

Interviewer Nathaniel Langner

Interviewee Liz Haynes

Date of Interview

(April 27th 2021)

Location: Little Canada, Mn

Format Zoom

Transcriber Nathaniel Langner with help from Otter.ai

Project in association With: University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Liz Haynes talks about her life changed with Covid. This interview specifically focus on the challenges of being diagnosed with Cancer at the beginning of Covid and how her experience changed at the hospital. The interview also touches on the challenges with travel and the forced cancellation of many trips. From there we talk about the government response and the growth of the vaccine. The vaccine allows the interview to move toward a brighter conversion on the future and the changes that will result. Finally, there is comparison brought up about the 1918 flu and how science has changed since then.

Nathaniel Langner

0:02

This is an interview with Liz Haynes she is located located in little Canada Minnesota, I am interviewing her from Eau Claire, Wisconsin, it is 1:38 of April 21 of 2021. Currently, there are 141 million COVID cases in the world with 3 million deaths. In the United States, there have been 31 point 8 million with 568 deaths and 168,000 deaths. In the state of Wisconsin, there has been 653 1000 cases with 7004 and 27 deaths resulting. Okay, so I'll start you with some simple questions. And we'll just talk about those and kind of learn about your experiences with COVID. And how your life has changed. So can you just start by listing kind of like your ethnicity, your race and your age?

Liz Haynes

0:59

My mother's family was German. And my father's and and and dutch. And my father's family was German and Irish.

1:09

Oh and English.

1:10

Excuse me

Oh White.

NL

1:11

Okay, thank you very much. Right? Do you have a job at the moment? Or what is your day to day life consist of?

LH

1:19

I am retired

NL

1:22

How long have you been retired for?

LH

1:24

As of April 1, it was 11 years.

NL

1:28

So you're working? no jobs at the time of when COVID started?

LH

No, I was not.

NL

And as we stayed you live in little Canada, correct? Yes, sir. Okay, and what's life in like Locanda like, currently? or What was it like pre COVID if you just want to summarize, like, kind of like simple day to day life back before COVID.

LH

1:51

pre COVID. Both Bob and I are retired. So I was able to go to the community center. If I wanted to, we could go shopping, we did a great deal of traveling. And traveling has stopped completely. We're lucky we've been able to do kind of whatever we want for the last decade, pre COVID.

NL

2:12

So I think I'm talking about the travel will be a really important section coming up. But focusing just on like the community center right now. How has that changed? Like, can you go to the community center anymore? Are there shorter class sizes? Or have you just decided to refrain from doing it? 2

Lh

2:27

No,, I have decided to refrain for any of those reasons, I have decided to refrain because I had rotator cuff surgery about eight weeks ago. And before that, I was recovering from a rare form of cancer. So they that that kind of kept me out of the loop for a while.

NL

2:51

Okay, and then building off of that. Yes. So when were you diagnosed with cancer? Was that pre COVID? Or was it during COVID

LH

2:58

It was just before COVID I had surgery to remove, lipoma from my leg, February 7 of 2020. And I was diagnosed with spiral sarcoma. February 13 of 2020. So just before the shutdown
NL

3:20

okay, so pre shutdown, what was your experience like at the hospital and your support system? Were people able to come and support you there? And how did that change after

LH

3:30

they could have come if I needed to but but the surgery was to remove the lipoma was simple. The diagnosis, Bob Decker came with me to the U. And coincidentally, the U has a sarcoma clinic. And because it's fairly rare, it's unique to the U to have this, this clinic. So we were able to go to my appointments together to get the gist of treatments and what they would do, I started radiation treatment. The treatment for this cancer was 25 days of radiation. And I started those those those happened 2020 which coincidentally was two days after my 70th birthday. So you know, good way to celebrate huh. Did I answer that question?

NL

4:27

sorry, when it started to change into COVID, did you feel safe still go into the clinics? Or how did that change? Like, did it add to the stress of trying to kind of deal with your cancer diagnosis?

LH

4:46

It added to the stress because I was worried about completing my radiation treatments. I was worried if I got COVID would I be able to to continue And when I, when I asked my radiation tech, he said that if I were to be diagnosed with COVID, they would have me as the last appointment for the day. And they would gown up and protect themselves, then have me have radiation. So as it turned out, I have never had COVID. And I didn't, I didn't have any complications. But yes, it made me feel pretty insecure.

