

TOM SAWYER

Visions of Tomorrow International Conference

at Geneseo, New York, August 7-14, 1988

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by

Sidney Farr

[Recording of Tom speaking at the Visions of Tomorrow International Conference at Geneso, New York, August 7-14, 1988. At a certain point he asked Elaine to come to the platform and join him. He had not told her beforehand he was going to do this, but he says she did beautifully]

Tom Well, let's see, can everybody hear me? Okay? Good. We have to check on such things.

Very often we start with the books, the new books. I'm not selling this book. I'm not necessarily advocating this book but so many people have been hounding me when the new Raymond Moody book came out and, if I can be very fair and honest (which I usually am), it's much too expensive. The cost is over \$15.00 and if you've been keeping track or if you have read any of Raymond Moody's prior books, there's only a chapter or two in here that is really very different and if you're conscious at all of how much money you spend on books, I don't recommend you buy this until it comes out in paperback and is much, much cheaper.

One interesting aspect to this is that it goes into a few details regarding children having had near-death experiences, and two-year-olds and one child that had a near-death experience (which has been well documented scientifically) at six months old. As a matter of fact, in the Rochester area we have some very young children who have had a near-death experience and I've had the good fortune of meeting with a couple of them. It isn't so important to identify them or anything but I just wanted to bring that out.

I've said to a couple of people in this group, "This group is one of the most diversified groups that I have ever been amongst," and this is fantastic. [Tom obviously referring to the conference participants] I don't need to talk about levels but you know how we say "levels" and they're people on all different levels that can talk intellectually and there are local farmers and there are pseudo-intellectuals and so on. It's really beautiful. One problem: My head's just a-spinnin'. One of the problems that I have is dialogue; this language--it's very, very frustrating.

Most of you have heard about a near-death experience and you know that all near-death experiencers have a major problem and that's with language and dialogue. A majority of them have something to say, they really want to verbalize and share, even if it just be from the excitement or from

initial problems that they have had as a result of having had a near-death experience or in dealing with their families and spouses and close friends.

I don't know how to talk to a group like this--this is fantastic. I also use the phrase my head is just a-spinnin' and that's good, that's not bad. We all, the whole group, and especially me--I'm a little additionally excited tonight because it turns out the number of times that I've been able to speak in front of some kind of an audience, anywhere from two people to 1,020. It's therefore a reasonably rare occasion that I finally have my wife Elaine here with me. And, before she has to leave--because she really does have to leave, maybe as soon as 15 minutes from now--and get back to Rochester and live her "normal" life, I know that a lot of people in the audience have some questions that really and truly should be directed to my wife, Elaine.

Now some of the subjects, if I can dare hint toward and I really want to put her on the spot and give you an opportunity to at least ask questions and have her answer them. Those are, "What about the spouses of near-death experiencers?"

Well at age 33 I was normal, never mind that word "normal," but whatever I was usual, in other words at age 33 I was usual in the eyes of my wife, Elaine. In other words, yes she had married this crazy--this was also 50 pounds ago! For you people who are into fitness, instead of fatness. I was a national caliber athlete, I was the class comedian, I was an all around good guy. Boy, I love talking to stereotyping myself. And I was her spouse for many years, and having met at age 15, the degree of familiarity between Elaine and myself was paramount, I mean it was extraordinary. She knew everything about me. I knew everything about her. So when I say normal and usual, the degree of familiarity is what I am referring to and it was extraordinary as spouses go.

Very often I have learned that spouses keep secrets on purpose and otherwise from each other on an ongoing basis. Elaine and I have never really been like that. Both our lives are pretty much an open book to and toward each other.

So, she knows that I eat only peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, she knows that I am very miserable and grumpy and not nice to be near if I'm physically injured. And she knows all my faults which I won't go into.

[Steve We don't have time] Thanks, Steve. (That's my ex-friend Steve.)

At any rate, all of a sudden a truck falls on Tom Sawyer, he gets crushed down flat for a little while. And he has what is called a NDE, or a near-death experience. And things changed. Well, it was nice and peaceful for the first 72 hours because I was quite unconscious and lying quite still.

And then I made a phone call to my mother, I felt well enough to speak, to say there was a little accident but not to worry I'll be up and see you in a couple of weeks. And in that conversation I said, "The truck fell on me but you know, Mom, it seemed like it fell very, very slowly. I remember every detail. And you know after I went unconscious," and I went right through the basic story of the near-death experience. I went through the scenario up to and including the confrontation of the Light and an aspect that I barely described but I just touched on an aspect of experiencing total knowledge within that Light. I hung up the phone. Well from whatever time it was I hung that phone up until now, ten years later, a little over 10 years later, things have become a little different in our household.

