

Interview with
JIMMY HAILEY
Texas Ranger, Retired

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Project: Texas Rangers

Interview Conducted at Mr. Hailey's Home
Bryan, Texas
Friday—April 24th, 2009

Interviewed By: Nancy Ray and Eddie Ray
Longview, Texas

Present at Interview: Jimmy Hailey, Nancy Ray and Eddie Ray



Introduction

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JIMMY HAILEY
TEXAS RANGER, RETIRED

NANCY RAY: My name is Nancy Ray and I am visiting with Jimmy Hailey of Bryan, Texas and today is Friday, April 24th, 2009. The purpose of this interview is to discuss Ranger Hailey's career as a Texas Ranger. Ranger Hailey, do I have your permission to record this interview?

JIMMY HAILEY: Yes you do.

NANCY RAY: Do you understand that this video will belong to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco, Texas?

JIMMY HAILEY: Yes.

NANCY RAY: And do I have your permission to present copies of this video to various historical organizations such as museums, libraries, schools and once transcribed to place on the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum's website?

JIMMY HAILEY: Yes.

NANCY RAY: OK. Let's start by learning a little bit about you. Tell us your full name and where were you born and when.

JIMMY HAILEY: My full name is Jimmy Tildon Hailey. I was born on November 4th, 1950, at William-Beaumont Army Hospital in El Paso, Texas.

NANCY RAY: What about your parents... what are their names?

JIMMY HAILEY: My father was Otis Tildon Hailey. He passed away in 1998. Uh my mother is Blanche Smith Hailey. She's still alive and living in Bivins, Texas.

NANCY RAY: What about brothers and sisters?

JIMMY HAILEY: I have three brothers. My oldest brother is Roger. He is the superintendent of the Atlanta Independent School District. Jerry is the next oldest. He is working for a restaurant in Atlanta, Texas. I'm the third. And my youngest brother is Ronnie. He also lives in Atlanta and works for uh some lumber company.

NANCY RAY: OK. Where did you graduate from school?

JIMMY HAILEY: Graduated from high school in Atlanta in 1968.

NANCY RAY: Did you have any favorite subjects or teachers or play sports...

JIMMY HAILEY: I... well I was a history major is what I wanted to do when I got out of high school. That didn't turn out so well. But I played just every sport there was. You know we were a little school in Atlanta... there was I think maybe 80 something in my graduating class. And so you played football, basketball, did track. We didn't have baseball in high school but we had summer baseball so I played that. I don't remember when I didn't play sports or baseball.

NANCY RAY: Well what about when you graduated? What did you do?

JIMMY HAILEY: I went... uh I started to Texarkana College and I went to work. As soon as I turned 18 I went to work for uh Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant just outside of Texarkana. I worked from like 10 at night to 7 in the morning at the defense plant and then I went to college during the day. And that lasted for... probably a year or a year and a half then they had a reduction in force when the Vietnam War was winding down. Then I went to work for Clements Oil Company there in Atlanta running one of their gas stations.

NANCY RAY: Were you ever in the military at all?

JIMMY HAILEY: No. My dad was uh career Army so we moved all over the country. I think I went to the first grade... I went to a little school in Oklahoma called Cully... it was outside

Sasakwa, Oklahoma, and it had two rooms and eight grades and two teachers you know. So we grades one through four in one room with one teacher and five through eight in another room with another teacher. And of course there was... back then there was no indoor plumbing in the school and no indoor plumbing at home. We lived... my two older brothers and I lived with my grandparents there. And then I went to the second grade in Columbia, South Carolina... started the third grade in Columbia, South Carolina. Daddy ended up transferring to Fort Polk in Louisiana so I went to DeRidder schools for some time of that third grade. And I ended up that year back in Cully finishing up the third grade. Then the fourth grade I was... fourth and fifth grade was in Miami, Oklahoma. Sixth grade was in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, is where I finished up. Then we came to Atlanta when I was in the seventh. Daddy retired from the military and so that's where we ended up.

NANCY RAY: You had to change quite a bit.

JIMMY HAILEY: We moved... three schools in one year one time so yes, it was always constant change.

NANCY RAY: Is there a teacher you can think of that a big impact on you?

JIMMY HAILEY: You know... I have... I was pretty lucky. We had some great school teachers. The one I remember most was Mrs. Howard and she taught history. And I guess that was my favorite subject so her... her husband was a friend of the family so we had known them. Of course in Atlanta, a small town, everybody knows everybody. But she was an excellent teacher... great person.

NANCY RAY: How did you get interested in uh a career in the Highway Patrol?

JIMMY HAILEY: Well my older brother, Jerry, had gone to the Highway Patrol in 1968. He graded from recruit school I think in December of '68. And so when I was 19, they were gonna have a recruit school when I was 19. I was fixing to turn 20 and you had to be 20 to get in. That was the standard so I applied at 19 thinking I'll be 20 before the school's out... they'll let me in. And that didn't work. *(laughter)* And so I went on and the next year they called me and they were fixing to have recruit school so here I am.

NANCY RAY: So they just kept your application?

JIMMY HAILEY: Yes ma'am. Called me... In fact I got married in August of '71 and went on my honeymoon. And when I came back three or four days from my honeymoon there was a letter saying starting recruit school in October of 1971, do you want to be in it... basically. And so...

NANCY RAY: So you entered the Highway Patrol of October of '71.

JIMMY HAILEY: Yes ma'am.

NANCY RAY: You mentioned you married. Tell us about kids and...

JIMMY HAILEY: OK. I was married from 1971 to 1981. Gail is my ex-wife. I have three girls. My oldest one is Lori. She is 36 and she is divorced and she lives in College Station with my only granddaughter. Hailey is my granddaughter, she's 8. My second child is Jaime and she is married and living in Houston and working for Northern Star Generations. And my youngest child is Julie. She's 30. She lives here in Bryan and she is a landman working for D.J. Energycom in Franklin.

NANCY RAY: And you mentioned a grandchild named Hailey. Is that spelled the same way as your last name?

JIMMY HAILEY: Spelled the same way. I decided I wasn't gonna have any sons of my own to carry the name on so I tricked my oldest daughter into naming my granddaughter Hailey so at least the name will carry for a while.

NANCY RAY: And does she... does she lead you around pretty well?

JIMMY HAILEY: Pretty much. Uh... yeah. When she's not in school she's usually over here. If they have days off from school she comes and stays with me. And I uh... I pick up my oldest daughter from work every afternoon and my granddaughter from school every afternoon so I see her every day.

NANCY RAY: Sounds like you have a pretty good schedule to keep up with.

JIMMY HAILEY: I guess... it's a good thing I'm retired.

NANCY RAY: I can understand it. Well tell us about when you entered the Academy. What... what was it like?

JIMMY HAILEY: I was a 20-year old kid... first time away from home. I was a little... you know a northeast Texas town of 5,000 people and they send me to Austin, Texas. First when I drove into Austin they told me I could see the Academy and I like to never have found the Academy. I went all the way to the south side of Austin and somebody finally... had sense enough to stop and ask where North Lamar Street was and so I ended up going back up through the middle of Austin, Texas, on North Lamar so I wouldn't get lost again. And you walk in there and it is a completely different world you know. In fact, you go... you sign in and they assign you a bunk and you go put your stuff in. There's like six bunks to a room and you sit down and you think... why am I here? You know what am I doing here? I've been married for a month and a half, what am I doing here 400 miles from home? And I know there was one or two that came

in and put their books down and went back out to the car to get their clothes and we never saw them again.

NANCY RAY: How many people entered... started your class, do you remember?

JIMMY HAILEY: I want to say 120 something. I'm not sure of the exact number but it was in the 120s.

NANCY RAY: How many finished?

JIMMY HAILEY: I want to say 86, 87... somewhere in that range. It was a pretty good dropoff.

NANCY RAY: What was the hardest part to you?