NL

5:31

Okay, but do you feel like the hospital adapted to the changes relatively well, according to like all the fears that were?

LH

5:44

I don't know if they, they, whenever I expressed a fear they addressed it. Oh, yeah. Don't worry, Liz, we'll figure a way out of it. But I don't know that that helped so much diminishing the stress, but the people at the U. And at that radiation clinic were lovely. I mean, they were extremely helpful and very caring. And so, but but it was a matter of going alone. Bob could have Bob could have taken me there, but he couldn't have come in to be waiting to wait for me through the treatment. So I would have it was basically go it alone. 1

Speaker 1 Mm hmm.

NL

6:25

And can you kind of expand on like that feeling of going alone? If you feel comfortable talking about that? Like, how does that impact someone that's going through this Do you believe like, personally,

LH

6:37

you know, through the radiation treatment, it wasn't, it wasn't so difficult. All radiation did a difference. chemo makes people very sick. Radiation just made me very tired. So by 20, treatment, 20, 21, I was pretty exhausted, and getting there and home, I was really tired. But that wasn't the problem. The problem was six weeks later, I had to have that radiation area removed from my leg. And that was June 1, and I had to do, I had to do the whole hospitalization alone, Bob was able to take me to the hospital and pick me up. But I had to go into the surgery myself, and, and take all the information they gave me after the surgery. And I felt kind of vulnerable. Because when you come out of come out of surgery, you're not real. You're not, you're not with it. You know, you You're still under sedation, and they're trying to tell you things and they're giving you notes, and they gave me all the information I needed. But there were points that if they had made more clearly, Bob would have Bob being there would have watched for things that nothing went badly wrong, but a couple things went wrong. And they made it difficult, because I was not aware. And then I looked at the material and the material said yes, don't do this. Yeah. But it was like, real easy. Like don't drive the don't drive the vehicle. Don't uncover your wound. I mean, it was no more forceful. The things that went wrong. So I felt more vulnerable than maybe I would have if Bob had been there.

NL

8:40

Okay. And then did the hospital like put a support system there? Like, was it just still mainly nurses and doctors? Or was there a new mediators that they created to kind of facilitate that information?

LH

8:51

It was pretty early on? It was June 1, Nate. So I think it was maybe only two and a half months into the process. And and, and I made strong indication when I came back that it was unfair to have people go into this type of surgery, without someone there to be their support, you know, to someone who is their advocate.

NL

9:17

Okay, and then moving out of the hospital into like, time back at home. How did that kind of change your like day to day life? Like, what kind of hobbies did you develop any new hobbies? Or was there any like new things you started to find at home that you weren't really doing pre COVID Yeah,

LH

9:35

the surgery took me solidly to the middle of July before I was kind of back on my feet. I had after the surgery. It was very painful. They took a large section of my skin and the fat underneath it in my leg out and it was a farm. more painful than I expected. So I spent a lot of time just immobilized a lot of time on the couch, a lot of time, I couldn't bathe myself, I really took Bob have to be responsible to take care of me. Then. After the second week, I went back to see the surgeon and found out that only half of my skin graft had taken. And when I asked him what to do about that, he said he would suggest I have second surgery. So I had a second surgery, June 25 22nd, excuse me. But the thing that I find interesting is that went to all of these things alone. And I think typically surgeons Don't, don't think to give you the information. So there were a lot of things that made me anxious, that if they had realized, like, I thought that I'd done something wrong, that the skin graft didn't take. Well, it took till two weeks after the second surgery, before the surgeon's assistant said, Oh, no, no, lots of skin grafts don't take. So I found that whether it's COVID related, or just how surgeons are, I wasn't given information that helped Calm me about that this was part of the process. And I was doing okay. And I just imagined that it was something to do with the cancer again, and my leg was, you know, something was wrong. So and not good. It wasn't so I don't know, does that answer your question?

NL

11:46

Yeah, of course. And then going, like, further, like, during this time, were there things that you found that could calm you down, you're talking about you kind of like, we're not completely informed in that, like provided a lot of stress on your life. But were there ways that you kind of dealt with that, and like hobbies or like past times, that kind of gave you that sense of calm, that would help kind of around this time?

