a kinda fella that liked to communicate with people. I told a story one time about how he was coaching little league baseball. His team was up to bat and he had a player on third base. He hollered at the pitcher, said, "Throw me the ball." So he threw the ball to him and he dodged and let it go by him and sent his man in home. They fired him as a coach after that. I thought that was quite a . . .

FORSYTHE: Yeah, getting the opposing team to throw you the ball.

HAYES: Yeah, that's right. Oh, goodness.

FORSYTHE: Joe Little.

HAYES: Well, Joe Little was probably the best friend I ever had. He and I went to UT as freshmen. We ended up rooming together, roomed together all four years I was there. He played center on the football team and I played guard. They held him out his sophomore year and I played; so I finished my football in '37, and he played on in '38. He's from Sparta, Tennessee. He ended up as an agricultural extension agent, very capable fella. He was also assistant football coach at Middle Tennessee when I went there. He'd leave the barn up there and come down to the field and coach a little bit with his boots on and did a good job. But he, you know, didn't really get involved in it. He didn't get to go to coaching meetings and that kind of thing, but he's the kind of a guy that had a lot of drive and was good to have out there on the field.

FORSYTHE: Marvin Rolman.

HAYES: Marvin . . . ?

FORSYTHE: Rolman. R-0-L-M-A-N.

HAYES: Rolman? He was a good football player. He helped a little while in coaching. He wasn't around a long time. He was a good football player. I remember he ran a kickoff back in, I believe it was against Western and won the game. He was quite an athlete, but he wasn't there very long; so I don't have a lot of information about him.

FORSYTHE: William Malcom Stokes.

HAYES: William Malcom . . . ?

FORSYTHE: Stokes.

HAYES: Oh, Stokes, Bill Stokes. Bill was a basketball coach. I believe he came as an assistant to Ken Tricky. Then he took over as, I believe I'm right on this, as head basketball coach. He did a good job there. I think now he's in Florida, in a junior college down there. That's about all I know about him.

FORSYTHE: You mentioned Ken Tricky?

HAYES: Yes, Ken was a basketball coach. He was a student there, played basketball, and then he came back as head basketball coach. He'd been at Oral Roberts. Ken did a good job in basketball.

FORSYTHE: Ed Diddle

HAYES: Ed Diddle was a basketball coach. His daddy was quite a noted individual at Western Kentucky. Ed coached basketball, was a good, I'd say a good communicator with the players. He did a good job while he was there.

FORSYTHE: Okay, Dean Hayes.

HAYES: Well I mentioned Dean Hayes a while ago. He took my job as track coach and has done a tremendous job. He's still there. He's also coaching the women as well as the men. He's the kind of fellow who gets more done with less effort than anybody that I ever saw. Real good one.

FORSYTHE: Don Lear.

HAYES: He came from Eastern Kentucky here as assistant football coach. He coached the offensive backs. He's in Memphis now, was at Southwestern. He's, as far as I know, is coaching the high school in Memphis, Catholic High.

FORSYTHE: Robert LaLance.

HAYES: Robert came to Middle Tennessee and taught in the P.E. department. He later went into administration. He's now vice president of student affairs, and Bob has done a good job for the university.

FORSYTHE: Terry Sweeny?

HAYES: Terry played football at UT. They had some changes in the coaching staff. He got married and they didn't want a married player on the team, so he transferred to Middle Tennessee and played fullback here for, I believe, two years. After he got through playing, we hired him as assistant coach. He coached the defensive backs. He was a good, firm, detailed type coach and did a good job.

FORSYTHE: Jack Deere.

HAYES: Jack Deere. Jack spent most of his time in high school. He played football at Middle Tennessee State. He coached in high school. He was also a principal at several different high schools. Then he came to Middle Tennessee coaching the ends. Jack had a good football mind. I particularly remember him. He was good about analyzing what the opponents were doing and what would work against them. This is just a knack he had. He was a big help to our program, having him on it. He passed away with a heart attack a few years back. His wife is still here, and Rachel is a good friend of ours.

FORSYTHE: Okay, have to stop this side.

FORSYTHE: This is a continuation of the interview with Mr. Joe Black Hayes by Regina Forsythe on Monday, August 14, 1995. Now I want to ask you about Gary and Larry Whaley.

HAYES: Gary and Larry Whaley were from Sevierville, Tennessee. They're farm boys, weren't very big. They came here. Larry was defensive back, and Gary played end. They were real tough, liked competition, liked contact, and did a good job. Gary stayed on and was assistant coach a while. Then he got into high school coaching. He coached out at Riverdale. He's now out of coaching and just teaching out there. Larry's in Atlanta, Georgia. I don't believe he's coaching now, I think he's in administration in a high school down there.

FORSYTHE: Okay, Eugene Sloan.

