

ELMER RUSSELL HAYES, MD: a conversation with the editor

Dr. E. R. Hayes (*Figure 1*) was born in Berea, Kentucky, on August 16, 1910. He attended grammar school at Berea Public Schools and then attended Berea College Academy for high school, finishing at age 16 in 1926. After his first year of college at Berea College, he transferred to Purdue University, receiving a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering in 1931. From graduation until 1934, he worked in Texas for Procter and Gamble Company and then in 1934 entered Baylor University College of Medicine, finishing at the top of his class in 1938. His internship in medicine was at Good Samaritan Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky. After 1 year he returned to Greenville, Texas, and was in general practice for 1 year before joining the US Army in 1940. He served in station and general hospitals in the USA and Europe until 1946, when he joined the Department of Medicine at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, first as a research fellow and then as an instructor in internal medicine. He returned to Dallas in 1950 and practiced internal medicine until his retirement from private practice in 1987. From the beginning in Dallas, he was clinical professor of medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He was an active member of the medical staff at Baylor University Medical Center (BUMC) for nearly 40 years. Dr. Hayes has been a loved internist in Dallas for decades, and he has been a credit to BUMC. He is truly a lovely human being.

William Clifford Roberts, MD (hereafter, WCR): *Dr. Hayes, I'm grateful to you for allowing me and the readers of BUMC Proceedings to get to know you better. It's January 19, 2005, and we are in your home. Dr. Hayes, to begin, could you talk about your early life, your parents, your siblings, what it was like growing up in Berea, Kentucky, and some of your early experiences?*

Elmer Russell Hayes, MD (hereafter, ERH): My parents were William Oscar Hayes and Roena Delilah Gott. I spent my childhood in Berea, primarily a college town. It was founded before the Civil War by an abolitionist, John G. Fee. There were numerous freed slaves in Kentucky at that time. Fee believed that they needed an education, and so he started a school that ultimately became Berea College. He had to leave Berea and close the school during the Civil War, but when the war was over he returned and reopened his school. The school remained integrated until the Jim Crow laws, passed in 1902 or 1903, made it illegal for blacks and whites to be educated in the same facility. He then established a school (Lincoln Institute) near Louisville to take care of the blacks. The goal of the Berea school then focused on the students from Appalachia, where there was very



Figure 1. Dr. E. R. Hayes during the interview. Photo: WCR.

little schooling and little money. The Berea school allowed students with no education to start in the first grade and go all the way through college, and tuition was free to all students. For their room and board, students were given a job and were required to work 10 hours a week.

I owe whatever I have accomplished academically to the Academy of Berea College, which was the high school. I went into the academy when I was 12 years old. (The average age there was 22½ years; many students had not started

their education until they were 15 years old.) We were all treated like adults. I went to class, did my own studying, did my required labor (2 hours a day), and got paid for it. The atmosphere of adult learning early in my life had a great deal to do with my academic attainments, which I can say unabashedly have not been little. I have made honor society in every school I've been in, and I give Berea Academy the credit. At Berea Academy, all of my teachers in history, English literature, physics, and chemistry had PhD degrees. I was exposed to expert teaching. I went through 1 year of college at Berea and then entered Purdue University in the school of chemical engineering.

WCR: *Both the academy and the college were free to all students?*

ERH: Yes. There has never been tuition at Berea College. Many tales have been told about how the money was obtained, and I'll recount one of them. Dr. Frost was the president of Berea College in my early life. He had formerly been a professor at Oberlin College in Ohio. The trustees at Berea were largely people from New England and New York. He went to a trustees' meeting in New York one year, and while he was there contacted Charles Hall, the man who formed the Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA). Hall had been a student of Dr. Frost when he was teaching at Oberlin. He and Hall had dinner together, and Hall talked about ALCOA and Frost talked about Berea College. The next morning Frost got on his train and went home (a 36-hour trip). The following day he received a telegram that Charles Hall had died in his sleep that night. But in the interim between the dinner and the time it took Frost to get to Berea, Hall had put a codicil in his will that awarded Berea College over \$5 million

of stock in ALCOA. That was the basis of Berea's ability to give tuition-free education. In fact, if you wanted to go to Berea and your parents made over a certain amount of money, they wouldn't take you. They would say, "You can get your education elsewhere. We want the students who can't get an education unless we help them." That is the story that I grew up with. That was the environment in which I was raised.

WCR: *What year were Frost and Hall talking?*

ERH: About 1914 or 1915. It was before World War I.

WCR: *What year did you start school?*

ERH: I started school in 1916. I got through the first 8 grades in 6 years. That's how I entered the academy (high school) at the tender age of 12.