JIMMY HAILEY: Being there. Uh I was 20 years old and of course I'd always been an athlete. Before I went I worked for Shell Oil Company, Clements Oil Company, and I was used to working twelve hours a day, six days a week, out in the heat. And I was rolling 55-gallon drums of oil around and doing that kind of deal so the physical part wasn't. It was the mental part of having to be there. And I guess the hardest part, knowing I could leave anytime I wanted to. Why am I here? You stay because... you know if you're in the military you're pretty much locked in the military and you're there for your 8 weeks of basic. But in this one you could leave anytime you wanted to.

NANCY RAY: Well were they trying to make you leave just to see? What kind of mind games did they play?

JIMMY HAILEY: Well... You know you used to think they were trying to run you off and trying to play mind games. But they would sometimes get you up at 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning and they would do a spelling test or they'd get you out to do PT at 2 or 3 o'clock in the

morning. I can remember one time we did PT at 3 o'clock in the morning for about an hour. Went back to bed and an hour and a half later we're back up there doing PT again. But you think about it over the years and I think what they're looking at... If you're on Highway Patrol... if you're on call and most places you are. You may be called out to a wreck at 1 o'clock in the morning or 2 o'clock in the morning or whatever there is. And I think they're just wanting to see not so much the spelling test but wanting to see how you function when you're awakened out of a sound sleep to go do something very important. So there was a method to their madness I guess you would say about what they're trying to do.

NANCY RAY: Looking back it probably makes more sense than looking forward.

JIMMY HAILEY: Yes, yes. And back when I was there, there was no such thing as overtime or comp time or anything like that. So they had you 24/7 and they could do with you whatever they wanted to do.

NANCY RAY: Well your class, were there any other future Rangers that made Rangers later?

JIMMY HAILEY: Yes, there were quite a few. There was uh... let's see, Ronnie Griffith, Joe Haralson, Richard Benny, Ray Cano, Kenneth Hammack, Dick Johnson... six or seven of us.

NANCY RAY: Goodness that's a high percentage.

JIMMY HAILEY: Pretty good... pretty good class. Some of them went early to the Rangers and some of us came in quite a bit later. But eventually we all got there.

NANCY RAY: We've interviewed a few of those. What... when you left, what was your first duty station?

JIMMY HAILEY: San Antonio. I went to San Antonio in February of '72 and uh my first partner I think was R. C. Willy, Curt Willy is what they called him... excellent, excellent trooper.

NANCY RAY: What did he teach you?

JIMMY HAILEY: Well he had spent some time in Driver's License and I guess he'd always wanted out. And he was a very smart guy. He knew the traffic law manual back and forth you know. He was just that studious and that intelligent. And he worked hard. He was meticulous with his report writing and how to do things right. And you don't forget anything, you put everything in there. And that probably had a lot to do... you know help me know this is what you've got to do... this is how you've got to do a report and this is the things that happened.

NANCY RAY: So you were in San Antonio and you were on the highway. What... what kind of things did you do?

JIMMY HAILEY: It was traffic. Accident investigation, speeding, DWIs, uh... Back then I think marijuana was probably the big drug. There wasn't much in the way of meth and heroin. There was a little bit of heroin but mostly what we were dealing with was... was marijuana. And of course back then any, any amount of marijuana was a felony. They hadn't reduced the fines and the system down so we did a lot of that. I worked with him for the first six months. And back then the probationary period was six months on the Highway Patrol. I think it's a year now. And then I went to work for uh... I worked with Frankie Waller and I spend a year working with him. Frankie ends up being the assistant colonel for some period of time before he retired... So... super, super intelligent guy also. We had a great time.

NANCY RAY: Some of the Rangers have told us that being a Highway Patrolman was really fun.

JIMMY HAILEY: It was fun.

NANCY RAY: What was fun? It's hard to pin anybody down.

JIMMY HAILEY: You know... most people have a job you go to... 8 to 5, Monday through Friday, and you're in an office or you're somewhere. And you've got a supervisor... and there are two or three supervisors possibly around. And you're out there with your partner and if... you get in your car and you leave the house, you're working. And you can go just about anywhere you want to go and make any turn you want to make and stop when you want to stop and just do whatever you... It's a pretty free life as long as you're doing what you're supposed to be doing you know. There's lots of freedom. Supervisors aren't around... just you and your partner. And a lot of times there's just you. And you get to meet a lot of people. You see a lot of things. Especially me... I was a young kid out of east Texas and I go to San Antonio. And you talk about a whole new world for this little wide-eyed kid coming down there... and so all of it was fun.

NANCY RAY: Well what about high-speed chases? Did you have any? *(laughter)*

JIMMY HAILEY: Quite a few of those, yes. Luckily I never... never wrecked a car. And never lost anybody. We always ended up catching them one way or the other.

NANCY RAY: When you were doing a high-speed chase, how did you... how did you manage without causing accidents or... Did you learn things in the Academy?

JIMMY HAILEY: Well yeah... you had probably... I don't remember how many hours it was. But there was probably 30, 35 hours of behind-the-wheel driving. And then driving, riding with

other recruits while they're driving. And you've got skilled instructors. They bring in Highway Patrolman from around the state to do the driving training in recruit school and so you learn that. And then of course you've got a partner that... that you ride with when you're a rookie and just learn. You know you learn your limitations I guess on what you can do and what you can't. Luckily, I guess... we had more experience driving than the people who were running from us. So that makes a big difference in how it results.

NANCY RAY: Well the ones who are running, what was... was there a reason... the primary reason?

JIMMY HAILEY: Either drunk or just stupid you know or thought they could get away. May have gotten away before from the city or whoever and they just... just panicked. Some of its just panic you know... just young kids doing stupid things.

NANCY RAY: Well if you... were you working in the city or were you out?

JIMMY HAILEY: Well no, we worked outside the city. We didn't work inside the city but those kinds of towns, like San Antonio, half the county is city. So you're in and out going from one place to the other you're in and out. Uh Frankie and I worked the south side of San Antonio which would have been mostly the loop south, 410 south, and all the way to the Atascosa county line... 281, 181, all those roads down in there. And there was always something to do down in there.

NANCY RAY: What about uh hit-and-run accidents? Did you ever have any of those?

JIMMY HAILEY: I had a few of those uh... you know over the years... either myself or my partners did. And I don't recall not ever finding out who they were. I don't remember any specific one but I don't remember anyone that we didn't find.

NANCY RAY: Well did you spend your whole career as a patrolman there at San Antonio?

JIMMY HAILEY: No, I stayed in San Antonio until I think November of '73... about eighteen or twenty months and then I transferred to Conroe. My wife's parents lived in Mississippi and Conroe was a good halfway spot you know to where we were closer to them and it was a little bit different. And my older brother, Jerry, was stationed in Conroe at the time so I knew what kind of sergeant area it was. I knew what kind of town it was because I used to ride with him some. And it was a good... I'd always wanted to go back home to Cass County where I came from but that got me a whole lot closer to Cass County and there wasn't any place to go in Cass County so Conroe was a good place to go.

NANCY RAY: OK. Does anything stand out in your mind that happened there at Conroe?

JIMMY HAILEY: No... well I had a good sergeant. Had some great troops... I had some troops that had been on fifteen or twenty years that really knew what they were doing and really knew how to handle people and how to deal with people. And so I learned a lot from those... from those people. And you know it was just normal... Of course when you're running Interstate 45, we had all that to work and you'd get some pretty good major accidents out there. So you could close up the roads and keep them closed for a while until you cleaned up the wreckage. But uh... it was just... when you're on the Highway Patrol, wherever you're at, you're... you're handling whatever comes down the street basically so there's a wide variety of things that happened.

NANCY RAY: Did anything ever happen that uh made you fear for your own life or your safety?

JIMMY HAILEY: Well you know... the story is every time you stop somebody you never know when you pull one over for speeding or a stoplight or whatever else what... what these people have done in the past or what they're fixing to do or planning to do or anything else. So you need to have a healthy respect for anything could happen. And so when you approach the vehicles, you approach with that caution. You know I don't know if fear would be a good word because if you fear everyone of them, you just need to get out of the business. But you have to have a healthy respect for anything can happen. And so you have to be ready for that as well as you can be ready for that.