And the degree of familiarity came to a screeching halt. I started talking about things and Elaine would look at me with a frown and say, "What did you say?" or "Who is that?" And I would say, "Well, I don't know who that either, but you'll be hearing more about them in the near future." I started writing things down in spiral notebooks and so on. At Elaine's suggestion, if I can paraphrase what she said, she said, "Tom, you know you've been talking about things that I don't understand at all and then when I ask you about them, you say you don't understand about them but you seem to know all about them and you write these down in figures, phrases, and peoples names. Why don't you start keeping track of them in a spiral notebook?"

So then there appeared spiral notebooks on either side of our bed and at the coffee table and at the kitchen table and so on. And things changed. There seemed to be a pattern within these notebooks regarding the general subject of quantum physics, and no I won't go into that tonight in great detail. But there were some patterns and a majority of things were of no pattern at all, they were just various little scribblings and so on. But herein lies the problem that I want to impress on you regarding spouses and near-death experiencers. The degree of familiarity comes to a screeching halt. And from other near-death experiencers who have been married at the time of their near-death experience, I've heard sentences

from them such as, "But he's not the man I married!" And, "All she wants to do is go around and pray! All she's into is that hocus-pocus bullshit. And she goes to conferences such as Visions of Tomorrow," and various other things. "Why all of a sudden with three children growing up and we're doing financially well and we're so close together, you suddenly have to go to Seattle, Washington. What in the hell is in Seattle, Washington?" She says, "I don't know, but I know I have to be there." Now that's pretty crazy stuff and I'm afraid that over half of the people in this audience have said things like that, that are pretty crazy stuff.

Well, how does that react to somebody that has a high degree of familiarity? Well, it is suddenly crazy, chaotic, and sometimes, in fact most often I'm sorry to say, intolerable. Well, now I can brag and say that Elaine and I have been married for a little over 10 years since my near-death experience and as a matter of fact we're still married. Now we have actually in a way set a record because a rather sad statistic is that 99.99 percent of near-death experiencers, who have what Ken Ring describes as a core experience or a very intensive experience, that are married at the time, become separated and divorced within a three year period of time..

Now, I didn't know this at the time of my near-death experience. I learned about it four years after my experience. So I looked at the calendar and thought, "My goodness, what does this mean, does it mean anything at all? Well, I'm glad to say that it doesn't have to mean anything at all. Even though the statistics bear out that a majority of the people do separate and divorce if they are married, that is not necessary. And a large majority of the people in this room have a similar circumstance at least where a close friend, parents, or children don't quite understand how crazy and chaotic each one of you have become recently. At least since the 1960s, or since last year. You seem to be pursuing something that is not necessarily materialistic or not necessarily what you always did. So there is a lot of similarities and we all can learn something from this.

First of all, my darling wife, Elaine, would you stand so everybody can see how pretty you are? You have also witnessed that I do have the ability to lie, because I promised Elaine that I would not do what I just did. Well, I do know that Elaine intended on leaving here, hopefully before dark in order to get back to Rochester. She has full-time employment and so on. And

still lives a very normal life in spite of being married to Tom Sawyer. Are there any questions that you would like to ask Elaine? I know I have a few! Elaine, I know you didn't want to come up front but would you please. Well, this is--Elaine!

Elaine Well, I've never really done this kind of thing before--

Tom Well, you can relax, especially relax because a very dear friend of yours is here whom you haven't really met. Larraji.

Elaine Your music has helped me a lot, that's one thing I wanted to say. The first time I heard it I didn't know of you and I just said, "It's so peaceful, makes me feel really good. You're doing a lot of good for a lot of people.

Tom A couple of weeks ago we went to somewhere in the south --Virginia? And Larraji was there and played for me and everybody else that was there, and I was thrilled. As I got out of our car at the airport to fly down there, in our tape recording in the car was Larraji's music, one of his original recordings. And as I left the car Elaine said, "You know, this music is so peaceful and it makes me feel so relaxed." I thought wow! Nothing else was said. I did tell Larraji when I got down there and that's very important because you know seriously Elaine has dealt with an awful lot of crap from Tom Sawyer. I'm saying it just like that because I can't emphasize the degree of familiarity that she has had and that she has now maintained. And let me put it this way, when we greet people at our house we often say welcome to the Sawyer household where the abnormal is normal.

Man I have a question for you, Elaine. Somehow I imagine that explaining Tom's differences fall mostly on you as to relating that to the children. Is that correct? And if so, how do you go about it?

Elaine I think the hardest part of it to deal with was after the accident happened. I know he was always telling me the truth and I had to keep this inside of me for a long time. When he saw the tunnel, and he saw the other

side, the Christ or the Light of Christ, it was hard for me to just keep this inside and just to talk to him about it. I wanted to talk to other people about it. And I had (maybe) a year and a half of keeping it inside. We just talked together about it. What helped me a lot was when this might of, I never believed in -- Well, I was never that open minded before. I've got to be really honest, I just thought you tried to be a good person, I've changed. I've tried to be a good person, I'm open minded now and I've got a lot of nice friends now. And I try not to be judgmental of people but before I used to judge people more than I do now. Now I accept people a lot more.