WCR: *You finished high school at 16?*

ERH: Yes. Then I took 1 year of liberal arts work at Berea College. I wanted to aim more towards science and particularly chemistry, which is why I transferred to Purdue University to study chemical engineering.

WCR: *How far south of Lexington is Berea?*

ERH: Forty miles.

WCR: *It's on US Highway 75, which goes all the way from the northern tip of Michigan to the southern tip of Florida.*

ERH: That's right. Highway 75 goes right through Berea.

WCR: *How big was Berea when you were growing up?*

ERH: About 1500 people.

WCR: *How big was the school?*

ERH: About 1500.

WCR: *Did the 1500 include all the students from first grade through college?*

ERH: They had the foundation school, which was the first through eighth grades, then the academy, which was ninth through twelfth, and then the college. In addition, they had a vocational school that taught students to do certain industrial tasks and also another school that trained teachers. That was Berea College.

WCR: *In your first year at Berea College, how many classmates did you have?*

ERH: About 100.

WCR: *So the college included about 400 students?*

ERH: Yes. The college was primarily liberal arts. The other schools were secondary schools for students over age 15 who had not completed an eighth-grade education. My last year of grade school was taught by the students in the teacher-training school. My classmates and I were their guinea pigs. The college and the secondary schools at Berea competed with each other, for instance, in athletics. There was a foundation baseball team, an academy baseball team, a normal school baseball team, a vocational school baseball team. I talk a lot about Berea because it had more to do with forming me than anything else.

WCR: *Where did John G. Fee get his money?*

ERH: Money was donated by people who had an interest in what he was doing. He was a preacher in a Christian church. He founded Glades Christian Church in Berea, and it is still in operation.

WCR: *He himself wasn't a wealthy man?*

ERH: Correct. He was a dedicated man. It was a fairly small enterprise when John G. Fee died.

WCR: *When did he die?*

ERH: Sometime before I was born.

WCR: *What did your parents do?*

ERH: My father was a merchant. He had been in men's clothing and ultimately was taken in as a partner in a drug store, primarily to manage it. He was not a pharmacist. My father died at age 45 from a ruptured appendix.

WCR: *What year was your father born?*

ERH: He was born in 1881 and died in 1928, just as I was ready to enter my sophomore year at Purdue University. My parents' goal was for their 3 children, all boys, to get a college education. Daddy didn't live to see any of us get through college.

WCR: *When was your mother born?*

ERH: In 1879, and she died in 1960.

WCR: *Were you and your father close?*

ERH: Yes, very close. He and I were fishing buddies. He worked hard and didn't have much time off, but he was very close to his family—not only to me, but to my older brother also. The last whipping my daddy ever gave me was because I had a fight with my older brother.

WCR: *You have a younger brother too?*

ERH: Yes. Both of my brothers have died. My younger brother was born in 1921 and my older brother in 1908.

WCR: *Who are you named for?*

ERH: "Elmer" came from my uncle, the husband of my father's sister. Sarah Bell German, a black nurse, was the first black graduate nurse in the state of Kentucky. She took care of my mother when I was born. Shortly after my birth, she brought me in to Mother, and Mother said she wanted to name me Elmer. Sarah Bell looked up at my mother and said, "He ain't no Elmer. He's a Russell." So, my mother named me Russell. I was named by the nurse. James William was my older brother's name, and he was named for my two grandfathers, James Gott and William Hayes. My younger brother was named after my father. They wanted to make him a junior, but they couldn't because his name was William Oscar and my older brother had already used up the name William. They named him Oscar Junior. He went as Oscar J. Hayes.

WCR: *What did your older brother, James William, do?*

ERH: He was an electrical engineer. He was 1 year ahead of me at Purdue. He graduated in electrical engineering; I graduated in chemical engineering.

WCR: *What did Oscar Junior do?*

ERH: He became a physician. He went to the University of Kentucky, got a degree there, and then went to medical school at the University of Louisville. He became an obstetrician.

WCR: *James William stayed an electrical engineer?*

ERH: Yes. He got a job with the Tennessee Valley Authority and worked with them until he retired. He died 6 years ago.

WCR: *There was a 2-year age difference between you and James, but you skipped 2 grades, so that's how you got just 1 year behind him academically.*

ERH: Yes, that's how I caught him!

WCR: *What was your home like when you were growing up in Berea?*

ERH: We had a very nice home. It was built when I was 3 years old. My grandfather Hayes built it and owned it. He and Daddy made some sort of trade that if Daddy would help him, he would build a house and ultimately give it to us if we let him live in it as long as he lived. He lived in our home and was part

of our family until he died. He had been in the Civil War. Both of my grandfathers were in the Civil War: my mother's father in the Confederate Army (he was from Virginia), and my daddy's father (the one who was living with us) in the Union Army. Incidentally, he had 4 brothers in the Union Army, and he was the only one who came out alive.