LH

12:10

Truthfully, Nate, I've

12:11

had two surgeries that were kind of years ago. And I found after this surgery, that it knocked my feet out from me, under me enough that I was really not able to do I was really not even for a period of maybe three weeks, four weeks, read, like read a magazine or read a book and I tip, Chip, truthfully, all I did was recovery and recover and have Bob take care of me. You know, so I hobbies didn't come in and tell later. And then, you know, the the community center was closed. My leg was uncomfortable. I just didn't do much. You know?

NL

13:04

Okay, now i'd opportunity to talk to you almost a year from that moment. Is there. Now things that you feel like you can do with COVID still that you still feel safe? Okay. So you've now discovered

LH

13:18

Bob, Bob and I are both twice vaccinated. So my vaccine last vaccine was March the last Friday and march so I'm, I'm covered. So now I am starting to, okay. On what was it February 25. I had rotator cuff surgery. Because we had a bad year, I had rotator cuff surgery. And um recovering from the leg was simpler. It was more painful. But it didn't. It made me limp and limited some of my mobility. But the surgery prevented it changed. All the things I could do cause I am right handed was worry about how to dress myself how to you know, and Bob had to do a lot of that. So the only thing that I've been starting to be more enthusiastic about again, is gardening. I've started doing a few yoga poses, again that are standing nothing that bears weight on my shoulders or my arms. But I've been able to go out and exciting pick up sticks, Pick up sticks in the yard, pull a few weeds with my left hand. Kind of nothing more than that they figure they figure you're not mostly recovered from this surgery until about six months. So I'm hoping that two months from now i'll able to kind of like get back in the pool, or get back in that lake a little bit. And paddle around and, and all of that. So yeah, it's been, I have kind of emotionally, it's been a struggle. And I've kind of given the whole last year, and I've kind of given up doing a lot of positive things. I've just wind and recovered.

NL

15:25

And then kind of going after, like, the positive things you have kind of gone more into gardening, do you think that's connected with like, COVID? And like how you've been experiencing life? Or is that just the thing you've been passionate about, like your whole life, and it just connects

LH

15:39

not my whole life. But most of my I would say that I really started gardening in my 40s. So it's something I'm thrilled about, and I it's something I'm looking, you know, I have found a gardener who can help me put in gardens this year. So I'm excited about those kinds of things. And

NL

16:00

then for the gardener, did you find the gardener pretty COVID? Or did you have to find them during this time period,

LH

16:07

right smack in the middle. Okay, I was I was at Bachman. In Maplewood. And I ran into a very cheerful little energetic woman who, who we started talking and she started offering to, you know, for pay, of course, come out and do some yard work and stuff like that. So I'm quite excited about having her and us building a hosta garden this year. And you coming over to see it,
NL

16:37

of course, and then going out like off of the vaccination concept. How were your feelings? Before you got the vaccine like about it? Were you worried about it? Did you think it was a positive thing? Or like someone like your thought process about the vaccine in general?

LH

16:52

I was I've never feared having the vaccine. I think people who are judgmental Yeah. I think that people who overreact and refuse that refuse to take them really need to start believing in science. You know, and I've taken for years, I've taken a flu vaccine every year. Whatever they give me if the doctor suggests it, so I was ready to take the vaccine. And because of the way it was rolled out for the state of Minnesota. I people, lots of people got it before me. And I kept saying to Bob, well, come on, I had cancer last year, you should be able to get on the COVID list right away, you know. And it turned out, it turned out that as it was once they scheduled my rotator cuff surgery. They didn't want me to have the COVID shot until a week after this either a full week before or a full week after. So as it turned out, I got my first vaccination, the first Friday in February in March excuse me,

NL

18:05

okay. And then with that did feel like kind of a weight was lifted off your shoulder like do you feel like life is a little bit more normal now?

LH

18:15

You know, since I don't know if it matters that people know that you and I have been close for for years. Last week was the first week in 15 months that we had friends over for lunch on Friday. And we played cards. First time in 15 months. My brother and his wife stopped by on their way home from an outing on Saturday and visited to see the things we'd done in the house. And then two of my nieces the twins came over Friday. So it's Saturday. So in that week, we actually had six people in the house. Okay, it's the first time first time in 15 months. And I guess I haven't told you I had forgotten. I've also also had some things done in the house things painted things fixed up. So that's been a nice distraction to through this winter.