Ten days before the accident happened to Tom, I wasn't working at the time, and I had bought a book at a store. It was called *Life After Life*, by Raymond Moody. You heard about it or read it? I don't know if you've heard this or not. But I picked up this book at a bookstore and I thought, why am I looking at this book? I don't even know why, it's a dollar seventy-five, I can't afford it. So I put the book back on the shelf and I went grocery shopping. I thought, I've got to go back and buy this book.

So I bought the book and I read it in bed. Tom said (don't repeat this to Raymond Moody) "What are you reading that crap for?" He goes, "When you're dead you're dead, the show's over and that's that. [Much laughter]

Tom And you think there's not a judgmental God?

Elaine I continued to read; I didn't care what he said. He swore, I know. I was used to that; it didn't matter. So when I read the book it took me three nights because I read it in bed and just relaxed and then all of a sudden this accident happened in my driveway.

Well I think that that book helped me a lot because it was my cushion. And I didn't tell him about the book too much. I think maybe God was looking out for me, so I could help Tom help others. And I really don't know why it happened, I'm not really sure why. I think maybe the whole near-death experience is to make people aware that there's something else; that everybody has a soul and that we're all connected to everybody else.

And just to try and see the good in people and not the bad in people. I find it hard for me to believe that a lot of people weren't still married afterwards because they say it's unconditional love. Well, if you have unconditional love and you're spreading it to all these people, then why

don't you spread to the person you are with? It is true love.

I wanted to tell a lot of people off after they had their experience. And I, well, some people I did tell off.

Tom Yeah, among other people you can ask Ken Ring about it. And Raymond Moody.

Elaine And some things are ^{hard} heard for me. Some days things got really hard for me. Like I want to build something and he'll say, like our kitchen, most of all like our kitchen. Who wants to build a kitchen?

Tom She also does not stereotype!

Elaine I'm difficult a lot of times. A lot of things have been good though, really. I can't complain about it. I don't know what you want to ask me [To audience] I'm getting all hot here... nervous.

Woman Your statement was that 99 percent of the people will separate once one begins or has an experience of life after death. What do you see as some of these forces that have kept you two together rather than pulling you apart?

Tom Great sex! [Prolonged laughter] Our life is almost an open book.

Elaine We really care about each other a lot.

Tom Well, certainly, yeah. We really do. I've tried many many different ways to intellectualize, to talk to Elaine, try to explain things that are unexplainable. I've bored her to death trying to explain wave functions. How many photons are in this ice cube? Things that were so, that were so ridiculous, in hindsight, to try to explain to Elaine at that time in that way. But of course that's the exuberance-- When you've read that book, "Oh Martha, oh Billie, this book, oh, oh." And three or four years later you often do remember that silly little book. In other words, your perceptions change, and so on. So Elaine has put up with that. But in doing that it also has told Elaine on an ongoing basis that I really do care, not just about this

stuff, but that I care for her to know about all of it.

And you know it really took me several years until beautiful, beautiful friends appeared and others just came right at the right time. Ganetti is here somewhere tonight. Just to give an example, many of you people who know Ganetti, so unconditionally, and so on. She would talk to me and help me with phrases and books and so on. I would eventually just call her on the phone and say, what is a-- and she would tell me. And then at other times she would avail herself to Elaine. "Well, Elaine, I do know that Tom loves you." At those points where Elaine says, "I'm questioning if Tom really loves me."

Elaine I had trouble lots of times. One time I went to my mother's for five days, I just, everything got to be too much, I just took off. And I just told him I don't want to talk to him. [**Woman** Was this right after--?] No, this was a couple of years ago. (**Woman** Did you see most of the change within let's say six months after the accident?] I saw it immediately. [**Woman** Immediately?] Immediately.

Tom And I spent the first six months denying it.

Elaine I could see it. He would tell me things he had no idea. He'd be writing down like formulas. Things he wasn't even supposed to know. Like he said a long time ago he's going to be on the Donahue show and I go, "Oh, sure you are!" A lot of things have happened that I didn't want to know and I knew and they happened. [**Woman** Did he change toward the children?] No, he was always a great father, always.

Tom Yeah, I'd like to add something to that, because in fact this has been studied and documented. I really have changed the father image toward the children.

Elaine It was nice he got to think afterwards. He was not as hard, oh he was a little hard before, too hard. Because he was... he always said he was the boss and he didn't believe, I wasn't his equal. [**Man** And now?] Now, I don't, well I shouldn't, I don't know. I think men always like to be a little higher. They think that, right?

Tom Very true, as a matter of fact it's one of the things that I am very aware of now, several years later. Was the degree of my quote "superiority" to Elaine.

Elaine And I met him when I was very young, that makes a difference.

Tom I'm not going to talk. I'm terrified!