WCR: *What about your mother's father?*

ERH: He was captured and kept in a prison in New York until the war was over.

WCR: *So you grew up with Civil War stories coming from both sides of your family. Was your father interested in the Civil War too?*

ERH: Not really. My father and mother didn't have much education. Mother could read, write, and do arithmetic, probably equivalent to an eighth-grade education. Daddy's education was about the same except he had gone to Cincinnati and taken a year at a business school. That's how he got the job at the drug store, Porter-Moore, as a manager.

WCR: *When you were in the academy and in college at Berea, you worked 2 hours a day. What kind of work did you do?*

ERH: I started in the woodwork department in the first year of the academy. Primarily, I swept up sawdust. Then, the dean of labor's wife, who was my algebra teacher, got me a job as the private secretary of the dean of labor for the remaining 4 years I worked there.

WCR: *They recognized that you were a smart student.*

ERH: Yes.

WCR: *Did you have to work hard to make good grades, or did they come easily?*

ERH: I worked hard, but I worked in an organized manner. At Purdue University, I carried 29 hours each semester. I would sit down at the beginning of every semester with a big sheet of yellow paper and write down what I was going to do every hour of every week, and I lived by it. I never studied after 11:00 at night but I studied every night on a regular basis.

WCR: *You were very organized in how you committed your time?*

ERH: Yes. I emphasize that because I think it's very important.

WCR: *What was home like in Berea when you were in the academy?*

ERH: Daddy worked on the house. We got a lot of help around the house from a lot of black people. We usually had a young black girl living in, and she took care of the house and cooked for my mother. We lived ordinary lives. We went to church and Sunday school every Sunday.

WCR: *What church did you go to?*

ERH: Initially, I went to the Methodist church. Later, I went to a church sponsored by the college called the Union Church, which had no denominational attachment. It was Christian but nonsectarian, just like the college. It was a very strong church. The president of the University of Chicago and later the president of the Ford Foundation was Robert J. Hutchins, the son of the president of Berea College, William J. Hutchins. Robert had a younger brother, Francis, who also became president of Berea College. I drove a car for Mrs. Frost, who was the wife of the president before Hutchins. She enjoyed driving trips to the nearby mountain counties. She had a car and didn't drive, so I spent one summer driving her around the mountains.

WCR: *You must have loved that!*

ERH: I did! A little black boy often came along with us, and he did any car repair work that had to be done. We had a good time.

WCR: *When all 3 boys were at home, was the dinner meal a big deal at your home?*

ERH: Our principal meal was at noon.

WCR: *You came home at lunchtime for a big meal with your father, mother, and grandpa. What did you talk about sitting around the table?*

ERH: The events of the day, what was happening in the town. Daddy might say that he had seen so-and-so that day. It was a pleasant growing-up environment. Every now and then someone would get their feelings hurt about something, but it didn't last long.

WCR: *Was there alcohol in your home when you were growing up?*

ERH: In the closet. Having a drink was not something done in my home. My daddy had an older brother who was an alcoholic, and he was a big problem to the family. My daddy was just the opposite.

WCR: *Did your parents push you hard to make good grades?*

ERH: No, they never mentioned grades. They let me know that they expected me to do my best in school, but they left it up to me.

WCR: *And the same with your brothers?*

ERH: Yes. My younger brother was only 7 years old when my daddy died. So, it was just he and Mother there alone after that.

WCR: *In a way, you and your older brother were like a father to him.*

ERH: My younger brother got interested in medicine through me.

WCR: *Did you ever go on vacations when you were growing up?*

ERH: My dad had a 2-week vacation every year. Often he would just stay home and go fishing locally. Other times, we would go on trips, planning them a year ahead of time. Once we went to Cumberland Gap down US Highway 75 and turned off and went up toward Norton, Virginia. We saw a store on the side of the road with the name Giles. My mother's mother was a Giles. She said, "Let's stop and see who this is." It turned out to be a first cousin of hers. We often went to Boonesboro or a place on the river and camped out for 2 or 3 days and fished.

WCR: *What kind of fish did you catch there?*

ERH: Newlite (crappie) and bass. Subsequently, I fished in Texas and all around the Pacific.

WCR: *How far is Purdue University from Berea?*

ERH: About 300 miles. Purdue is about 60 miles from Indianapolis going toward Chicago.