NANCY RAY: As we've talked to some of the older uh Rangers...

JIMMY HAILEY: I'm younger than most of them.

NANCY RAY: You are... you really are. And some of the older ones talk about physical confrontations. Did y'all... but I know things change.

JIMMY HAILEY: No, you have those. As far as just uh... it was never just a stand-up fistfight like you would see. It's... it was you know some pretty good... there were as few blows thrown and then it was more a wrestling match to subdue them. You weren't trying to fight them you were trying to subdue them as quick as you could. So you know it would come down to a wrestling match. And I guess we always won.

NANCY RAY: That's good. It's nice that the good guys win.

JIMMY HAILEY: Yes, that's the idea (*laughter*).

NANCY RAY: What about uh... did you ever work on any criminal investigations although that's really not part of your job?

JIMMY HAILEY: That wasn't... that wasn't part of the job but if we... we would stop vehicles, if they were stolen we would do the stolen vehicle report. We did those reports. We didn't turn those over to anybody else. Now I can remember one where we had a wrecker going north on 45 and it was pulling another car. The wrecker and the vehicle were stolen. When we stopped them they all hit the woods. And of course then you called out all the troops... the SO and the Rangers and who else would come down there and you'd start your searches. And then you would turn something like that over to the criminal side of DPS.

NANCY RAY: Was Conroe your last duty station?

JIMMY HAILEY: No.

NANCY RAY: Where did you go next?

JIMMY HAILEY: I finally got back to Cass County. And I stayed uh in Conroe until September of '78 so five years. Then I transferred to Linden, Texas, which is Cass County and stayed there until February of '84. In '84 I made Highway Patrol sergeant and I was sent to Baytown.

NANCY RAY: Did anything happen at Linden? I know 59 goes through there.

JIMMY HAILEY: It's the same kind of deal you know. The one thing I did up there is I had an informant come to me. There was a chief of police there in Atlanta named Charles Wisdom. He'd been there a pretty good while and I knew him... good friends with him. You know my brother was friends with him because my brother had transferred back up there at some point in time too in the Patrol. And I had an informant come to me and tell me that he was selling drugs out of, out of the evidence lockers. And by that time, he had moved over to Lone Star as the chief of Lone Star. And so I worked with uh... contacted DPS Narcotics and Lane Akin... he

was a rookie Narcotics agent at the time. And I worked with him and kept him and the informant together and we worked on that narcotics case and we ended up making a case on the chief of police.

NANCY RAY: Did you have to go to court for him?

JIMMY HAILEY: I didn't have to do that. I think... I think he pled out when it was all said and done and took a plea deal and I don't remember what the plea deal was.

NANCY RAY: That's pretty bold or brazen...

JIMMY HAILEY: No, it just happens. You know it's stupid but people do weird things.

NANCY RAY: Well what made you want to become a Ranger?

JIMMY HAILEY: Just kind of happened that way. I was an HP sergeant in Baytown for a year. And that was about all I could stand of Baytown for a year. And Huntsville duty station opened up, the sergeant's station in Huntsville opened up so in '85 I transferred to uh Huntsville as a Highway Patrol sergeant. Therez was an old Ranger there named Wesley Styles... been there for a long time... super, super guy. He had been a sheriff out in Seymour for a long time and... He was one of the last few that came into the Rangers from outside the Department before they changed the rules. He was always bugging me about going to the Rangers, wanting me to come over to the Rangers. And of course... you know it's easier to sit and do what you're used to do doing and get familiar with than it is to make those changes. And not only that but to have to study to make those changes... You know you're going to uproot and go do something else all completely different again. It bugged me for a while, over and over and over, and of course I knew several of the Rangers. Some of them I'd gone to recruit school with and some of them I'd worked around for years. And it just seemed to fall into place you know. It's just... it's nothing

that you, when you begin your career, that you say I'm gonna be a Ranger, that's what I'm coming to DPS for. It just... it just works that way.

NANCY RAY: Let me go back... as a sergeant, what did you do as a sergeant?

JIMMY HAILEY: In Baytown I supervised... I think I had about eleven men that I supervised. And it's a 24/7 job you know. Troops go work their shifts and they go home and the sergeant's out there for whatever shift he wants to work and then he's on call for the rest of it. You know for anything else that happens. And the sergeant's job is good if you have good people working under you. It can be a nightmare if it's not. You could spend your time doing investigations on improper conduct or whatever there is. But for the most part, it's uh... you're off the road. That's the other part. I had spent 13 years on the Highway Patrol and I had lots of fun, had some great partners. But I knew I didn't want to be 55 years old and still riding up and down the highway in a black and white. Some people do that and they do a great job at it and they're geared that way but that's not what I wanted to do. And so Highway Patrol sergeant was the next step up to go wherever you wanted to go in DPS. And so that's why I went. And it worked out pretty well.

NANCY RAY: In Baytown, did y'all ever have to work any disasters like hurricanes or evacuations or...

JIMMY HAILEY: I went to Baytown in February of '84 and I think '83 was Hurricane Katrina or... I can't remember which one came through there in '83. One came through there in the last part of '83... I can't remember what the name of it was... Carla maybe, I don't know the names.

NANCY RAY: They start over every year.

JIMMY HAILEY: *(laughter)* Yeah they start over every year and they all run together to me since I... But it tore up Baytown, Channelview, Clover Leaf... all that bay area down in there.

And when I got there in '84, they were still reconstructing it and I wasn't involved in any of that but you could still see the destruction that it wrecked through there six months before that.

NANCY RAY: OK to become a Ranger then... is there anything else about your Highway Patrol career you want to tell us about?

JIMMY HAILEY: Nope, I had a great time (*laughter*).

NANCY RAY: Good, I'm glad. Sometimes we get real good answers and sometimes I can't pin anybody down. To become a Ranger, you had to go through the testing process.

JIMMY HAILEY: Yes.

NANCY RAY: And then the interview board. Do you remember who was on your interview board?

JIMMY HAILEY: There were six of them I know that. There always are. Uh I believe Chief Maurice Cook, senior Ranger captain was there. I don't remember if Bruce Casteel was there or not. I'm just not sure who all was on it.

NANCY RAY: Were you ever on an interview board yourself?

JIMMY HAILEY: I sat on some interview boards afterwards... after I made Ranger and then when I made lieutenant in the Rangers I sat on some interview boards. But uh prior to that I had never sat on an interview board.

NANCY RAY: When you were looking for new Rangers, on the board, what were you looking for? How did you pick?

JIMMY HAILEY: What I wanted to see was... one, how they presented themselves. But more than anything else, I wanted to look at their record of where they had been. You know I had some people that worked for me who would do what it took to get by. And then I had others that

would go that extra... do whatever it took to get the job done... not just what little bit I have to do. So I was looking for the person who was a self-motivated individual who did his job and took care of his business and whatever else came along and didn't worry about going home or what's in it for me or anything else. So that's the individual I wanted to look at. I wanted his background and that was a good thing we did, backgrounds, to see what recommendations we had from people to see what they'd done in their previous job. That's what I wanted in the Ranger business. Because you better be self motivated... You better work on your own without supervision because... When I was lieutenant in Lubbock, we had 60 counties and I had 13 Rangers spread out over 60 counties in the whole Panhandle. There's no way I could be with them every day... Didn't want to be with them every day... Didn't need to be with them every day. And I had to know that they were there to take care of their business whether anybody was around watching them or not. So that's the kind of people I wanted in the Ranger business.

NANCY RAY: Well when you were being interviewed, do you remember any of the questions you were asked?

JIMMY HAILEY: No.

NANCY RAY: Nothing stands out?

JIMMY HAILEY: No, they were all... I'd gone to several interview boards and every one of them you walk away from them and you get down the road about 30 miles and you say, why didn't I tell them this? You know... it's such a... such a project or something that you have to go through that you just uh... you know you just wipe your brow and think I survived that one. *(laughter)* Let me out of here and I'll never bother you again... let me out of here.