HAYES: Well, Mr. Sloan was a man who came to Cumberland. Mr. Q.M. Smith, the president, sent him over to Cumberland to talk to me about coming to Middle Tennessee to coach and teach. They'd dropped football at Cumberland, so I thought it'd be a good move. I never thought I'd come back to my hometown where I was born and raised, but it worked out to be a good move. So we came from Cumberland to Middle Tennessee State to work as a football coach, assistant coach, teaching in the P.E. department. Mr. Sloan came and talked to me about that. He taught business law here, and he was in public relations, kind of a promotion man for Middle Tennessee State. He was a very good fella, and several in his family meant a lot in this community. He's in bad health now. We think of him a lot and wish him the best.

FORSYTHE: Roy Simpson.

HAYES: Roy Simpson. Roy was principal at the training school, which is now the Homer Pittard school. He was a good administrator, kind of a quiet fella; but he knew his business. I think he was a very competent educator.

FORSYTHE: Okay, Homer Pittard.

HAYES: Well, Homer Pittard, knew him a long time. He played high school ball at Central High. He's from Murfreesboro. He came to Middle Tennessee and played four years here and was a real good football player. He played tackle, big fella, aggressive, he could lower that lip and grit his teeth; and he was tough, I'll tell you what. Homer passed away and we miss him around here. He's a good writer. He wrote the history of the First Baptist Church. He wrote about the university over here. His wife's like that too. They worked together doing that. But Homer was a very confident individual. In time he finally got his doctorate degree and done a good job for Middle Tennessee State.

FORSYTHE: You mentioned his nickname, do you remember that?

HAYES: Strawboss. They called him Strawboss in high school. I don't really know how that came about, but they did call him Strawboss. I remember he left the year I came to Central and went to prep school, Morgan Prep. He never was at Central while I was there. He left the year I went in and I remember them calling him Strawboss when I was a freshmen, little green boy there you know.

FORSYTHE: Edwin Baldwin.

HAYES: Ed Baldwin. Ed Baldwin was head of the Geography department. He was active on the athletic committee. He was a good outgoing person that everybody liked. Of course he passed on and his wife is still around. Ralph Fullerton is taking his place. They call that department Geography and Earth Science now, rather than just Geography, broaden the base a little bit.

FORSYTHE: What about Burns Phillips?

HAYES: Burns Phillips. Well, Burns was a local fella here that taught in the math department. I think he played high school ball. I don't believe he played in college. He's been retired several years and got a home up on the lake and enjoying himself. I believe his father worked at Travis and Gregory and worked with shoe repair and saddles and harness. I knew him back when I was in high school. Used to go by there and see him. But Burns, when he retired and left, I don't know when I've seen him.

FORSYTHE: What about Ed Voorhies.

HAYES: Ed Voorhies, well he's probably one of the best known teachers. Got his doctorate and came back and was the head of the Industrial Arts department. He worked with the development on the campus, new buildings, and knows a lot about that. He's done a lot of civic things in town, working with the Chamber of Commerce. I'm not sure what civic club he's in. But he's a real good church worker. He's a member of St. Mark's, and done a lot of work there. Ed is one of the better citizens in this town. Think a lot of him.

FORSYTHE: Joe Nunley.

HAYES: Joe Nunley was a high school coach. Came in here and taught and was in the alumni office before he retired, and did a lot of contact work with alumni. He and Jack Deere were real good friends. They had coached against each other in high school. I believe he was from McMinnville or Viola right out of McMinnville.

FORSYTHE: Bob Womack?

HAYES: Bob Womack. Bob is still teaching. Bob just won't quit. He said, "I don't know of anything that I enjoy more than teaching, so I'm gonna keep on teaching." So, Bob is a well known historian and he keeps up with the university and things that's happened. He's a good speaker. He has a son named Andy Womack, a senator in this district. He has been an outstanding citizen. He's a walking horse man, and has been instrumental in developing the horse show here in Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, international horse show. So Bob has been one of the guiding lights in this community in a lot of different ways.

FORSYTHE: Want to ask you about the presidents now. Q.M. Smith.

HAYES: Q.M. was president of the university when I came here. I think he deserves a lot of credit, in that he was gassed in the war and it caused him to have an impediment in his speech. Even though he had this handicap, he was still president of the university, which I think deserves a lot of credit to overcome that. He kept up and was really close here in the university. Now I really feel like a president ought to be more out and making contact with the legislature and that kind of thing. I don't think he did a whole lot of that, but he was responsible for me coming here; so I can certainly appreciate him as president.

FORSYTHE: Did you meet his wife?

HAYES: Who?

FORSYTHE: Mrs. Smith.

HAYES: Yes, she was a lady that was active with the women as far as faculty wives and women's club. I don't know about her now, where she is, or if she's still living, really.