NL

19:19

Okay. And then going back to the vaccine, I guess Did you have any side effects or any like negative things after or Was it worth it in general?

LH

19:30

the first shot was eight days after my rotator cuff surgery. And I had I was feeling every It was hard because every bump that I hit while he was driving me to the vaccine hurt and I was standing hurt did by the time I got done with it. I felt crummy. And then three weeks later, I had that same day I had my CT scan My MRI my follow up with my cancer surgeon on that Friday before the shot. So by the time I got home, I had a headache, and I was tired, I took a nap now, whether it was the COVID shot shot, or whether it was too much out too much. I can't tell you, but I never felt feverish or sick to my stomach or anything like that. So I think I came through it without any symptoms.

NL

20:35

Okay. And then, so moving off of the vaccine again. And you're talking about how now you have more people in your life being able to come over. Previously , we talked about like, your emphasis on travel, do you feel like you can start traveling again? or How did it influence your travel at like pre COVID during COVID. And looking to the future, like just let's talk about traveling for a little bit.

LH

20:59

Let's talk let's talk about traveling.

21:01

Well you know, Nate, I llove, we love to travel. We had cold because of my cancer, which happened. February 4 13th, I was diagnosed we were scheduled to leave for Thailand, about two seven days, 10 days after my cancer diagnosis. So that was cancelled because of cancer. Well, Bobby's birthday is in May. And we were scheduled to go to Egypt in May. And that was cancelled because of COVID. November, we were scheduled to go to Morocco. And that was cancelled because of COVID. Currently, a lot of companies are pushing travel again. But you know, you can't get into Canada. There's lots of places in like Europe that aren't aren't good. So we have a we have a trip scheduled for the Caucuses September. And It makes me a little nervous to think about going there. But I and I'm not even sure we'll make it but I am ready to go for this to be done. And to go someplace. And and I mean, I think everybody should go to Azerbaijan, you know, you should you should come with us to the Caucasus nate instead of finishing school.

NL

22:29

And then going off of like the cancellation, was it canceled? Did they cancel themselves? Or how is reimbursement? or How is that? 2

LH

22:40

Okay, we cancelled, we cancelled cancer, we canceled Thailand. And we always because we're old, we always buy insurance. Because then you just lose that,

N

22:51

then you just lose the insurance. And so I all we lost was the cost of the insurance. Now, the Thailand trip, they have they have taken our money and put it on our trip to Morocco in November. So they just moved our money. Now, the scheduled trip for a for whatever we also we scheduled for, we have something in February that they that they moved, oh, we're Egypt, we're supposed to go to Egypt in February, and the money from Egypt was moved to Egypt. And then the money from the trip to Morocco was moved to Morocco. So when we go to when we go to the caucuses, if we go knock wood in September, we have just a downpayment on it now, so we'll have to pay, so they've kept our money and move the money to the next trip.

23:49

Okay,

23:50

which is okay with that.

NI

N

23:52

Yeah, so that seems so without insurance, you feel like it would have been a lot different or,

LH

23:58

you know, the problem is you if with trips they have they allow you to cancel with an increased loss of money as it gets closer. With travel insurance, they will reimburse you the whole cost even if you just decide you don't want to go except for the cost of the insurance. So we've since I've since we've been retired, we always buy insurance nate.

NL

24:30

So to finalize our conversation on travel, are the your planned future trips, are those cheaper than they were previously or is the cost pretty similar?

LH

24:41

pretty similar. Okay. Pretty similar. And we're, we're talking about maybe, you know, I don't know if you know, I have an older sister who lives in California, and my younger brother Tom and I were talking about making a road trip to see her. So we may be and if we don't do that We may be doing a trip also to see a cousin in Florida later this late fall or early winter. But you know we we haven't driven around the country either. I miss going places heck nate I miss going to net lake.

NL

25:16

Yeah, of course it definitely has changed. So kind of going off that did you feel like in the heart you really felt like you had to listen to science and like quarantine and stay at home. Did you buy into that? Or? Oh yeah, we're kind of starting to talk about like how that shaped you.