NANCY RAY: What was I thinking?

JIMMY HAILEY: Yeah, why... just let me go back...

NANCY RAY: Well when you were in Huntsville, did you ever have any incidents at the prison?

JIMMY HAILEY: yeah, when I first got there they were still big into the uh... the executions had just really gotten cranked back up pretty good and so the riot squads always went to the prison, surrounded the prison, blocked everything off for all the protestors and everything else for that. When you had an escapee, we all got called out to those you know... trying to round them up. And ride the horses every now and then.

NANCY RAY: Tell us about one of those that you had to look for. How did you find them?

JIMMY HAILEY: Well, I... most of them... TDC has tracking dogs. And if they were on the ground in the area, they had their horses and they had their tracking dogs and it didn't take them long and they'd flush them out somewhere. You know if they were still anywhere in the area... if they hadn't gotten a ride from somebody and gotten completely out of the area, they were gonna be found down there in the woods somewhere by the dogs. And most of the time... by the time they laid out in them east Texas woods with the mosquitoes in the summer time, they were ready for somebody to find them. They wanted to go back to their jail cell again where they could get clean again.

NANCY RAY: I show you became a Ranger August 1st, 1992. And where did you go?

JIMMY HAILEY: Houston. It's kind of funny. I left Conroe in 1978 because it was getting too big, too close to Houston. I said I'm going to northeast Texas and I'm never coming back to Houston again. And of course then I make Highway Patrol sergeant... where do they send me? Baytown, Harris County... back again. So I finally get to Huntsville and I'm 90 miles away and

Houston is still my headquarters for Region 2 in Highway Patrol. But I'm 90 miles away. I don't have to go very often so that's as close as I'm ever gonna get to Houston. And then I make Ranger and where do they send me? Back to Houston again. So fifteen or twenty years I've been trying to get away from Houston... every time I promote they send me back to Houston again. But I... I learned a lot there. I spent a year there and Dee Vickers was my captain. Robert Madeira was the lieutenant and I had David Maxwell and Stan Oldham were the two Rangers that were there... had been there a long time. Stan and I had been Highway Patrol troopers together in San Antonio when we were still on patrol so... I learned a lot from those people. And I'm lucky in my career. You see and you hear from some people who had terrible supervisors or had a terrible job or had terrible partners. I guess I was lucky because everywhere I ever went... whatever I did in DPS, I had some great supervisors and great people to work with you know. So it makes the job a whole lot easier. I had... I couldn't have asked for better people to work with or for.

NANCY RAY: Who else made Ranger with you?

JIMMY HAILEY: I think there were eight of us. Thelbert Millsap, Kyle Dean, Ted Poling, Matt Cawthon, myself, Kenneth Hammack... who I'd gone to recruit school with. Sat right beside him... the only reason he made it through recruit school is because he cheated off of me because he sat right beside me (*laughter*). That's what I always told him. Joe Haralson... Joe Haralson is another Ranger who came out... he sat on the right side of me so I accused them both of the only reason they got through recruit school was from cheating off of me... both of them did. Of course Haralson said he drug us both through and that I cheated off of Haralson and Hammack cheated off of me is the way Haralson puts it. (*laughter*)

NANCY RAY: Everybody tells it a little bit differently.

JIMMY HAILEY: Yeah, it depends on who is telling the story. And I think Rocky Wardlow and Matt Andrews were the eight of us that made it in August.

NANCY RAY: When you went to Houston, what did you do?

JIMMY HAILEY: I did a few uh white collar crimes or theft crimes, things like that. And then in uh... I'd been there three or four months and they sent me out to Cleveland. I don't remember who was the Ranger over Cleveland but he was out of pocket and so Captain Vickers asked me if I wanted to go work in... work Cleveland. They had a murder up there that I worked. And I spent several... several months working on that one.

NANCY RAY: Was that your first case?

JIMMY HAILEY: That was my first murder case. I had worked some other cases but that was my first murder case.

NANCY RAY: What happened?

JIMMY HAILEY: Had a drug dealer who was found in his trailer house with... with two bullets in the side of his head. He was laying on his couch all covered up. Of course when you're dealing with those kind of people, there's so much traffic in and out of that house and so many different people who could have been involved in it. I think I worked with one of the detectives with the Liberty County SO. I think for about six months we interviewed probably 40 or 50 people. I mean everybody we could think of... any close involvement, any distant... any involvement period with the guy. And we had looked at one guy pretty strong and we were pretty sure it was him but we couldn't make a case. He had his uh, his girlfriend and her brother... were his alibis. So we couldn't make it. Then about a year and a half later, I guess when the girlfriend

breaks up, her and her brother come to Liberty County SO and say here's the real story. So we ended up making the case on the guy we thought it was to start with. But you've got to go through all those other people and eliminate each one as you go as whether they were possibly involved or not. So that was the first murder case. It was uh pretty interesting.

NANCY RAY: There's a lot of detail and sticking to the... sticking to it.

JIMMY HAILEY: yes. It's just a matter of elimination. And one leads you to another. One clue will lead you here and take you there and just... you just work your way down until it comes back to where it should be.

NANCY RAY: Well what kind of white collar crimes did you have there?

JIMMY HAILEY: ... had uh theft and theft by check, those type of deals like that. The problem with Harris County is you have Houston PD. You have Harris County SO and the probably fifteen cities around in Harris County. They've got more detectives than we could ever dream of... of every kind there is you know. Homicide, robbery, sexual crimes, whatever... So they don't need us a whole lot you know. They need us when their suspects and things move outside Harris County. Move out in the different parts of the state and they will call on us to help them locate these people. And of course we've got contacts. We've got Rangers all over the state so they will... they will have us help them find these people. That's what I did a lot you know while I was there. Some of them may do it a little different. I only spent a year there so I didn't spend much time there. And of course for most of that year I was in Liberty County working on a murder case.

NANCY RAY: Where did you go when you left Houston?

JIMMY HAILEY: I went out to Brenham. I couldn't get back to Huntsville. I still owned a house in Huntsville from being a Highway Patrol sergeant but I couldn't get back to Huntsville. So I'm a country boy, I went back to the country and I went to Brenham. And of course about the time I get to Brenham they start cranking up this Texas A&M investigation. And so I spent most of... I didn't stay in Brenham. I went to Brenham in September of 1993 and in April of '94, Barry Caver had been the Ranger in Huntsville and he promoted to lieutenant and went to Lubbock and so they allowed me to go back to Huntsville. So I didn't do anything in Brenham other than come up here and work on Texas A&M.

NANCY RAY: Tell us about Texas A&M.

JIMMY HAILEY: Texas A&M... The governor had received an anonymous letter accusing...

NANCY RAY: And who was the governor at that time?

JIMMY HAILEY: Uh Governor Ann Richards was the governor. Had received an anonymous letter... uh four our five-page letter accusing A&M and the people at A&M of everything under the sun... stealing money, doing things wrong... whatever it was. And so she decided that the Rangers needed to come up here and investigate Texas A&M. So we started out... there were probably I don't know... six or seven Rangers started out just because there were people in San Antonio and Dallas, Houston... in different places that needed to be interviewed. So I was in Company A in Houston. Gary Henderson was Company F stationed out of Waco. He was in Palestine but company headquarters was Waco. And so I think there was one in Dallas, I can't remember who they were. But within about two or three weeks it pretty much came down to Gary Henderson and I to do the investigation. Now there was a FBI agent here named Joe Karmick who was assigned to work with us for the FBI. And so Gary and I spent pretty close to

two years, probably over two years investigating as many allegations as we could possibly investigate in that amount of time. And we ended up... the Chairman of the Board of Regents, Ross Margraves, the Vice President of Finance, Robert Smith, were the two... There were several people convicted of lesser offenses but they were the two top people that were convicted of one crime or another.

NANCY RAY: Did they do time?