Elaine Oh yeah?

Tom No, really the recognition on my part. A very minor, may not even be a good example at all, but one example is that which is more important the architect or the bricklayer? And of course the answer is neither. There is no greater job. If you are doing a job then that's a service to mankind. Hopefully you can still search within yourself if you can recognize you are doing the right job. And you may not be doing the correct job or the right job but if you are serving, in a way, and if you are a homemaker, if you are only changing the diapers and you're not employed, that doesn't make you less than the person who brings the paycheck in.

Now I actually thought in terms of superiority, in other words, I was much more mechanically skilled, I had a higher IQ, and all of those things collectively made me superior to Elaine. At age 33, I didn't really (you can correct me), I would dare say, abuse that. I didn't constantly point my finger and say, "I'm greater than you are."

Elaine No, he did! [Audience laughs and applauds]

Tom Elaine?

Elaine I didn't know I was such a comedian. I'm a very honest person. I try to be, you know. I can tell we've been married so long. It's like a computer.

Tom You can build the shed next week. [Audience laughs] No, wait, to what degree, mention that.

Elaine I don't really want to get into all that [Audience laughs] When you said you did, when you said you did if you didn't do it...

Tom Well, if I had an idea...

Elaine You just did it.

Tom The way of doing something... in other words, ranging anywhere, of course, in emergency situations most of my family have relied on me as to knowing CPR, knowing the correct thing to do, and that's one thing, because here you can have a skill that another person doesn't have. That doesn't make you superior, it just makes you more skillful at that particular thing. So, therefore, since you have that skill, you yell out the demands and everybody else assists you. All right, that one level, that's one thing, and that's okay. But, for instance, a choice of driving, it's a family vacation, where are we going to go? Well, I'll decide where we're going to go. That's the other degree, and that's what I was like, and in the last several years, now, I actually try not to plan...

Elaine He's changed. Because you've let me do what I want to do. I can do anything I want to do, that's not that good, either, because you don't... I can do anything. If I want to take off and go to California for three weeks, I could do it, anything I want.

Tom As a result of my near-death experience, it was like an instantaneous (it was a spiritual awakening, for sure), but instantaneously I knew that and I felt that, that this is more correct. that she is an individual. Yes, we have family ties, yes we have commitments to each other, but those commitments can either be manipulated, changed, or compromised.

Elaine Now it's the compromise. We compromise on a lot of things.

Tom And if she wants to go visit her sister in California, go. I mean fine.

I might even miss you! I mean, seriously . . . [Audience laughs]

Elaine You better!

Tom No, seriously, the way I intended that, is that, yes, I'll miss you, but don't at all let that inhibit you as to making the move and going to California for a period of time, as long as it's not over two or three days. [Audience laughs] But, really compromises--a perfect example is we were finally able to take an official family vacation and we went to Virginia Beach. It was a long distance, the decision to do all this was rather major. We weren't used to just making plans and going great distances for a family vacation. Usually because of money and time and so on.

So, a few years ago, we asked, "Where haven't we been? We can afford to go on an official family vacation." Well, right away, my suggestion was to get things going in the household, being the father. I just said, "We're going on a family vacation. I want each of you, among the four of us, each of you to decide something you want to do for yourself, and possibly share with everybody else, during that family vacation. If it means, and something I never did traveling, was if I'm going from there to there and if there's something fifty miles off to the side, well forget that, we're going here. And it required going different locations and so on. And the decision was, my one son wanted to see a D-10 bulldozer--he was into bulldozers at the time. And I learned that there was one--it's a very rare machine-- that there was in one part of Pennsylvania, near Scranton. And, so therefore we decided to go to Virginia Beach and do these various things for each person. And, I also promised--I'm smiling--I did actually promise and say, "During the family vacation there will not be any near-death stuff."

Elaine Oh, I remember that!

Tom Well, you know the routine of "No Room at the Inn?" All right, we arrive in Virginia Beach, and of course not having been there before, in the middle of July or August, you should have reservations. [laughter] I mean sometimes we have to learn by doing. So we went from door to door, and of course, we were also trying to get something within our price range because many of those motels are very expensive. Well over \$100. And no room at the inn, no room at the inn. Well, we ended up going north along the ocean,

whatever avenue that was. The one thing I did want to do selfishly, really for myself, I had heard of a Edgar Casey type place, you know, there was a museum or whatever was there. I didn't know that it was the ARE, but I knew that it had something to do with Edgar Casey, and several people had mentioned something about Edgar Casey to me. So I wanted to see what that was.

We went to the last motel, and it was just about this time of night, it was getting dark and we were exhausted and it was a hundred and some degrees, all those things, which, you know, if you're in the 80 dollar price range how, well \$100 doesn't sound so bad. I'm exhausted and so on. So we went to this motel and I knew that it was the right motel because it had a statue of three dolphins out front. So we went in, and sure enough, there was a room available. So even though the price was a little high, we went to that room, went to the door and opened the door, and I hear from the balcony above--and I have to role play and say, "W-h-y, T-o-m S a w y e r!" And it was Raymond Moody!