LH

25:33

I bought into it about 85 90% Bob bought into it to about 100 105 Bob, we just nobody could come here if they weren't wearing a mask. He didn't want anybody in the house. And I I'm grateful that he was more adamant than I was about it. So yeah, we've been really sticklers

NL

25:56

okay, and did that like, make you feel a little more secure? During like, all the uncertainty or you know, I

LH

26:04

don't know if that made me more or less secure. It made me lonelier. Mm hmm. Made me feel lonelier, you know, heck, haven't gotten to see your parents. Are you very much through all of this, you know,

NL

26:17

how was your experience with like, going to like, get groceries and other stuff when you're trying to like, protect yourself? Like, did you go at certain times? Was there a certain like, way you would do it? Did you wash your hands a lot sanitizer masks like before masks, just stuff like that.

LH

26:35

Um,

I can tell you for me because of cancer, radiation, the surgery, the recovery from the surgery, then my rotator cuff, I have maybe gone grocery shopping, a 10th of the time that Bob has, Bob has taken over most of the responsibility for the grocery shopping so and we have sat hand sanitizers in both cars. When we get to wherever we're going, we make sure um if the carts haven't been sanitized, or someone's they're not there to tell us we sanitize the cart, we wear masks. Because we're retired, we can do any do it off peak, you know, he can go shopping at 11 in the morning or one in the afternoon. And, and and he does that I have my outings. Now. Our physical therapy, I started physical therapy four weeks after my rotator cuff surgery and I see them twice a week. Now they've all because their medical employees, they've all been vaccinated themselves. So I feel comfortable with them. But yes, they're masked. I'm masked the place that the room is cleaned before I come in and cleaned after I leave. So yeah, I have felt safe.

NL

28:09

Okay. And then have you had physical therapy prior to this experience? Yeah, I do. Like that has, there's been like a noticeable change when you walk in to get physical therapy now like how they were

LH

28:23

Sure. I had physical therapy after my surgery. And that's when they were beginning to in June. And so yes, they were wearing masks, but I've had physical therapy with this group before, a couple of times. So you know, you get old things fall apart, you know, and they've always been very warm and welcoming. And there were all, often one or two clients in the waiting room. Now, they're there, nobody sits in the waiting room anymore. You walk in the door, they check you in and they put you in a in a room where you're going to have your physical therapy, so you don't end in the past. If I needed to be on a bike, like when I had my leg done, that I did a lot of biking, but they made sure the bike was cleaned before I sat on it and after and that no one else was anywhere near me. If there was somebody else on a bike, we did something else, you know what I mean? So they did a lot to just make sure everybody was fine. And okay, you know,

NL

29:41

and then we just talked about the ways you were protecting yourselves. What were your feelings about masks in general before like mask mandate? Did you feel like they were like an important factor and you were wearing them before? Or did you wait until they were really encouraged?

LH 29:57

No,

29:57

we weren't them from the beginning. I mean, every any Fauci and mike osterholm and, you know, people, people here that that we hear on the news that we're supposed to know, stuff said, mask, wear it clean your hands keep a safe distance. So we tried to do all of those things.

30:20

NL

And then you were just talking about people that know stuff. And you're at the beginning, you're talking about, he kind of struggled to read stuff. How were you getting your information? Was it through like, the news? Were you reading it? And then like, highlight some of your sources?

LH

30:35

No, well, you know, mostly, it's the news on television. I tend to sometimes I tend to watch msnbc a little more. Anytime Fauci was on we listen to him. And, and same with Mike osterholm. I mean, I think he's a remarkable guy. He's been, he's been the Minnesota epidemiologist for years. And I, I've kind of listened to him for years. So mostly, we got our information through television,

NL

31:12

were you getting any information like directly from your doctors when you were going to the hospital, or was it mostly just from like, news

LH

31:21

if we were going to the hospital, they there was always a pre eight, unless it was just an appointment. But if I was going to surgery, there was pre op stuff. And also the hospital would contact and say, you have to do this, this and this before you come in, you have to come by yourself or not, you have to come in by yourself, but you have to be driven by somebody. So there was a lot of information from the hospital about how, how I could come in, you know what I needed to do before I was allowed in. Same with the radiation of 25 radiation appointments, you came into the front door, you had to stand six feet away from the person in front of you. Then you went to the front and you were met by an intake person who had a plastic shield in front of them and a face mask and plastic shield before and you were after you were checked in and your temperature was taken. Then you were sent along. And during this whole experience starting December, I also had dental problems also went to the U and I found those same responses, you know, you have to you have to have to temperature you before you can come in and you have to have an appointment feel before they let you even even in the building. So yeah.
NL

32:58

And then so with most of your medical procedures, was most of it done in the U or the University of Minnesota or did you go to other clinics?