JIMMY HAILEY: No, they all got probation you know. It was financial type stuff and misapplication of what their fiduciary responsibilities and those type things were. And so Bill Turner who was the District Attorney here... I don't think he sought jail time. I don't think it was that kind of crime... to be repeat offender type deals. You know it was a one-time deal so they all got their probation. And Bill Turner, probably the finest District Attorney in Texas that I know of you know. There's not too many people that would take on a system of... of Texas A&M's size when you're a little small District Attorney's office. But he stayed with it. And his belief is no matter who you are... and which is our belief too. He went right in line with what our beliefs are... it doesn't matter. If you do the crime then we're gonna try to punish you.

NANCY RAY: Did you ever find out who sent the letter?

JIMMY HAILEY: Nope.

NANCY RAY: Did you even try that or was that of any concern?

JIMMY HAILEY: No. No, it wasn't a concern. You know... the Rangers don't normally get involved in anonymous letters. We want somebody to tell us who they are unless we can put something with it. But when the Governor says go look at it, then you go look at it. That's what

you do. Not that we didn't think there wasn't a crime, we've just gotta have someplace to start. And we're not much on anonymous letters.

NANCY RAY: While you're talking about the governor, did you ever drive the governor or presidents or anything?

JIMMY HAILEY: I had several of the governors. Every time she came to east Texas or somewhere over there they... she was over there for the dedication. The one I remember is she was over there for the dedication of the Sam Houston Monument there in Huntsville... that 65-foot monstrosity on the interstate. And so I had her there. And I had them in Houston. You know that was our responsibility and so wherever they were or wherever they went... if they were in our area then we took care of them.

NANCY RAY: So who all did you drive?

JIMMY HAILEY: I think Ann Richards, uh George Bush... I think they were probably the only two that were... that were mine that I would have been dealing with.

NANCY RAY: Did any incidents happen while you were driving them?

JIMMY HAILEY: No... it was not... They bring their own security team. They have their own advance security team and then they used us because we're familiar with the area and we know... we know where everything's at. It's a little a bit different than the President of the United States. You know there aren't too many people wanting to harm the governor of Texas that I know of.

NANCY RAY: What kind of training did you have as a Ranger?

JIMMY HAILEY: You went to some kind of school every year at least. We'd started doing in-service schools every year. I think I went to about five or six different schools you know... crime

scene investigation, interrogation, fingerprinting, whatever... whatever you needed to do and whatever tools you needed to do your job. And you were always going to something.

NANCY RAY: What was the most useful tool that you had? Was DNA big at that time?

JIMMY HAILEY: DNA was just coming in in '92. It wasn't real big. It was started. Probably the thing that helps you the most... probably the best thing for me was the crime scene investigation. Because you can see with all the stories on TV now, it comes down to the crime scene and how you collect the evidence and how it's maintained in custody. And how it's collected and how it's preserved and how you identify where it was at and who found it and the time and all that stuff. So learning that saves you lots of problems in courtrooms down the road if you've done it correctly. And so uh... crime scene investigation is vitally important in this day and time.

NANCY RAY: When you left Brenham, where did you go from there?

JIMMY HAILEY: Went back to Huntsville. In April of 1994 I went to Huntsville as a Ranger and stayed until November of '96 when I promoted to lieutenant.

NANCY RAY: Tell us about some things that happened at Huntsville.

JIMMY HAILEY: I had... of course when I went back over there I was still working on that A&M investigation so I was in and out of Huntsville. But in, I think in January of '95, the sheriff, Dale Myers, called me in and wanted to visit with me and had one of his detectives, Judy James, in with him. In December of '93 which was over a year earlier, there was a young lady and her 18-month old daughter that disappeared. And there was... had been a detective with the SO had worked on it for a little short time and she had come to the conclusion that the woman had just left with her baby. And so they... they had called me and wanted me and Judy to look at

it again. They weren't satisfied with that answer. So we got to looking at it and come to find out, there had been a burglary at the house. They had a kid, this lady, this other detective had arrested a kid... lived across the street for burglarizing the house but she still believed that the woman and the baby had just left on their own. We knew better than that... too coincidental for something like that to happen. And so we interviewed people over and over and over. Brought the kid in and he was fixing to go plead guilty to the uh burglary. And we didn't want that to happen because you've got a lesser included offense and we didn't want him to plead and may be able to ride out anything we found on him down the road. And so we put a stop to that and talked to him... we just couldn't get him to give us the information that we wanted. We knew he'd... we knew he had killed the woman and her baby we just couldn't make him talk. But about... I don't know... two or three months later, he left town pretty quick after that and went to Midland. Judy got a call from the boy's daddy who said he just confessed to me that he killed the woman and the baby. Of course we'd been talking to him... the daddy back and forth so they all knew what was going on. And so we finally got him back over here and he confessed and led us to where the bodies were. And he'd buried them in a hole. And his story was that he went over there to burglarize the house and the woman confronted him and he stabbed her. And then he carried her out there in the woods and went back to the house and brought the 18-month old baby back out there and set it down beside the hole he was digging. And he dumped the mama in the hole and when he did, the baby crawled over to where the mama was and so he just covered them both up. His confession was that he buried the baby alive basically. And when we recovered the bodies... well we recovered a body, the woman's. We found most of her body. That was in November of '95, so it had been two years she'd been out there. All we found of the baby was

the diaper and some shoes and stuff it had been wearing. So he uh received the death penalty. Of course he was seventeen when he committed the crime. We got the death penalty and then, what was it... a couple of years ago, maybe three years ago, the Supreme Court ruled that anybody under 18 couldn't be executed for a crime they committed under 18. So his was uh... I'm assuming converted to life.

NANCY RAY: So he's still there?

JIMMY HAILEY: He was on death row until then so I'm assuming now he's back in general population probably... for a seventeen-year old kid to commit that kind of crime.

NANCY RAY: That's pretty bad.

JIMMY HAILEY: Yeah.

NANCY RAY: Well how did you... you had three little ones by that time. How did you deal with that... seeing something like a child...

JIMMY HAILEY: You know it affects you but you just kind of have to separate yourself you know as much as you possibly can to make sure you do the job right and make sure you don't overlook something. And uh you don't let your emotions interfere with what you've got to do. Because the main priority is to seek out who did it and get justice for the family.

NANCY RAY: Well what was your uh... what was your most disappointing case? Maybe it was one you weren't able to solve or something... or it didn't turn out the way you wanted it to.

JIMMY HAILEY: *(laughter)* You know... I can't think of any. You know I uh worked some other cases. I had a trooper over there who had stopped a car. Go back to where we were talking earlier. When you stop somebody you don't know what you're stopping them for. I had a trooper out east of Huntsville working, middle of the night, by himself. A car was coming down the road

with one headlight so he turns around and stops it. He starts walking up to the car and gunfire starts coming out of the back window and out the driver door. And of course he's able to retreat, luckily didn't get hit, and get back to his car and return fire. So you know you just... you've got to be cautious when you approach cars because that's what happens. Then the car drives off. One guy, the passenger, jumps out of the car and runs off in the woods and the driver heads off toward town. The trooper gets in his car, chases the car to town... it wrecks out in the middle of Huntsville. The driver jumps out and runs off and we find him about a hundred yards away beside a house. The trooper had hit him in the back and so he was dead on the ground. And we got the dogs out and searched for the other one that ran off and ended up he comes out of the woods and gives himself up. So it worked out great. The trooper was extremely lucky but he was trained to do that but he's still lucky. You're still lucky if you've got two people shooting at you and you come out unscathed. So that was a good one. Besides the 18-month old, the last case I worked there before I made lieutenant was a little 15-year old girl. Her and her mother lived together out east of town. And the mother had taken in her niece who had been troubled. And the mother called the sheriff's office one day and said her daughter didn't come home. And she had gone to town supposedly with her cousin and the cousin come home and said she walked off in Wal-Mart and didn't show up. You know couldn't find her so she come home. And we found the little 15-year old about four days later out in the woods. Traced back and she'd been shot in the back with a shotgun... and traced the gun back to the cousin. So here is a mother who had taken in her niece, troubled niece, to take care of and she's rewarded by her only daughter, only child, being shot by the niece she took in. Pretty disappointing you know... devastating for the mother... uh hard to deal with.