So we said hello and introduced the families and his two boys and our two boys, and we had an instant larger family, and that was okay. We went to sleep and got up the next morning to do the one specific thing. Some where in the area was this Edgar Casey museum that I wanted to see. So the family all piled in the car and we went to the end of the driveway and I'm just thinking, "Well, I don't have any idea where it is." But I was one of those people always that would just drive and get there. So no problem. I backed back into the parking space and Elaine said, "What's the matter? Did you forget something in the room?" And I said, "No, look across the street." [Audience laughs] Well, that also became usual in our household.

Elaine This is the truth, everything happens like this lately.

Tom We learned there is another word for coincidence. It's called synchronicity. So we went across the street. Now here's the example I want to give also about myself and our relationship. The situation presented itself that Raymond Moody was speaking, doing a week long workshop, at the ARE. And, also, I was introduced to a good friend of his by the name of Milton. So we called him Milton, or Uncle Milton, and the kids fell in love with him. Milton fell in love with our kids. So while they were running in the ocean and in the swimming pool and having a good old time,

Raymond Moody asked me if I would be interested and if I would please speak to the group at the ARE. So, right away, typical of me, I would say, "Oh, yes, of course." But, now having changed and being almost perfect [audience laughs] I said, "I can't do that unless I get Elaine's permission. Now there's the difference. I mean ten years ago it was, "I've decided that I'm going to do this, and I hope you like it and if you don't well that means that you don't like it."

Elaine But it's too bad! [End of side one] [Side two begins]

Tom And we had a ball. We had a riot at the ARE, and did a comedy sketch. My two sons and Elaine I had prepped beforehand, when anyone in the audience or I or anybody said the word "death" or "die," instantaneously they would go, "Oh, no, not die!"

Elaine That was a joke in our house for a long time.

Tom Anybody, if it was said on television, in other words, if you hear the word death or die you kind of smile and say, "Oh, no, not die." And if you do in the audience, notice every time someone says death or die eventually everybody will start saying, "Oh no, not die," and it becomes very humorous.

Elaine I think the experience helped a lot because I'm not afraid of death anymore at all. But I think most people are when they lose somebody that they really love, because they feel that they're going to be lonely for that person. What are they going to do without this person? But if you really care about them, you should be happy for the other person because if you're a mother, to me that is the best thing to get to God when you see your baby born. So I think if there's a God, and he's a person or place, it's just the love that God as for you, that's what it's all about. People shouldn't be afraid of death at all. I'm not, and I've helped... Now I work in a factory. I don't know how I got there. I've been there at Bausch and Lomb for a year and they bring up subjects like this. I think I've helped a lot of people. A lot of people were afraid before and I just talked to them a little bit and they don't know of Tom that much, but I just tell them what I feel about it. And I help people that way.

Tom For both Elaine and I, I know it has been typical for me, I don't go around saying, "Hey, I want to tell you something." I mean I've just never done that, it's never been necessary. On the job site I've never suggested to anybody, have you ever heard of a near-death experience, or hey, listen to this. But it has come to pass that the 85 members of my job--the highway department--I imagine there are a few that knows little or nothing at all about my circumstances, but the vast majority do. And you know I'm stereotyping by saying this is the DPW I'm talking about, the troglodytes, the very rough, tough macho guys. There's two women secretaries and 85 guys.

And I was actually shocked and surprised that there was not a negative or scoffing type of reaction from any of the guys but quite the opposite. They either ask me a question directly: "Gee, Tom, I'm having a terrible time, my father is sick in the hospital with cancer," or whatever typical scenario. I say, "Well, gee, how do you feel about that?" Kind of in a way I play the psychology role, in other words allow that person to vent their feelings or what they want to say. In other words I try to be a good ear and it just presents itself and I'll eventually tell something, or maybe the general story of the near-death experience and possibly offer them, "If you'd like to stop over at my house and see a book or talk a little more, or if you feel as though you'd like to talk about such a thing. And that has presented itself. And has done really wonders, it's helped an awful lot of people. I've seen that directly and as Elaine just mentioned, she's been able to do that. In a way it's contagious.

Elaine Most people, a lot of people, are afraid of death. A lot of people, I was shocked they wouldn't even talk about it and I go, "Why, it's part of--?" I'm going to die, everybody's born so you're going to die but they won't talk about it, it's just like if you don't talk about it, it's not going to happen. I don't understand why they don't do it.

Woman It seems like, what I'm hearing, you're talking about unconditional love, that from the old Tom from the new Tom and he's let go some of the actions or ways that he had and now is willing to let go... You recognize the responsibility and at the same time you're not making demands, you know. It don't have to be my way because you're a person and you can do some things.