WCR: *How did you decide on Purdue?*

ERH: I had known some Purdue graduates. Purdue was well known. I sent in an application and was accepted. Daddy didn't want me to go to the University of Kentucky because it had a bad reputation for student conduct.

WCR: *Were there many books in your house growing up? Did your mother and father read much?*

ERH: They read a good deal—mainly newspapers and magazines. We all read the newspapers. We had two a day. Although neither parent was well educated, each knew what was going on in current events.

WCR: *How did you get from Berea to Purdue?*

ERH: Railroad. It took about 5 hours.

WCR: *Did you have many illnesses as you were growing up? Did you have any contact with physicians?*

ERH: I had contact with physicians through the drug store. The drug store and doctors worked closely together then. Our doctor, Alson Baker, lived just 3 doors from us on the same street. He read something all the time. He had a daughter who played with us; we were the “Estill Street gang.”

WCR: *When you went off to Purdue, you weren't thinking of being a physician?*

ERH: Correct. When I graduated from Purdue in 1931, there were no jobs for engineers. I stood 28 in my class of 1200 engineers, but I couldn't get a job in engineering. I got a job with Procter and Gamble in the sales department and was sent to Texas. When working in Greenville, at my headquarters, I fell in with a group of 4 young doctors. One of them brought me to Dallas to see about getting me into medical school. I took a copy of my transcript to Dr. Walter Moursund, the dean of Baylor University College of Medicine at the time. He looked at my transcript and saw 159 hours of college credit and said, “You can come here anytime you want to; just knock on the door.” That's how I got into medical school. That was 1934. I graduated in 1938. My problem was money.

WCR: *Who paid your tuition and living expenses at Purdue?*

ERH: I was in a fraternity and I was the house manager, so that took care of one half of my house bills. The other half amounted to about \$25 a month. Purdue had a policy that distinguished students paid no fees or tuition. In the first semester, I made the distinguished student list, and they refunded my first-semester money. Then, I was treasurer of the fraternity, and that paid all of my house bills.

WCR: *How did you pay for medical school?*

ERH: Much the same way. I was already married by then. I married in 1933 (Figure 2). I had enough money to get through 1 year of medical school. We were gambling on my ability to support us thereafter, and I did. I was put on the faculty as an instructor in physiological chemistry when I was still a freshman. That paid me \$50 a month. Mary had a job playing pipe organ in church, and that paid her \$25 a month.

WCR: *Where did you meet Mary?*

ERH: While I was working in Greenville for Procter and Gamble. I met a friend, Hal Ellis, who was night clerk at the hotel. He got me a date with Mary one Sunday afternoon. She often said that she was attracted to me because I was the only one of the young men she knew who had a job.

WCR: *What was Mary's full name before you married?*

ERH: Mary Frances Whiteside.

WCR: *What did her parents do?*

ERH: Her father was a Methodist minister. Her mother was a housewife.

WCR: *Did she have siblings?*

ERH: She had a sister and a brother.

WCR: *Did they always live in Texas?*



Figure 2. With wife Mary in 2001. Photo: Olan Mills.

ERH: As a married couple, Mr. and Mrs. Whiteside started out in Missouri. I don't know how they made it to Texas.

WCR: *They were always a religious family?*

ERH: Yes. Mary was born in Bonham, Texas, where Sam Rayburn was born.

WCR: *How long had you known one another before you got married?*

ERH: About 6 months.

WCR: *You married in the midst of the Depression.*

ERH: Yes. That's why I was working for Procter and Gamble instead of some chemical company.

WCR: *How were you fortunate enough to get a job with Procter and Gamble?*

ERH: My father's first cousin, Thomas Jefferson Wood, was the sales manager for Procter and Gamble. He gave me a job.

WCR: *How long were you with the company?*

ERH: Almost 4 years.

WCR: *How did you like sales?*

ERH: I didn't like it. They gave me all of South Texas as a selling territory. My job was to encourage dealers to advertise Crisco and to display it prominently. That's all I did. After about 8 months they sent me to Austin. That was the easiest section in the entire district. I worked with Theo Davis' salesman. They sold the soap. I sold it to their boss. One evening about 5:00 PM when turning my orders in to Theo Davis, his clerk said, “Mr. Davis wants to see you. Go on in.” Mr. Davis said, “Hayes, I need some soap.” I said, “That's fine. I think we can get it.” He bought 5 carloads of soap that night and insisted that I telephone the order into Dallas. Then he said, “By the way, Henneberger wants you to meet him at the hotel tomorrow morning at 6:30.” (Hen-

neberger was my supervisor.) I went in and Henneberger said, "I had been trying all afternoon to sell some soap to Theo Davis, but I couldn't get the order." I said, "I sold him 5 carloads last night." Mr. Davis despised Henneberger. That's why he bought from me. Theo Davis insisted I call it in.