NANCY RAY: Most murders... are they normally by people that know you or...

JIMMY HAILEY: A big majority.

NANCY RAY: What causes them to kill somebody?

JIMMY HAILEY: Jealousy, greed, drugs... whatever you know. There's a full range of emotion and you know it's just the way it is. It's like the one I had in Cleveland, the first one I worked in Cleveland. It was a friend who ended up doing the shooting and he was upset because the guy's, who he killed, ex-wife... he wanted for himself. And he was, hated the guy for the way he treated the ex-wife type of deal. And so there's a whole range of reasons why people do that.

NANCY RAY: In any of your training, did they give you uh... how to deal with people?

JIMMY HAILEY: Yeah, you do... well you do some of that but a lot of that you just... you just have to know. You have to learn you know. And through years and years of dealing with people on the side of the road in the Highway Patrol and different things... and just living with people period you know. You learn how to deal with people. And you do... they send you to classes on how to interview and that kind of deal and so you learn some of that stuff on the side with that.

NANCY RAY: Well, what about any other crimes in the Huntsville area? Did you do oilfield crimes, burglaries, bank robberies...

JIMMY HAILEY: Didn't do any of those while I was there. Now when I was in Brenham, when I wasn't working A&M I did some oilfield thefts in the Brenham area... just a couple of those. Back then I think the oil was pretty cheap so you know... oilfield thefts go up when the price of oil goes up.

NANCY RAY: Boom and bust type deal.

JIMMY HAILEY: When the bust is on, nobody... who wants to sell a drill bit because nobody's buying a drillbit. They're not drilling anything. It's kind of a feast or famine with that theft in the oilfield and how the rest of it goes.

NANCY RAY: What about uh kidnappings? Did you do any of those?

JIMMY HAILEY: Didn't do any kidnappings. You know it was either murders mostly... of course the two years I was in Huntsville I was basically working on A&M and so only the major crime which would be murders did they call me to ask for help on because they knew I was busy over here. So the little burglaries and the little robberies and things like that they pretty much handled themselves because they knew I was busy somewhere else.

NANCY RAY: That makes sense.

JIMMY HAILEY: So I didn't get involved in a lot of those. I did one or two. I had one theft over there. She was a friend of mine. She'd worked for a young man that I went to high school with in Atlanta. He'd ended up in Huntsville and she had worked for him so I knew her very well. She went to work for a phone company down there and they were doing these long-distance phone cards for the college kids. And when the kids would come in and pay the money she'd write them a receipt and she'd stick the money in her pocket. And so when the phone company came to me with it, they said here's what we think. So I called her in and when I called her in to talk to her, she brought in a stack of receipts... about eight or nine thousand dollars... she'd kept track of everything she'd taken. And I guess within her mind it was with the intentions I'm eventually gonna pay it back you know. But uh she had every receipt.

NANCY RAY: What happened to her?

JIMMY HAILEY: They fined her and gave her probation, made her pay back the restitution and gave her probation.

NANCY RAY: If you're having to steal, how do you pay back?

JIMMY HAILEY: That's it... but the psychology for them to justify it to themselves is I'm keeping these receipt so I know... I'm not just stealing the money, I'm borrowing the money. So you know that's the psychology of people.

NANCY RAY: What made you want to become a lieutenant?

JIMMY HAILEY: I have no idea. *(laughter)*

NANCY RAY: What was I thinking?

JIMMY HAILEY: Being lieutenant wasn't... making lieutenant you know you just... sometimes you just decide to do things. You know I was pretty happy. I had finally gotten back to Huntsville and in the house I still owned from when I was a Highway Patrol sergeant there and thought... Of course I thought I was gonna end my career there as a Highway Patrol sergeant. Made Ranger and thought when I got back as a Ranger, I'm gonna end my career there as a sergeant and stay in that house. Just sometimes you get the urge to do things. I don't know if its ego or what but you just decide to try this and do it... see if I can do it. Of course I had eight years of supervision in the Highway Patrol so the supervision part wasn't a problem. I was used to that. And so I thought... this will be pretty... I can do this. And so I went and tested and made lieutenant and they sent me to Lubbock.

NANCY RAY: Now the testing process... is that very similar to...

JIMMY HAILEY: It's the same. It's the written and an interview board and they take the top. They combine the scores of the written and the interview board and whatever the top scores are, are the ones that promote. And they promoted three of us on that list.

NANCY RAY: And who were the others?

JIMMY HAILEY: Ray Coffman and Clete Buckaloo. We all made lieutenant. Ray stayed or went to Austin and Clete went to Waco. Chief Casteel called me on the phone and said uh congratulations, you're going to Lubbock. And I said... what happened to Waco? *(laughter)* Ray was number one, I was number two, and Clete was number three on the list. And you kind of normally, sometimes, get a pick of which one you want to go to. He said we're sending Clete to Waco and I said OK. Of course I had never been to Lubbock, could care less about ever going to Lubbock... had no desire to ever going to Lubbock...

NANCY RAY: It's definitely not east Texas.

JIMMY HAILEY: Not east Texas and so I'm going to Lubbock.

NANCY RAY: *(short pause to change discs)* We're back and you have promoted to lieutenant and you're in Lubbock. Now tell us about life in Lubbock.

JIMMY HAILEY: I don't know... I went out there the first time just to look around, try to find a place to stay and... Of course I had to get out of Matt to find out how to get out there and I'm driving and I'm driving and I get to Sweetwater and I turn north on 84 and I think... I've been driving five or six hours and I've got to be getting pretty close. Right out of Sweetwater you turn north on 84 and there's a sign that says Lubbock, 120 miles, and I thought I'm never gonna get there. Of course they talk about how dry and stuff it is in Lubbock. I go into Lubbock... I get there after dark. And it's raining and it's foggy and I have no clue where I'm at or what I'm

doing. And I think what am I doing here. So... but I had a great time in Lubbock. If it had not had been for my children being here when I retired, I would have stayed in Lubbock. It's hard to say for an east Texas kid who couldn't wait to get back to east Texas you know... Lubbock was a great place to be.

NANCY RAY: Well who was the captain there?

JIMMY HAILEY: Carl Weathers.

NANCY RAY: Tell us about working for Carl Weathers.

JIMMY HAILEY: He's a treat. I... when I... I went in there on... I promoted on November the 1st but it was December the 1st before I got to Lubbock. And uh I went in the office... I guess the first day I was there. And I'm sitting in there talking to Carl and the phone rings and it's Chief Casteel. He gets me on the phone and he says Robert Madeira's just retired in Houston. If you want to go back to Houston as a lieutenant you can go. I thought you know... if you had told me... I'd just had my furniture delivered on Saturday and here it is on Monday and I'm in the office. I said if you'll give me a few minutes, I'll let you know. So I got off the phone and I was sitting there talking to Carl. And I said... some of Carl's sergeants had tried to promote to lieutenant when I did. And I said I'm a believer that a captain ought to have who he wants for a lieutenant. I'd never worked around Carl and he'd never worked around me. We knew each other and that was about it. I said if you want one of your people to promote off the next list to be a lieutenant, I'll go back to Houston. I said if... because I think that's the way it ought to be because a captain has to depend on his lieutenants to take care of his business for him. So he needs the person he wants there. He said no, I want you to stay here. And so I got back on the phone with Bruce and said I'm staying... and probably one of the best decisions I ever made in

my life. Lubbock... there is 60 counties in Company C from the Panhandle, New Mexico border, Oklahoma border, all the way over to uh... almost to Dallas. But most of those counties are smaller, sparsely populated. You've got some counties that might have a sheriff and that's it... a sheriff and a couple of deputies... small counties. That's where we needed to be. They don't have the experience or the money or the time to be able to do the crime investigation the way it ought to be done and that's where the Rangers should be. And that's what we were there for.