[Woman Asks question, but not audible]

Tom Who are you asking that of?

Woman Tom.

Tom I never believed in such hocus-pocus bullshit before. I said it like that because that's exactly what I said. That's the way I talked and that's just the way I felt, and I mean it was just all of that. Every bit of it was all of that. If in 1978 you would have said the world's absolute greatest psychic wants to speak to me or has to speak to me and he's right across the street or in the next room. You know, I'd just hit the road, no thank you. I may have said, "No, thank you," because I was generally polite, but just wouldn't be the least bit interested.

But yes, as a matter of fact, that's changed, rather dramatically. After we take a break, I'll get into that subject a little bit. There's several things that I would like to talk about tonight. Some of them will be on the general subject of psychic events or activities and so on. In other words, yes to that. Most definitely.

The frequency started a few minor things which I'll explain in greater detail. The frequency increase to, if you wanted to document psychic events, of clairvoyance, precognitions, retrocognitions, and whatever. All of that has happened to me. I'm not any one of those things. I don't even consider myself a psychic. I'm not a clairvoyant, I'm not any of those titles, but practically all of those functions have taken place in my life, and I've recognized them for whatever they actually are, and I've dealt with them. I think that a majority of that has never become totally comfortable in my life.

In other words, as of this day right now, I would. I do a very good job of actually manipulating the, what I call the psychic trash, or the drivel, the imagery, the sensationalism. Things like that that are so often associated with psychic events. In other words, if you have a precognition it's so easy for you to become sensational about it, and because of the exuberance of the people around you regarding those subjects, you can become egotistical about it. And, I'm actually bragging by saying that I've done a really good job of not letting that happen to me. I've seen some experiences of other people

similar to me in many, many ways, and they have become very devastated because of that alone. In other words, the excuse or the reason that they have become very devastated to the point of a clinical death state, again. It's only because of that greed and ego that they've allowed themselves to become obsessed with. And, I've been very careful about that.

The frequency increase from 1978 through about 1984-ish, and don't ever quote me on dates, unless I say something very specific. In other words, for a few years, and then the frequency leveled off for about a year's time, and that frequency was, well I'll say remarkable, because I finally gave in to allowing any of those things being documented. In other words, I shared with Dr. Kenneth Ring and Bruce Grayson. Such people like that who I had trust in and so on.

And then I met a man by the name of Oris Bedrie, beautiful man, Oris Bedrie, who I think still resides in Poughkeepsie, New York, and that was a very synchronistic meeting. I explained to him a problem that I had regarding the Omega Project in Rochester. I live in the town of Greece near the lake, and whenever they at the Omega Project, which is a Laser Research Lab did their thing, it was just as though you'd put a screw-driver through the top of my head and it actually, physically hurt me. I would get a headache from it that would go away in ten to fifteen minutes, but it was an actual, timely experience that I was having, due to my receptivity to such things; I'll say it that way.

Well, I had this big, elaborate problem. If I would drive on the expressway near the U of R, and I just got near that facility, I would have this pain right through the top of my head.

Well, I met this man, Oris Bedrie, and explained this, had this long oration of all the details and circumstances to it and he smiled at me and said, "Fine. Don't do that anymore." And from that time on, the frequency of such psychic events and so on have been depleted, and the frequency is less and less and less. But also, I don't want to mislead you, my perception of things and my personal priorities have changed from a little less psychic and much more what I would call strictly spiritual. And other priorities have been sorted out a little better and my focus is a little more accurate. No less important at all, but just different. It's a little more in control. Yes?

Man What was the actual date and year that the truck fell on you?

Tom Well, it was at 6:41 in the evening, on May 23. A curious thing, for several years... [Man 1978?] Yes, 1978. For several years, it was documented incorrectly as May 24th. So, I'm fallible, dates are fallible and so on. And through investigating the paperwork, and so on, a film crew was making a documentary, and that investigation with the help of my ex-friend, Steve, [laughter] and several other people, that we found out it was actually the evening before. You know, just a minor detail, but I am a stickler for details. So it was in 1978. Yes?

Man It's known that most women are close to their children in a psychic sense, they know if their child is being injured or something. Elaine, do you have a closer tie now with Tom? Kind of telepathically? Do you know what he's doing during the day or anything?

Elaine No [Tom sighs with exaggerated relief. Audience laughs] He knows what I'm doing. No, I don't.

Man Elaine, if you had to write a book about your life now, what might the title be?

Elaine Gee, I don't really know.

Tom Just guess.

Elaine No. I don't know. I don't know what the title would be. I never thought about that.

Man Tom, you've been changing, you know, from psychic phenomenon to this area that we discussed before. I guess it's prophecy. I just want to know, Elaine, how you've been reacting to that and the difficulty of reacting to that and how do you resolve it.