WCR: *How did medical school hit you?*

ERH: I was one of the leaders in my class the entire time.

WCR: *How many were in your class?*

ERH: 65.

WCR: *You entered Baylor University College of Medicine in 1934. What did you like most about it?*

ERH: I just love people, and I like to treat them when they are sick. I like to talk to them about their problems. That has always appealed to me.

WCR: *Did you enjoy the first 2 years?*

ERH: I didn't have any trouble.

WCR: *Did you study hard in medical school?*

ERH: I worked every night from 7:00 to 11:00 on a schedule like I had at Purdue.

WCR: *Where did you live when you went to medical school?*

ERH: The first year my wife and I lived in a duplex at the corner of Haskell and Junius. The last 3 years we lived in an apartment on Worth Street.

WCR: *Were you in a fraternity in medical school?*

ERH: I pledged one but never had enough money to make it to initiation. I was known as a Phi Chi but I didn't officially belong.

WCR: *When you entered medical school, you were 24 years old. Was that a little older than most of your classmates?*

ERH: Yes. Only one classmate was older than I.

WCR: *Were there teachers in grammar school, academy, college, or medical school who had a major impact on you?*

ERH: Yes. Albert G. Weidier had a PhD in economics from Harvard and ran the labor department at Berea College that employed all of the students for 2 hours a day, 10 hours a week. At medical school, Dr. Walter F. Taylor, a chemistry professor who employed me as an instructor, had a great influence on me. When I took chemistry as a freshman, he asked me if I wanted a job. He said, "I can give you a job as an instructor that will pay \$50 a month if you want it." I said, "When do I start?" He died about 1 year after I finished medical school.

WCR: *Did any clinicians at Baylor University College of Medicine have an impact on you?*

ERH: Yes. Dr. Grady Reddick probably had the greatest impact on me. He was trained at Northwestern in Chicago. I think anyone who goes to school will come out with certain people who they remember as being outstanding. George Caldwell, a pathologist, was another. His wife was also a pathologist. He was one of the greatest lecturers I have ever heard.

WCR: *What was the tuition at Baylor when you went there in 1934?*

ERH: About \$750 a year.

WCR: *How much were your living expenses?*

ERH: About \$75 a month. We got along well except at tuition time. The last time I didn't have enough money for tuition, so I did 2 weeks of tutoring.

WCR: *How did you get turned on to internal medicine in medical school?*

ERH: Dr. Reddick and Dr. Henry Winans, who was the chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine, both played a role. Dr. Winans was an unusual person. He had a chauffeur who drove him around in a Packard automobile. He would sit in the back seat and read. One morning, he came in to give a lecture. He always wore heavy-heeled shoes, so you could hear him coming down the hall. He walked up to the board and said, "There are 2 kinds of doctors: 1) those who are learning, and 2) those who are forgetting. Now, have a good morning. I've got a sick patient I've got to go see." That was his lecture, and it was a pretty good one!

When World War II came, I was made chief of medicine at the station hospital at Camp Wolters, where new recruits came to be examined. Dr. Henry Winans, who badly wanted to join the army, sat down in my office and between us we figured out ways we could cut corners and get him in. I passed his physical and got him in the army. When I came back from overseas in 1945, I weighed only 145 pounds, and I'm 6'2". (I don't know why I lost weight, and neither did anyone else.) Because I had lost so much weight, they wouldn't discharge me. They put me on sick leave, and I went up to the University of Minnesota. In April, I came back down to San Antonio and Dr. Henry Winans was still on duty. He headed the board that discharged officers. I went in to see him and said, "Now, Dr. Winans, you remember how you wanted to get into the army and how we worked on getting you in? Well, now we're going to work on getting me out." He said, "How much do you weigh now?" I said, "160." He said, "Grab a couple of those weights over there, put them in your pocket, and get on the scale." So I did, and I got out of the army. I got him in and he got me out!

WCR: *Is there anything else that you want to relate about medical school?*

ERH: It was really a lot of fun. Three of us were in almost a dead heat to be first in my medical class. Charlie Ashworth, who became chairman of the Department of Pathology at the medical school, Ben Merrick, who at that time was Ben Mikulencik, and me. I led the first year, Charlie Ashworth the second, and Ben the third.

WCR: *What do your friends call you?*

ERH: Either "Russell" or "E. R." I don't really care. Everyone around this part of the world knows me as E. R.; Russell is the name my family uses.