NANCY RAY: Well, when we interviewed Captain Weathers, he talked about using hypnosis. Did you ever use it?

JIMMY HAILEY: I didn't do hypnosis. I had a chance to go do hypnosis, to go to the hypnosis school, but I never did do that. Uh Carl liked doing that. It just wasn't my bag so to speak... not something I wanted to do.

NANCY RAY: You said you had 13 counties that you were responsible for?

JIMMY HAILEY: Sixty counties.

NANCY RAY: You had all of them?

JIMMY HAILEY: The captain and lieutenant in say Company C are in Lubbock. And then you've got 13 Ranger sergeants that are spread out over those 60 counties so you're responsible for all 13 sergeants in those counties.

NANCY RAY: Well how did you keep up with everything? What all did you try to keep up with?

JIMMY HAILEY: Well... we knew what they were working on. We didn't try to keep up uh with their hours or exactly where they were at. That's where we go back to what we were talking about when we promoted people... what I was looking for when we promoted people to

Ranger... was the self-motivated people who were gonna take care of their business. That's the kind of people we had out there. And so we didn't have to keep a minute-by-minute contact with these people you know. We knew that if there was anything going on in their area, they were taking care of it. Now they always kept us informed of what they were working on and things like that so that's how we did it.

NANCY RAY: But as a lieutenant, did you ever get involved in cases?

JIMMY HAILEY: Never did do the actual investigations. Now one I can really think of right now we got involved in. Dick Johnson was a Ranger in Wichita Falls. They had a uh, quite a few suspicious deaths in the hospital in Nocona. And so they were getting involved and trying to find out what was wrong so they were talking about disinterring ten or eleven bodies... been anywhere from two to six years to recently. So Carl and I spent three or four days up there working with them on that. They had the FBI and everybody else disinterring those bodies out of the cemetery you know. And so we went and helped and did... whatever Dick needed us to do... whatever he needed if we could expedite getting it to him and helping him do whatever it was whether it was going to one of the cemeteries... supervise the disinterment of the bodies. We didn't go up there and try to take over his case. That's not what a captain and lieutenant were for... to go take over anybody's case. Our job when we went there was to help him expedite their investigation, do whatever they needed us to do, get whatever they needed to get the job done. That's what we considered out jobs as supervisors were.

NANCY RAY: I've heard some of the Rangers say uh... when they promoted lieutenant or captain, then they wished they were back as field Rangers. Did you ever wish that?

JIMMY HAILEY: I wished that a bunch (*laughter*). I thought that when I made Highway Patrol sergeant and went to Baytown. There were lots of days in that year I was in Baytown... I said why in the world aren't I still in Linden, Texas, riding up and down the highway taking care of myself... and maybe one partner. There's always that because you just... you're not as close to what's going on you know. And the nature of our business, police officers in general want to be where the action is. They want to be with what's going on. And when you become a supervisor, you've removed yourself one layer from that and it's uh... it's an adjustment. But it's also, just like the Highway Patrol is a young man's game. It's uh time for the young people to be on the street and the older ones to get off the street. The one thing I always told my troops when I was a sergeant, when they came to work for me as a rookie I said you know... you've got the job. You've got this uniform on and you need to be proud of that uniform. You've done a fine job, great career, what you've got to remember is this is your job. Somebody else has got this job over here. You're not any better than they are. This is just a job you've got. Be proud of what you've got. Be proud of who you are but don't ever think you're better than this guy who has another job. And so that's what I tried to instill in my people and do all that. And I think as a supervisor, I think I could do that. So that's what I did different as a supervisor and what I did as a trooper on the street or a Ranger sergeant on the street... to instill those different traits in those people. Or I think they had those traits already... just kind of reinforce them and remind them of them every now and then.

NANCY RAY: Well you mentioned something that uh made me want to ask this question. What about when you put on the badge, the Ranger badge... it carries a lot of weight.

JIMMY HAILEY: Yes... responsibility.

NANCY RAY: Yeah. How did you feel that day?

JIMMY HAILEY: I was thinking am I capable of handling this? That's your first thought. OK, I tested for this... I've got this now... I hope I don't screw it up. Because it's... you know we have a great heritage in the Rangers. The people coming in the Rangers... when I came into the Rangers, there was a great heritage of the Rangers, great history. And it's a responsibility. Carl and I both believed that it's our responsibility to make sure we leave it as good as we found it. Hopefully make it a little bit better... at the very least leave it as good as we found it. And I think that's a responsibility. When you have something like that, it doesn't take but one person to tear down a tradition. So you want to make sure you're not that person that does that. And so that's a pretty heavy burden. Not only to go forward and do the job that you have to do, which is a burden, but to make sure you at least that you don't mess it up. So that's hard to do.

NANCY RAY: What about the uh... what was your most well-known case that you worked on or maybe you were supervising? Did y'all get involved with the Branch Davidians?

JIMMY HAILEY: Uh we didn't do anything with the Branch Davidian. I didn't do anything. I was in Houston when the Branch Davidian happened and of course I'd only been on six or eight months in the Rangers. And I was working the murder case in Cleveland and so they sent Stan and David Maxwell to Branch Davidian so that left me the only Ranger in Houston. So that was my job.

NANCY RAY: You stayed home and tended to business.

JIMMY HAILEY: I was the low man on the totem pole so to speak so yes, I got to stay in Houston and do whatever needed to be done around Houston. Whoever called and needed something in Houston, that's what I did.

NANCY RAY: That's another thing. If a Ranger called you and needed help, my understanding is that Ranger got top priority.

JIMMY HAILEY: Has priority, yes.

NANCY RAY: So were there some instances when you had to help someone you can tell us about?

JIMMY HAILEY: Most... most of what the Rangers in other places needed, they needed you to go track somebody down for them or find out where they're at you know. Or find out who their associates were or different things like that. And so that's what you did. And if they came to town and needed to go try to find somebody, you went with them because you knew the area. As far as actually doing investigation for another Ranger, that didn't happen. The Ranger would come do his own investigation or take care of that business. If it was important enough for a Ranger to call you to ask you to do something for him, then it was important enough for you to make it your priority to go take care of it as soon as physically possible.

NANCY RAY: OK. You've mentioned the FBI a couple of times. Did you have... what kind of experience did you have with them?

JIMMY HAILEY: I had... of course Joe Karmick was the FBI agent who worked over here on the A&M investigation, great guy. He was a Yankee from Chicago. I guess you call him a Yankee. And he eventually went back to Chicago... super guy. Just regular people you know. And I worked with some in Huntsville. They had moved. The FBI office originally, their main headquarters was originally in Houston but they put out some little branches, some little substation deals, and they put one down in the Woodlands. And there were some... a couple, two or three FBI agents down there. Just great people you know. Never... worked together well and

never had a problem. It was a group effort. You know their ideas and ours were to put the bad guy in jail and that's what we want to do. And whoever does it, there's no I'm bigger than you are or whatever else or anything else. It was just a team effort.

NANCY RAY: That's good. Uh... what about changes in the Ranger Service? What kind of changes did you see from when you went in to when you retired or even to today?