Elaine That's hard. For one thing, I'm very sensitive and I'm pretty emotional. Maybe more than a lot of women are. So I don't want to know what on earth's happening sometimes, and I can't handle it. So I just totally kind of push it out, say a little prayer and that's it. Because I can't let it bother me. Otherwise, I'm not going to be able to do anything. Nothing.

Maybe you're not supposed to change anything. So I just say a prayer and go on with what I'm supposed to be doing. It's been a little bit hard. I tell him, "Don't tell me any more, I don't want to hear it."

Tom Did you like the way I stopped that? Whew!

Elaine If you can handle things you can handle them, some things you can't handle. I can't.

Tom No I'm talking to Dan, we're doing an inside joke. Wow!

Woman Would you relate the story of when you were on the job and your son . . .

Tom Yeah. I thought you would ask that. I'm getting wound up, here.

Elaine Are we talking too long? [Tom No] Then you can tell your story.

Tom Yeah. I also want to say, for Elaine's sake, that she did ask me outright regarding this event. In other words, if I knew about it before. Here's a good example how chaotic things can get or crazy. The logical deductive reasoning behind her frustration was, if I knew about an event that would injure my son Todd severely, how could I ever go to work and allow that to happen? And the answer is, there are those things that, if you have a precognition, especially of a tragic nature (and that's a judgmental statement), but, of a tragic nature it may just be that, that you for whatever reason or no reason at all simply have to know of it ahead of time, and there's nothing that you can do. Furthermore, sometimes there's nothing you can do even if you try to do something. Well, now that I've already qualified that situation, I don't recall the date; how old was Todd, Elaine?

Elaine I think he was about twelve.

Tom Okay, so this would be two, maybe three years after my near-death experience. And, I, please don't get mad, but this was documented at the University of Connecticut.

Elaine It was? I didn't know that. Damn, he broke his leg and you documented--

Tom Almost an open book. This is documented at the University of Connecticut but to say that, what I really mean is in a round-table discussion with Ken Ring and a few people with an extremely high degree of confidentiality and a demand by me that this not be used for publication or any other reason. I told them. I was asked the question, "Do you, can you tell anything of the future regarding your own family?" Well, after a fifteen minute cry, I said that my son Todd would be severely injured, but it was necessary.

And I wasn't able to explain the necessary, I don't even think I could do a very good job right now explaining the necessary part of it. But, at any rate what took place, I was at work, running a front-end loader, and I wasn't aware of the clock time--I didn't know the clock time, ahead of time, but simultaneously with the event, what I experienced was if you had large stereo speakers on either side of my shoulders and what I heard was my son, Todd, grimacing, you know in other words, being injured. He broke his leg very severely, and falling down into the field of grass and saying, "Oh Dad, Oh, Dad I wish you were here."

Well that actually did take place, and as it took place, I heard it loud and clear. I was, roughly as the crow flies, three, three and a half miles away. And, I walked right off the top of the loader, it's about 12 feet tall. Just made one step and another large leap to a pickup truck where the foreman on the job was sitting in the pickup truck. Poor Chet! He didn't stay there very long. Well, I opened the door and grabbed him by the shoulder and said, "Chet, there's an emergency. I've got to get to my son right away." And he kind of had a shocked reaction. As I drove away in his truck, I said, "Take the loader onto the highway, I won't be back." I did--on the way toward his school and the hospital, the highway department was close by--so I did take the time to drop the pickup truck off at my car, and drove my car to the hospital.

Well, there's only one problem: I'm at the hospital and nothing is taking place, there's no Todd, there's no family, there's no emergency at all. So I asked the nurses to please check and see if there was a John Doe brought in, and I described my son and they said, "Are you sure?" I gave my first name, last name, all that, "No, I'm sorry, maybe you could check another hospital."

Whoa, have I made a terrible mistake, maybe I'm at the wrong hospital. So I decided that the best thing to do would be to call his school. So I looked up the phone number, put the quarter in, and dialed. "Oh, Mr. Sawyer, we're glad you called. We've been trying to get in touch with you. Your son has been injured, and he's at Rochester General Hospital, Northside." And I said, "Well, I'm here now and he's not here." "Oh, no, no, he's just being picked up in the ambulance now." So I said, "Well, that's fine and thank you very much." And she said, "I'm so glad you called." I always wanted to confront her later on and say, "Did you ever give any thought as to why I called?" At any rate, I hung the phone up and turned and as I turned, the doors opened and in came the roller bed with Todd on it.

And you know, the spiritual part of this, the most important part, was the eye-contact with Todd. He was conscious; he broke his leg very severely. The probability was that he would have a limp for life. That the growth plate at that young age was injured, it was more like a green-stick fracture. It required surgery and so on.

He came by and I put my hand on his chest like that, and of course, most importantly, was the eye contact. In other words, father to son and that security, you know, Mommy's here, Daddy's here, and that took place, then he went in for emergency treatment. I don't recall right now, were you with him at the time? [Elaine Un-huh.] Okay, so you came in later, then. You weren't as important, just then. So Elaine and I had that wonderful parental stay in the emergency department. Looking at each other, wishing we could go in there and do something more. That was the event that took place.