WCR: *When you finished medical school, did you feel well prepared?*

ERH: Yes. Things happened to me in World War II that made a lot of difference as well.

WCR: *When in medical school, did any specialties other than medicine have much attraction to you?*

ERH: I never was attracted to anything other than medicine except perhaps pediatrics and radiology. I was offered a fellowship in radiology by Dr. Martin.

WCR: *When you were in the academy and college, were you active in sports?*

ERH: I played football and messed up my left knee in my freshman year at Purdue. I didn't take part in athletics after that.

WCR: *You must have been a good athlete to play college football?*



Figure 3. As a lieutenant colonel in the US Army in 1944.

ERH: I was a fair football player. I was big and fat growing up, and that made me a good player. I played center and guard.

WCR: Did you play in Berea also?

ERH: Yes. The departments of the college played against each other. I grew almost 8 inches in my first year at Purdue.

WCR: I presume the reason you picked Lexington for your internship was because it was close to your home.

ERH: Yes. My mother still lived in Berea. It was a chance to be near her. One other factor also led me to Lexington, Bob Sparkman. He was my closest friend, and he wanted me to apply to the Good Samaritan Hospital in Lexington. He was so impressed with Good Samaritan that he wanted me to go there, and I did. Bob was 3 years ahead of me and had the job of assistant in physiological chemistry until I replaced him. I took over as an instructor, and he had been a student assistant. We went into the army together. He was a consultant for the surgeon general in surgery and I, in internal medicine.

WCR: Were you pleased with your internship in Lexington?

ERH: Yes. It was very practical. Good Samaritan Hospital is now one of the primary teaching hospitals at the University of Kentucky.

WCR: What happened after the internship?

ERH: I came back to Texas and practiced for about 1½ years in Greenville, my wife's hometown.

WCR: Did Mary like Lexington?

ERH: She liked Kentucky very much. I was in the Army Reserve and was called to active duty in 1940. Initially, I was called in for 30 days, and at the end of the 30 days my duty was extended for another 30 days, and that pattern continued for several months until it was extended for 1 year. I was in the army for a total of 6 years (Figure 3)!

WCR: What did you do in the army?

ERH: Initially, I was in the laboratory service in Ft. Sam Houston. I dealt with some very educated, well-trained people. I was then assigned to Camp Wolters in Mineral Wells. When I got there, Lt. Col. Henry Blesse was commander of the hospital. I was at Camp Wolters for 2 years and was chief of medicine for about 8 months. Then, I was executive officer of the hospital from then on.

WCR: Executive officer means what?

ERH: The executive officer does all the work, and the commanding officer signs his name.

WCR: What happened to you after Mineral Wells?

ERH: I went to the European Theater.

WCR: Where did you go there?

ERH: Initially to England, then to Germany, and finally to Belgium. I was on orders awaiting air transportation to the China-Burma-India Theater when the war in the Pacific ended.

WCR: You must have matured a great deal during those 6 years. That was quite an experience for a young person. Where was Mary during the war?

ERH: She stayed in our house in Greenville with our daughter, Carolyn. Carolyn was born 6 days after I started my internship in Lexington.

WCR: How many children do you have?

ERH: Two daughters. Carolyn was born in Kentucky in 1938 and Anne, at the University of Minnesota in 1947, while I was teaching there.

WCR: How did you get to the University of Minnesota?

ERH: I did not see patients during my last 4½ years in the service. I didn't understand the medical language anymore. I had to go somewhere to get medically educated again. I called Dr. Cecil James Watson for a job and told him I was anxious to get started right away. He said, "I have a research fellowship position I can give you today if you want it."

WCR: How did you happen to know Dr. Watson?

ERH: I didn't meet him until I got up there. I just called him on the telephone, introduced myself, and told him who I was and what I wanted to do. He took me up on it. He was a general internist. Watson's work was mainly on porphyria. His earlier work in chemistry (bile acids) had gotten me interested in him.

WCR: You knew him by his publications?

ERH: Yes. Just by reputation.

WCR: What did you love about the medical environment in Minneapolis?

ERH: The atmosphere of learning, studying, and looking forward instead of backward.

WCR: Was that the major academic period for you in internal medicine?

ERH: Yes. Dr. Watson accepted me as an older person. I was only assistant resident for about 2 weeks. Then, I went to the outpatient department and ran the medical clinic and to the student health service as its consulting internist.

WCR: How many publications did you have there?