Forsythe She's died.

HAYES: She's died? Well, I was thinking maybe she did. I know they had a boy, did they have a girl?

FORSYTHE: Yeah, Bill and Nancy.

HAYES: Well I haven't heard anything about them lately, so I don't really know. But he was the first president when I came here.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about Dr. Cope?

HAYES: Dr. Cope probably got along with all levels of workers at Middle Tennessee as well as any president. Now why I say that, the maintenance department has his picture on the wall over there in the front office because he made plans to go around and visit people and see how they were doing, how's their job. He was real good at that. Most of them stayed ten years as president, I think that's what they had to have to retire. He retired and went to UT. He didn't feel like they gave him a fair showing of what he could do or not do. As far as I know, he lost his life there at UT. There's some question there about whether it was suicide or what it was, but he had a tragic ending, which was terrible. He was a real fine individual.

FORSYTHE: Okay, what do you remember about Dr. Scarlett?

HAYES: Dr. Scarlett, he was a progressive kind of administrator. Murphy Center took place while he was here. He had some people who really got down on him. I think he kinda wanted Murphy Center named after him. There was some of them that didn't feel like he should, and they finally worked around to naming after, course Murphy, who'd been there a long time. It's called Murphy Center. Dr. Scarlett is still here, he and his wife, and doing okay. His wife is a very delightful person, a graduate from Bethel College. She's thought as much of I guess as any president's wife that's been there. In fact, some people say that if she'd been the president, she'd still be there. Ain't that something.

FORSYTHE: How about Dr. Ingram?

HAYES: Dr. Ingram was Commissioner of Education, and he left that. I believe he went to Motlow as president. From Motlow he came to Middle Tennessee as one of the deans. Then later he became president, cause I remember this is what happened. He was tight with the money. The growth of the university, the number of students, outgrew the buildings and facilities. Some feel that he did not keep up with that. I know there's been a lot of make-up to correct that since he left. He was a likable person and just for that reason, he just didn't. . . . I don't know if you've heard that anywhere else or not.

FORSYTHE: No I hadn't.

HAYES: You hadn't? Maybe some of them didn't have the nerve to say it.

FORSYTHE: Could be. Did you know any of the other presidents?

HAYES: Dr. Walker. Course, he's come since I've retired, but I've had a chance to get acquainted with him and talk with him. I think he has the kind of attitude and direction in administration that the university needs. He spends his time out with people, in the legislature. I think that's what a president ought to do, that's kind of like Andy Holt with the University of Tennessee. When he walked in the legislature, they kinda got to quivering a little bit. Here's that man after their money. Now Dr. Walker does a good job. Now he's the first black president of a state university in Tennessee, but, what I know, he does a good job.

FORSYTHE: I want to ask you about the TAIC.

HAYES: Oh the Tennessee Intercollegiate Athletic Conferenc. While I was at Cumberland, we had an invitational basketball tournament. In a meeting, we decided to name this conference Tennessee Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, TIAC We had about eight teams there. We invited Austin Peay, TPI, LMU, Carson Newman, Middle Tennessee, there's about eight of them. We organized a conference. Course this includes universities in the state of Tennessee. Well after we publicized we had named that, why I got a call from the athletic director at Sewanee. He used language pretty strong. He said, "Looks like you all ought to know that we have a TIAC, you can't have another conference by that name." So next time we got together, we changed the name to Volunteer State Athletic Conference. And that's what went in, the VSAC. Middle Tennessee was in that for several years, and they had a feeling that they needed to expand. So they went into the Ohio Valley Conference, which included universities in Kentucky and in Tennessee. See Western and Murray and Moorehead, and Eastern, there's four up there, and we had, let's see, Middle and Austin Peay, Tennessee Tech, and East Tennessee. Now later, East Tennessee got out. But, that made up the Ohio Valley Conference. We're in the Ohio Valley now but in the process of leaving AA level, which they're in, and get in the 1-A, which is a big school like Tennessee, Vanderbilt, Alabama, and that. They're in the process of enlarging the stadium to 30,000 and this is something they hope to do in the near future.

FORSYTHE: Want to talk about the OVC?

HAYES: Yeah, the Ohio Valley Conference. Yeah that's, I think that has meant a lot to Middle Tennessee. Of course they've had a commissioner that kind of directed the conference and in charge of the track meets, basketball tournaments, football. I don't believe they had a playoff, but they had the team that had the best record would be in the championship. Middle Tennessee and Eastern have been more or less dominant in that role in football, and that's the reason they're thinking about getting out. The others are de-emphasizing football. Moorehead is about ready to drop it. So that's the reason they're trying to get into 1-A. I hope it works out. It will mean a lot here.

FORSYTHE: I want to ask you about being in the Hall of Fame.