JIMMY HAILEY: Yeah... there's not a whole lot... well the technology has gotten a whole lot better. When I went in, it was pre-computers. And now not only do we have computers, they, the Rangers now can do a report at their office in the field and two seconds later... I've got it on my computer in my office. I can read it, correct it, and make whatever changes need to be made, and then two seconds later it's back in their's approved already. But you know there is the big difference. Used to, when I first went in the Rangers, I'd handwrite a report. A secretary would get it and she'd type it up. And she'd give it to the lieutenant and make whatever changes... you know corrections that needed to be changed. Anyway it may be two weeks before you get it back. And so technology jumped tremendously. DNA has really come along. It was just getting started real good in '92 when I went in... world of difference in what DNA has done to law enforcement. It's gotten some people out of jail you know that were there that shouldn't have been. And it's put a lot of people there who wouldn't have been there otherwise. Especially with uh this CODIS... I don't know if you know about CODIS. It's the combined DNA systems where everybody's DNA is put in a computer. You know that's done. And they've started getting DNA from all the convicts. So there are crimes being solved that are fifteen or twenty years old that nobody had a clue who these people were... and never would have without DNA. So that's the technology and what's come forward. The other thing... the thing that I see... I was

just a country boy. I think law enforcement has a lot to do with common sense and how to be with people and how to deal with people... where they came from and how you deal with those people. That's what I think I came with. Raised in a working class family, poor... got off the farm... Daddy, when he was 17 he went to the military to get out of subsistence basically in Oklahoma. And so these kids now coming out... super, super smart people. A lot smarter than I ever was. I'd hate to have to compete with them to try to be in the Rangers or even be a lieutenant in this day and time because they're super smart people. Education has come a long way in the Rangers you know. But that's not all of it either. You know you take some of them old time Rangers. They had lots of common sense, lots of history... lots of work ethic. I wonder sometimes with the way they did jobs back then and what they had to work with, if they had the technology today... what could they have accomplished, what could they have done? Although you see what they accomplished anyway. But uh that's where I see the big changes coming, in technology and the intelligence of the people taking our place.

NANCY RAY: What do you think the future Rangers will face... some of the biggest challenges?

JIMMY HAILEY: I don't know.

NANCY RAY: Scary, isn't it.

JIMMY HAILEY: Yes, you know we're uh... you know I think they're now starting to filter down on the border. I think the border problems... I think that's gonna be a major... could be a major problem. I think it's probably too big for the state to handle... Just too big an area for the limited resources and the manpower that the state's got. I think the Feds are gonna have to do something with it. Uh and I think they're facing... you're looking at people in this day and time,

the drug dealers and whatever else there are, very little use for human life basically. And I think they're gonna face a more violent era than what we did you know. I can see the difference in when I started in 1971... rare for police officers to be killed and be attacked and be shot at. It's common this day and time. The respect for law enforcement and the respect for people in general has gone down and I think it's gonna continue to get worse with some of these people.

NANCY RAY: That's not a good thing.

JIMMY HAILEY: Not a good time to be on the Highway Patrol... in uniform you know stopping cars. I... I've always said they have the hardest job. They make the least money of any law enforcement as you go up through the ranks to sergeant, Ranger, wherever you go. The trooper on the street makes the least money and has the most danger... the hardest job to do. And I don't think that will ever change. The first line is those troops on the streets in the black and whites and the city cars and they've got the most dangerous jobs you know.

NANCY RAY: Well let me change the direction of this a little bit. The Ranger's job is not 8 to 5. How did you handle... I mean you had to be gone quite a bit, is that correct?

JIMMY HAILEY: Yes.

NANCY RAY: How did you handle that when... you'd leave in the morning and you might not be back for how long?

JIMMY HAILEY: You know... I guess the good side of mine was that I was divorced by that time. My children were up older. In fact when I made Ranger, my kids were pretty close to teenagers. And when I made lieutenant and went to Lubbock, which they were living here in Conroe, my youngest was turning 18 so she came to Lubbock and lived with me and went to Tech for a couple of years. And so they were able to take care of themselves. But I never had a

problem working. You know I worked all my life. Before I went to DPS I was working twelve hours a day, six days a week, at a Shell station... oil company... working, delivering gas and working on cars and whatever else. So work... and when I hired on the DPS, there was no such thing as comp time and overtime. They said here's your job you know and that's... if the job takes 24 hours it takes 24 hours. If it takes 8, it takes 8 you know. So I never had a problem going. That's what I was hired to do.

NANCY RAY: That's what they usually say. Well are there any other cases you'd like to tell us about? Or anything else you would like for us to capture about your career?

JIMMY HAILEY: No, no... other than I was lucky. I had some great people to work with and great people that I worked for and worked for me. Uh I led a, I guess, a charmed life in the DPS. There was a time or two when I took a test and didn't promote, I thought you know... they shafted me so to speak... I should have made that one. And then I look back over my career and each step I made got me to where I am today. If it hadn't happened exactly like it happened, I wouldn't be sitting here talking to you today. And so I have no complaints. I was a very lucky person you know to uh... to go through the career I went through. I wouldn't change any of it.

NANCY RAY: That's great. I show you retired March 31st, 2003.

JIMMY HAILEY: Yes.

NANCY RAY: What did you do after that?

JIMMY HAILEY: Well for about a year and a half I didn't do anything. I moved here and stayed retired and thought I was gonna be retired the rest of my life. I had always said I wanted to retire while I was still young enough that if I wanted to get in the car and drive to Maine, I could physically get in the car and drive to Maine. And so I retired when I was 52. And the

reason I retired then is because they paid me more to stay at home than they did to work and that is the way the retirement system worked. After about a year and a half, Bill Turner who I had worked with when I was working on the A&M investigation, he was still District Attorney here in Brazos County. And we went to lunch one day and he says, are you ready to go to work? And I said I don't think so. *(laughter)* I'm doing pretty good. And he said OK. About a month later I guess I had called him to get a sign. He was running for re-election and I was gonna put his sign in my yard. He said are you ready to go to work? He said I need some help... I've let one of my investigators go and I just need some temporary help through the election before I hire somebody permanently. I thought... OK, there are a few things I need to do around the house I can use a little extra money for and I'll help Bill because he's a super, super good guy. And so went through election. He got re-elected and I worked for him through December and I went in and sat down and said OK... and he said I want you to stay. So I made a little work deal with him. I would work four days a week and what I wanted to do was work Monday through Thursday this week and then Tuesday through Friday the next week. That way every other weekend I'd have Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday... I'd have four days off and I could still go do most of what I wanted to do in a four-day weekend and make some money at it too. And so that's what I did. And for three years I worked for Bill Turner as an investigator with the DA's office. And I finally came down after 36, 37 years of being around law enforcement it was just time for me to go home.

NANCY RAY: What kind of cases were you investigating... just whatever went through?

JIMMY HAILEY: Yeah... I did quite... well a lot of it is finding witnesses... victims... to make sure you go interview those people for the DA... assistant DA. He's got eleven or twelve

assistant DAs so there were four or five of them I worked for. And so when they needed somebody interviewed or needed to find somebody then that's what you'd do. Serve subpoenas... several times I was out until 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning... over at the Tropicana Club finding witnesses and whatever it took. Same way in DPS you know... he hired me for four days a week but he got more than his four days a week out of me because you did it until the job was done. And so that's why I'd be out at 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning finding and tracking people down. When you find out... somebody calls you on the phone, says so-and-so is here... that's when you go get them. The capital cases that he was working that they had going to trial, they needed people interviewed and some other evidence collected and that's what we would do as an investigator.

NANCY RAY: Did you ever run into uh Henry Lee Lucas during any of your career or any serial... anybody like that?

JIMMY HAILEY: No.

NANCY RAY: Thank goodness.

JIMMY HAILEY: I think he was in... what the '80s sometime I think... late '80s. I think by the time I came in '92 or so he was pretty much history.

NANCY RAY: Well, is there uh... if somebody listens to this audio or reads your transcript and they say Jimmy Hailey, he was... What would you want somebody to remember you for? Jimmy Hailey, Texas Ranger, he...

JIMMY HAILEY: He was here (*laughter*). Had a great time, had a great career, worked with great people... wouldn't change a thing.

NANCY RAY: That's great.

JIMMY HAILEY: I'd recommend it to anybody.

NANCY RAY: If you can say that, there's not much else you can say.

JIMMY HAILEY: No... I wouldn't change any of it.

NANCY RAY: OK. Well is there anything else you want to share with us?

JIMMY HAILEY: I think that's it.

NANCY RAY: We can't capture everything but you're gonna think of something as soon as we leave.

JIMMY HAILEY: *(laughter)* Well I usually do... kind of like interview boards... 30 minutes down the road... boy I should have told them that one.

NANCY RAY: Well I want to thank you for your time today for this interview and thank you for your service to the state of Texas.

JIMMY HAILEY: You're welcome.