Speaker 2

33:07

LH

Um,

33:07

yeah,



33:08

I would.

33:09

I all of my cancer stuff was done at the U. The intake was there, they had the they had the sarcoma clinic there. So luckily, I was they were 20 minutes away, but my rotator cuff surgery, I had the MRI scan on it at summit orthopedics and vadnais heights. And that's where I had the surgery. And I've had physical therapy at a place called new heights performance, which is I don't know, but it's it's it's down 35 E the South a little bit over 494.

NL

33:54

But you'd say that all of your experiences were pretty much they had the same procedures of like the Plexiglas the temperatures and sanitizing. Was there one that was like better than the other or were they all pretty much seemed to implement the same policies.

LH

34:07

They did not they do

No temperature at peak appointment appointments. But they have but the women are behind the receptionist serve behind the plexiglass. When they come to take you to your room, they're all masks, and you know, you stay six feet apart, but no, I, I don't. It's only up to you that I've had my temperature taken. Okay, all the time.

NL

34:31

Okay. And then kind of going off, like mass mandates and like temperatures, how do you feel like government responded at a state level? Do you feel like they responded adequately or did you feel like you were confused at some point or is there anything you want to add about?

LH

34:49

I think Walz did a great job handling Minnesota. I think he was a voice of calm and reason and I think he I think he did a good job. You know, I'm okay with walz Now, if we want to get off on the national level, I think Trump turned a blind eye and made things worse rather than better. But that's, you know, that's certainly all past, you know,

NL

35:19

then going off, sorry, I keep saying going off. But when we're talking about the calming response, do you think that was almost just as important as the policies implemented just having like a governor or leader that you could kind of feel like, could call him or like, you could trust was that just as important as the policies that were implemented?

LH

35:40

I don't know if they were as important to some policies, because I think wearing a mask and closing down businesses and as much as as much upheaval as that created, I think was probably

the most important, but it never hurts to have a calm voice saying, you know, haha, stay calm and carry on. You know, I mean, there's nothing wrong with trying to act like Winston Churchill. So yeah, I think the fact that we had governor Walz, and it helped that, that he wasn't in conflict with the rest of government, you know, so many other states have have conflict. I mean, wasn't it Michigan, where the state of Michigan, when to this to the right led you to legislations against the female governor about closing down businesses.

NL

36:43

And when even in Wisconsin, the governor and the legislative and the judicial all were clashing at the same time,

LH

36:49

What you did in it and it's doesn't present a united front? And you know, a united front in a matter of crisis is pretty important. I think

NL

we just talked about businesses closing, were you impacted by that? Or were you just really just focused on staying home? So restaurants closing didn't really impact you? Or do you know, anyone that was really impacted by that, like, having to close businesses,

LH

37:20

I'm lucky enough that I don't know anybody who had lost a job. Now, I think, the closest to me about about people who were really impacted by work, were your parents. it, this whole thing made a big difference in in what they could do with their work. I have family members, nieces, nephews, whatever, who've worked from home, you know, been able to work from home and there were a couple at the beginning, who were unemployed until their businesses opened back up. One of them being my nephew is who is the manager in a dental office. Okay. And when once they opened dentistry again, he was able to get his shots and go back to work, but knock wood, I don't know, a lot of people I don't know, anybody who's been really economically, dramatically impacted from this. And in fact, we can spend money. We can't go out to eat, we can't travel. We end up having a little more money this year than we had 15 years. 15 months ago. We're saving for our next trips. No, no, no, we've got our money put away for some of our next trips. But no, I don't know. Anybody who other than changing their lives not being able to see their children or the grandchildren. I don't you know, where your social life is. altered? I don't know any buddy. You are the only person I know who has had COVID

NL

39:10

Yeah, I was just gonna ask . Where there People closely impacted by you that had COVID

LH

39:16

just you know, I we had a couple of I have a couple of friends said Oh, my son has it or one of my friends. One of my friends who lives Patti, I don't know if you've met patti, but she lives half time in Palm Springs. Her son in law got COVID while he was visiting her, I can't remember sometime in May of last March, maybe April of last year. And he's one of those what are they called long timers where he's been sick and it's taken him months to recover? But I you know, personally, you know, you you are it buddy.