ERH: Four. We had a spectrophotometry device there, and I arranged to get some work on it. I had gotten "heavy water" and I was going to incorporate heavy hydrogen into an acid, give it to some volunteer doctors and residents, take blood from them, and isolate the cholesterol. The presence of heavy hydrogen in it would demonstrate that we make more cholesterol in our

bodies than we consume. That was my thesis. My big mistake in medicine was saying, "Well, if it's all generic, we might as well throw cholesterol out as a risk factor." I had said this after interviewing and examining some 59 students with cholesterol values of >300 and finding all with a parent who had died of heart disease under age 55.

WCR: *Did you enjoy that investigative work?*

ERH: Very much. I also enjoyed practice.

WCR: *Did you enjoy the students when you were in the clinic?*

ERH: Yes. Walter Lillehei was one of my students. He was an excellent student and so was Owen Wagensteen, a very nice person.

WCR: *Was it hard for you not to stay in the academic arena?*

ERH: Yes. The happiest years of my life were the years I spent at the University of Minnesota. It was inspiring.

WCR: *How did you and Mary decide to come back to Texas?*

ERH: One Christmas I got some time off and we visited Mary's family in Texas. When driving back to Minneapolis in early January, we ran into a blizzard—40° below zero. After arriving in Minneapolis I asked Mary if she would like to go back to Texas. She said yes, and the next day I told Dr. Watson that I wanted to resign at the end of my contract and go back to Texas. The blizzard brought us back!

WCR: *When did you come back to Dallas, and what happened initially?*

ERH: It was in 1950. I had a job for the Veterans Administration as a consultant in the regional office and a half-time job at the medical school. I had no problem building my practice. It was always successful. I initially officed in the Oak Lawn area at the corner of Turtle Creek and Hall streets. I officed there with Drs. Martin Buehler and Maurice (Mike) Scurry. We had our own laboratory in the back.

WCR: *How did you decide to go there?*

ERH: I had known Mike Scurry in the army. Mike was in the University of Michigan unit, the one I got assigned to when coming home. I got to know him there, and we became friends. When I came to Dallas, I learned that he had space in the building, and he asked me if I'd like to have it. I took it.

WCR: *Which hospital did you use?*

ERH: I have always used Baylor Hospital. I also used the Gaston Hospital and became chief of and president of the Gaston staff.

WCR: *How did you get patients initially?*

ERH: There were always people looking for a doctor. I had a lot of doctor friends. Most patients come from referrals from other patients. You get one, and that means you get three or four. I never had a tremendously big practice.

WCR: *You started teaching at the medical school right away?*

ERH: Yes.

WCR: *What did that constitute?*

ERH: I held clinicopathologic conferences and grand rounds and arranged lecture schedules.

WCR: *Donald Seldin came to Dallas and the medical school in 1950 also.*

ERH: Yes. Seldin came on a research fellowship. George Aagard, with whom I had worked in Minnesota, had come as dean of the medical school. George appointed two heads of departments

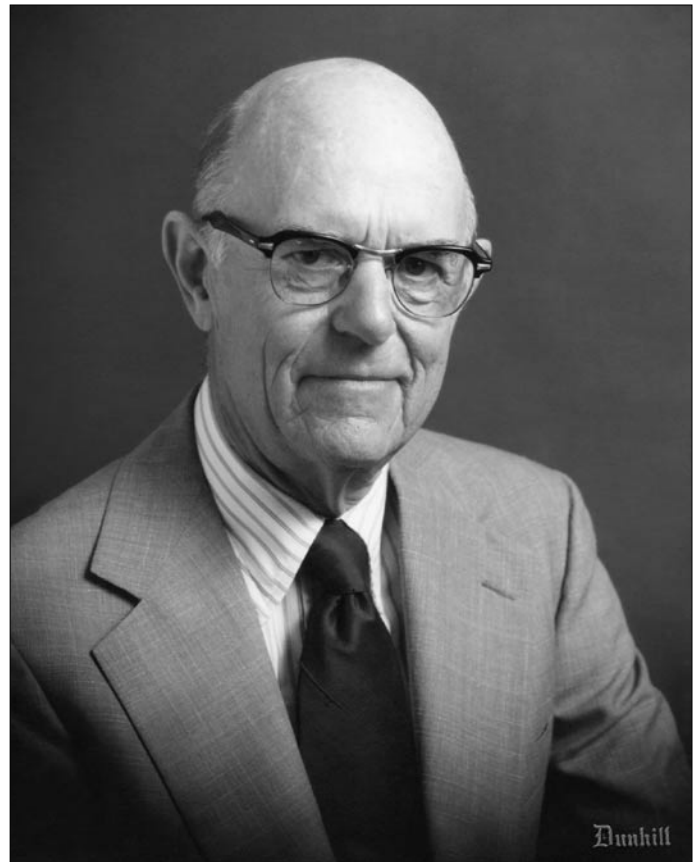


Figure 4. Around the time of his retirement. Photo: Dunhill.

at the same time: surgery and medicine. Both of the chiefs were 29 years old when appointed.