HAYES: Yeah, I made the Hall of Fame at Knoxville, East Tennessee Hall of Fame, and the Cumberland University Hall of Fame. I got plaques up here on the wall. Matter of fact, I believe that's the one right there. That's Cumberland University. That may be the . . .

FORSYTHE: Amateur Football Award, presented at East Tennessee?

HAYES: Yeah, that's Hall of Fame there.

FORSYTHE: I don't see a year on that one.

HAYES: That book of golden deeds was given by the exchange club for public service in the community.

FORSYTHE: What is the exchange club?

HAYES: That's a civic club here in town. See that XC there, exchange? They give that to, I believe they give that about every year to somebody. That's a retirement plaque I got from the university, May the 19, '81.

FORSYTHE: That's a nice plaque. Got a distinguished service award. Recreation Commission, 1967.

HAYES: Yeah, I was a chairmen of the city recreation board. Now I'm on the county board.

FORSYTHE: I like this poster of you over here.

HAYES: Yeah, that's something they gave me when I retired - throwing the football, and wrestling and track. That's a plaque they gave me of a wrestling, uniform. I was a wrestling official for several years. And when they had a tournament in Chattanooga, they gave me that while I was down there.

FORSYTHE: That's a nice one.

HAYES: This one's . . . Red Cross. Well, you live a long time and things will happen to you I guess. That's Dr. Scarlett there, giving me a service medal. That's when I was in the service. You know they raised the flag on Iwo Jima. We were out there on a barge in the lake, painted it silver. That's me in the back, that last guy back there, reaching up, that's me

FORSYTHE: Is that a re-creation of the flag raising?

HAYES: Yeah, that was symbolizing what they did on Iwo Jima. That's what we . . . That picture in the middle there where I'm standing up cutting that ham, it was 1937 and I was captain of the football team up there. They made a a picture advertising "Selecto" ham. That's a bunch of the coaches from UT, that next one. We were

in St. Louis at the National Football Coaches meeting. Now that picture down there, I performed a wedding out at Wayside Inn. It was an Arabian. He had an Arabian uniform on. She was a dance instructor. She had two or three little girls come out and dance between the spectators there, you know, little short skirts on, shaking their fanny. Then she came out, and I performed the wedding. They had an article in the paper. He's a marrying commissioner. I performed that wedding. I came back and sat down. He went over and sat down by the tent with his arms crossed and legs crossed. She went over and kind of patted him, you know, rubbed his head, and seduced him and danced around him, you know. You know, about a week after that he gave me the check for twenty-five dollars, and it bounced! Wasn't any good. I was over at the gym one day walking around and here was this little lady walking. It was her, that married this guy. I said, "You know what, that check he gave me bounced." She stopped and said, "What did you say?" I said, "That check bounced. It's over with now, let's just forget it." She said, "No sir, I'm not gonna forget it." You know, she sent me a thirty dollar check, gave me five dollars interest on the top. I don't think that lasted very long. She didn't put up with that stuff.

FORSYTHE: Why did you go to UT instead of MTSU?

HAYES: Well, they wanted me to go to Middle Tennessee, and I worked out, out there, and we talked about it. The fellow that taught plain geometry, he was a UT man. See, I'd really been planning on going to Vanderbilt. I'd been to their games, sitting on the sidelines during the season. But they had a change in coaches, and they just seemed to lose interest in me. Mr. Cummings came to me one day and said, "Now if you want to go to UT, I'll help you." I said, "Well, looks like that might be a good change." So he took me down to Nashville, and Major Milan was in the army reserve and had an office down there during the summer. We went to Jackson Hotel and met Major Milan and talked with him. Mr. Cummings talked to him about my high school playing and so forth, and he offered me a scholarship to go to UT. So, I went up there. It was hot. We worked on the fence going around the field there in August before the season started. We won a lot of games, talked to each other, you know how you do that. I'm certainly glad I went, meant a lot to me. You know, I did all right up there. Course, the people here at Middle, they kind of get on me because I don't go all out for them over there. I've got divided allegiance, and I've got season tickets going to UT. I have them over here too, but if both of them are at the same time, I go up there. So, they don't like that. But, you know, I never would have got to Middle Tennessee if I hadn't been up there where I got my school work and everything.

FORSYTHE: I want to ask you about the Rutherford County Planning Commission.

HAYES: Well, the Planning Commission, I've been chairman of the County Planning Commission for several years. Course, we take subdivisions; changing zones or properties, residential to commercial. This Planning Commission votes on these things, the plats and so forth are made there and make approval. We also have a

codes department that works to see these regulations are carried out. It's not the most pleasant job in the world, but I feel like it's something worthwhile and needed. I really like to get it done.

FORSYTHE: Well, this tape is ending.