NL

39:58

That's an accomplishment.

LH

Well, I'm glad you're fully recovered.

NL

Yes. I asked you. Were there any policies specifically government related in the city of little Canada that you noticed them going above and beyond? Did you have like any? Was there anything coming out for Canada that you felt like with anything about it?

LH

No emails? No, nothing in the mail? No, you know, there was no city wide. mailing or contacting? No, I didn't know the simple thing. Ya know.

NL

And then I guess one final question relates to government, government we had there are some elections throughout the time of COVID. Did you feel did you vote by absentee ballot? Or do you go in person?

LH

We,we didn't go in person we did drop off. So again, you know, it's not exactly absentee. But we got our ballots, and we took it down to the, the library and in in Roseville, and dropped our draft our ballots and voting off there. So yes, we voted
If there was noCOVID, would you have just would you have done the same thing? Or would you have probably just stood in line and don't like normal?

LH

I always stand in line. The only time I voted this way before is we were one of the elections we were gone somewhere. And we had to we had to put an absentee ballot in. But no, we stand in line and do our, you know, you vote you just vote

NL

then moving towards the future. Because if I would have interviewed you six months ago, or even a year, it would have been a completely different narrative. So now there's seems to be a little bit more of hope with the vaccine. Is there anything you want to add about that hope there? We talked about traveling but anything else you look forward to in the future coming out of this time?

LH

Yes, having people over for lunch, having a having a post COVID post cancer. See my new gardens, look at my new tapestry open house party where we can feed people and hug people and you can even have a beer at my house now that you're 21 you know, yeah, I miss I miss. I miss the socializing. I'm also I want I've been thinking seriously of volunteering at Children's Hospital. Well, I can't do that. Until all of this has settled down. So I'm, I'm hoping that get things settled down and start doing some volunteer work.

Oh, I'm getting net lake. Good lord going up to the lake and seeing people there. And you know, and why would you see I don't go to the lake because well, first of all, I haven't been well enough, but it's not like you can visit anybody. You just, you know, you're just there.

So okay.

NL

And then next, one of your brothers lives up towards that area. Did he kind of reiterate any like changes from like, your closer to like the city like rural and urban like how they were impacted differently?

LH

Okay, yes, he

was he the only thing he is said is that how many people in the room were in a conservative area. You know, pine county is where half of the lake is in Pine County. And that voted, I believe they went for Trump and Carlton County, which is the other half of the lake went for went for Biden. And he will talk about the people in Pine County, who won't wear a mask. And and he he just says that he thinks that there's a more conservative bent up there, up near where the lake is, and people just, you know, don't wear masks. I think part of it is for a long time Nate, people thought they were safe if they lived there. Or if they lived up in Cloquet, Minnesota or up on the iron range. It was like they thought they were going to be safe from COVID. And I remember reading, oh, at the beginning of it or hearing Fauci or, or or Michael osterholm say, you know, you guys are safe for now. But when it happens there, it will spread like wildfire there, and that's what it's done.

So, you know,

NL

I don't understand people who won't wear masks. Were there any other concerns related to COVID that you want to bring up or feel like any other stories or anything you feel like is important? Share?

LH

Well, you know, I have a passel of stories, but nothing specifically COVID. You know,

NL

Do feel like the vaccine will have brought a little more positive mood to the view, do you feel like with the vaccine we will move out of this sooner than later? Or do you feel like there's still going to be a long road ahead or a little bit in between?

LH

I think, I think there'll be a road ahead. And I think what I found, I found really interesting, I was listening to some news report, and they've talked about it 60 minutes, I think, had a story about how they are learning to take the virus. And within like six weeks, create, I'm maybe I'm making up time, but within a very short period of time, determine what the virus is, and determine how to create a vaccine. So they are figuring ways that in the future, when we get other pandemics, they will have the knowledge of creating a vaccine or treatment of some sort for that. So I feel heartened by this is this has forced medicine and science to figure out how to handle something like this in the future.

NL

So I know the year has been hard for you specifically and for everyone else. But going off that is there like any other bright spot that you see coming out of this? Or is it really just centered around sciences now like forced to, like confront this at a higher rate than they probably would have, and they got probably more funding than they would have without such.