I got back to work and apologized to Chet and it was as though he had no reaction at all. He said, "Well that's okay, Tom, if there was an emergency." And it never occurred to him at all, nothing at all. I was concerned about that, I was very worried about that, that I am going to have to go and give some kind of explanation as to why I stole his truck. Is he going to bring me up on charges, or whatever? Nothing happened. He just said, "Gee, Tom, what was the emergency? Is it personal?" I said, "No, my son broke his leg quite badly." And he said, "Oh, well is he okay now?" In other words, just shut right off.

And again, I didn't pursue it; there was no need. He got enough explanation that things were okay. And that was okay. That's the example that I wanted to give, but now, for Elaine to react to that in hindsight. I don't recall when she asked me, but she did ask me outright, "Did you know that this would

happen beforehand?" And I have to tell her the truth. I have to say, "Yes." How did she react to that? Do you remember how you reacted to that?

Elaine No. I guess I just shrugged it off. What else can you do? Otherwise, I'd go nuts. You know.

Tom She did say a couple of things toward the justification of it. In other words, "Why?" Or "How?" The "how, why?" situation. I was very frustrated at one time knowing of an impending plane crash and, that precognition ran more than a year in duration, which was strange to me. And as I found out, I guess it's not too common that a precognition of a single event like that runs a long duration of time. In other words, of those type of precognitions the more usual thing would be thirty days ahead. But this ran over a year, and I became extraordinarily overly attached to the event.

Elaine And the people. Yeah, that was hard. That's what's hard about the whole scene of the things that's happened. He get's, if he knows something like this is going to happen he might tell me, and then he gets attached to the people and then what do you do? What do you do? You tell me what you do, do you call their families, and tell them that something's going to happen. I don't know.

Tom The major frustration there was, I had many, many significant details to the event with the exception of exactly when and exactly where. So I was using the reference point of the visual imagery, and I even attempted to go to airports and look to see if it looked like that. Just to find the place.

Well, there are many details; I'm still very attached to it, obviously. I got overly attached to it and that was really wrong on my part. So when the event did take place, even though there are some extraordinary positive aspects to that event, spiritually and so on, and the event turned out a lot better than it was originally viewed as, if you will. That's just tough to deal with, and as Elaine just said, to mention anything like that to her, I have little enough understanding. How can I expect someone like Elaine to understand something that's coming from me? So, but you know, I don't want to leave you with a misunderstanding. And, I'll say this then I want Elaine to address the same thing.

Our life in the last ten years has been really, "thurnbs up," because we've

had more fun, than not. We laugh and joke a lot. You know, a lot of dry humor; that's often a healing thing. In fact, I overplayed a tape recording I got most recently, and part of the words to that tape recording was, Elaine finally did say that she wished that I'd turn it off at least for a minute or so, because part of the dialogue to that tape recording was, bring forth your healing laughter," and, you know, it's very important to deal with frustrating situation, you know, one of the instantaneous healing aspects is laughter. And, if you can twist it around, turn it around, or just act like a clown if you have to, but just turn that frustration into laughter, you'll be a success. I want to stereotype the last ten years of my marriage, on my side, it's "thumbs up," much more positive than negative, and you know, as a subordinate, she's doing really fine. [Elaine tries to say something two or three times but laughter and applause drowns her out] Do you agree?

Elaine Agree with what?

Tom What I just said.

Elaine Yeah, it's been good.

Tom Well, has it been, are you glad, are you glad or sad?

Elaine I'm glad.

Tom Ah, whew! Were we supposed to take a break at nine or nine-thirty?

Carol Probably we should to allow folks who have raps and who want to go to other raps, to go ahead and do that now. But Tom will remain here.

Tom Yeah, I'd like to ask a question of every body, because to really do justice to as many people as possible. I know that Steve has played a couple of videotapes of programs and so on. I'd like to see a show of hands, is there's anybody in the audience who hasn't heard the general story of what happened to me. In other words, a truck fell on me... Therefore okay. Perhaps at another time you can get the long version of the detailed version of the details, and/or in the dialogue when we start up after this break in the dialogue, any question at all you have about that. I can address in that

way, but one of the things we want to try this day. I also have to ask, is there going to be time tomorrow? Do we have plans for tomorrow?

Dan You can have all the time you want, Tom.

Tom Okay. Then, we'll get a chance to talk about that also. This evening, I think what we'll do, I'll just see... what program was that? Oh, I'll give you the Phil Donahue synopsis. It was like in five minutes that I told the whole story. In other words, the stages as researchers call them and so on, to give you an idea of what I experienced initially as the near-death experience, and then we'll talk about the implications and applications of such things, and questions and answers. Okay? Thank you. [Audience applauds. End of Tape]