WCR: *How did you balance your work at the medical school and private practice?*

ERH: By working about 14 hours a day.

WCR: *You never got paid for your work at the medical school?*

ERH: Correct.

WCR: *You are 95 year old. What's your secret?*

ERH: I think it's probably genetic.

WCR: *What was your maximum weight when you were in good shape?*

ERH: About 185.

WCR: *How did you and Baylor Hospital evolve through the years?*

ERH: It was and is an exceptionally good hospital for patients needing a lot of care. It had good people on its staff. John Goode was another person who impressed me. He was from The Johns Hopkins Hospital; he was the most meticulous surgeon ever. He and Dan Gill, another surgeon, worked at the Gaston Hospital. He was the cousin of Jim Gill, later dean at the medical school, who was in my medical school class. Gaston Hospital had a superb orthopaedic surgeon who was one of the first to do hip replacements. That procedure didn't fit in with Medicare so it broke the hospital. Charlie Cooper was the administrator of Gaston Hospital, primarily a surgery hospital.

WCR: *You retired from private practice in 1986?*

ERH: Yes (Figure 4), but I continued to work as a consultant for Medicare and the army. In all the time I consulted for Medicare, I never cut a physician's fee without talking to him or

her on the telephone. I never had one of them get mad at me. I was proud of that.

WCR: *You and Boone Powell, Sr., must have been good friends.*

ERH: When I came to Dallas in 1950, Boone Powell, Sr., was a clerk in the cashier's office in the hospital. Boone was always very nice to me and I to him.

WCR: *When you were in practice in the 1960s and 1970s, what was your daily schedule like? What time would you get up in the morning?*

ERH: I would get up at about 6:00 AM, be at the hospital at about 7:15 AM, get through rounds, and be back at my office at about 10:00 AM. Then I had appointments from 10:00 AM to noon and from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. I moved my office from Turtle Creek to one on Welborn Street off of Maple. When they built the Doctor's Building on Gaston and Washington (the one that was recently torn down), I was the first doctor to have an office in it. I officed there until we built 3434 Swiss. I managed that building from then until I retired. I would usually get home at about 6:00 or 6:30 PM.

WCR: *What did you do at night?*

ERH: Most of the time I was ready to go to bed! Mary and I enjoyed the symphony. I was active in the University Park Methodist Church. Occasionally, we would have dinner with friends.

WCR: *What do you like to read?*

ERH: I like novels, and I also do a good bit of medical reading. I always kept up.

WCR: *Medicine was really a hobby as well as a vocation for you?*

ERH: Yes. It's really a part of who I am.

WCR: *Through the years did you go on many vacations?*

ERH: Yes. We made trips back to Minnesota. We had a place on White Fish Lake, Beacon Heights Resort. We would get a cabin for a couple of weeks and just lay around and do nothing. Mary and I have been to Europe several times. We like ships and cruises. I have been on the QE2 about 9 times. I would like to go across the Atlantic on the Queen Mary. I had a farm in Hunt County for many years, and that gave me a lot of work to do. I had a herd of cattle there.

WCR: *What have your 2 daughters done?*

ERH: Our older daughter, Carolyn, lives in Waco, Texas. She married an FBI agent, Tony Ball, but now she is a widow. Anne has taught eighth grade at the Spring Branch Schools in Houston for 32 years. She is married and has 2 children. She has a son who has one characteristic I admire very much: he likes to work. Carolyn has 3 children, twin boys and a daughter. So I have 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. They all live in Texas (Figure 5).

WCR: *Is there anything that you would like to talk about that we have not touched on?*

ERH: It seems like we've been over everything! In the fraternity at Purdue, sophomores roomed together. Before my freshman



Figure 5. With wife Mary and daughters Carolyn (left) and Anne.

year was over, I arranged to room with Tom Maloney, a boy from St. Louis whose father was wealthy. He had come to the USA as an Irish immigrant, worked initially as a fireman, and ultimately developed a transformer that he patented and that made him wealthy. When I got back to class after my father's funeral, I went to my room with Tom. The first night he said, "Hayes, I don't know anything about your finances, but I heard about your father's death. Before I left home, I talked to the governor [his father], and he said for me to tell you not to worry about getting through school. He will put you through if you need it."

WCR: *Did you take him up on that?*

ERH: No. I never had to since I worked my way through.

WCR: *Thank you, Dr. Hayes.*

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