LH

And I you know, I think I think I think we learned something from it now whether whether it'll show up in my lifetime or not, I don't, I don't know. You know, you can, you can I hate to sound Pollyannaish, but you can take a situation that is difficult. And wine, which is a lot of what I did this year with my cancer and my surgery, or you can figure a way to walk through it with some humor. And I think this is really highlighted for people, you know, turned a light on yourself. And you think well, now how well did I do this? And I didn't do it very well for a lot of things. But what can I learn about it? How do I see myself and hopefully people can take this experience, myself included? and use it a lot, a little more cheerfully, or optimistically?

NL

Yeah, I think that's a very important thing to learn from it. There's a lot of like, human character has been developed through this struggle.

I think, and and I think it's also been pointed out how frail and frightening how frail and frightened some people are from this experience. You know, and and, and hopefully we learn from it, you know?

NL

And has it made you more afraid of it happening again, sooner or you just glad to try and make it through this one? Or you like is it become like, more like epidemics and pandemics? Is that become more of a topic of discussion or like on your mind than it was previously? Or like, do you remember? Do you remember when the E coli was coming out of Africa?

NL Ebola Ebola?

LH

Yeah, they both have their issues

Yes, that's true. But Michael Osterholm I have brought him up three or four times. He talked about you that. He was the epidemiologist in Minnesota and he talked about it didn't it wasn't a matter of if it was a matter of when there would be another worldwide pandemic that scared me kind of kind of scared the hell out of me. But now, I think of how much science has learned to create new vaccines in such a limited time span and effective vaccine vaccines and how much they've learned about mapping the, the structure of of the pandemic of the virus. I am somewhat heartened by that. You know, my complete aside and if you want to edit this out, this is fine. My mother was born in 1918. And, and that's the year that she a February of 19. In that year that that Spanish Flu came along, and she was the third of four children in the family and her mother nearly died. And her mother was a young woman 3035 at the time, but she nearly died. And that I remember her talking to me about that. And interesting how similar this pandemic is 100 years later, you know, history repeating itself, my history, major friend.

Yes.

NL

So through your own oral history, do you feel like we have made like any, like major changes? Or do you think it's still very similar to what happened 100 years ago? And like, do you think we made better decisions this time around learning from the past? Or do you think we kind of repeated a lot?

LH

You know, the things I've seen about it the bed in 1918, there were a lot of people in masks, and there were people trying to get out of cities to to get away from get distancing. So it's interesting that that keeping clean, staying away, putting on a mask hasn't changed much. But the medicine has changed. You know, I mean, I don't know that. I don't know if they ever came up with a vaccine, or a treatment for that pandemic, interestingly, needed started in Kansas.

Yep, it started in Kansas with those servicemen who then went over to World War One. So I always say to Bob, because since he's a Kansas, you know, pandemic started in Kansas, but so I think the thing that's more optimistic is that we have medical, medical, that's much improved medical treatment in science, that's much improved. And hopefully, you know, we'll we won't have another one in my lifetime. Once enough, you know, and then,

NL

I guess, starting to end this conversation, is there anything in your day to day life that you feel like you'll change? Like, you're talking about bringing people back into your home, but when you go out of your home? Is there things you like, question touching, like, you feel like, the sanitizer, or like, is there small things that you took for granted previously, that you'll kind of do differently?

LH

I think that I think that when we when we travel will be all wearing masks. I think that there will be residual mask wearing in this in this culture, I think because because I think we you know, it appears that 40 What did I see? That said something about 40% of Republican males? were not willing to get the vaccine.

Which that's a big percentage of people. You know, and and, and so, it I don't know that it'll ever be like, smallpox wiped out, or meas or polio wiped out, but still, we might be wearing masks for a good share of the rest of my life.

NL why do you have about you?

Yeah, I think there will definitely be some, like side effects or things that like, shake up our culture and start to change the world we live in. And then is there anything else you feel like you want to share before I knew this conversation? Because thank you so much for taking time out of your day. And it really means a lot. Well, I

LH you you can edit this to you know, almost any reason to spend an hour on the phone with you works for me.

NL Perfect.

LH Do you know? Yes, yes,

LH Yeah. And I hope you're welcome. And I hope to see you sometime this summer at the lake.